

HEPS News



Week beginning 29.06.2020

The Week Ahead... Monday, 29 June—Friday, 3 July 2020

We are going to be creating a COVID-19 history topic for our children to study in future years and will be sending information out to the children for the last week of term for this. With this in mind, we thought it would be useful to see the measures we have undertaken as a school to ensure education and support continued for our pupils during this period. Here are some of the measures we have taken before and since lockdown:

- ◆ w/c 23 March 2020, the same week our Ofsted report was published, all classroom staff worked almost around the clock preparing our first learning packs for all children. Each child was sent home with a bag kindly donated from Tesco, full of equipment, a programme, work to last for one week and a pack of sunflower seeds.
- ◆ Lots of our lovely staff recoded a video for Twitter showing how they were planting their sunflower seeds.
- ◆ Each subsequent two weeks, packs have been carefully prepared in school and made available in hard copy at first and online after that. Each pack collection day, staff have been stationed at the front of the school handing out packs and checking in with everyone. Shielding children have had their packs delivered to their door by Mrs Masters or Mrs Doughty Davis.
- ◆ Our packs have been downloaded as far afield as Newcastle through relatives and word of mouth. They have also been sent around to all Somerset Headteachers as examples of good practice by Somerset County Council.
- ◆ Mrs Pengelly took on resolving all questions and queries regarding learning packs during lockdown.
- ◆ Mrs Kenchington has managed food voucher distribution which will continue until the end of the summer holiday.
- ◆ Miss Chadbourne managed Twitter for us and encouraged everyone to participate so we were able to stay in touch with teachers commenting on all posts from children.
- ◆ Mrs Sams and Mrs Masters regularly came into school to ensure we were on top of all communication and bills!
- ◆ Every week each teacher has recorded a message to go alongside the new packs for instruction and as a means of keeping contact with children.
- ◆ Each week each teacher has phoned all pupils in their class if they have not been in school to check how the work is going and to check on welfare.
- ◆ Mrs Doughty Davis carried out home visits to ensure everyone was well and additional phone calls to families.
- ◆ Mr Davies and Mrs Harding kept working during lockdown to ensure it was COVID safe when we returned.
- ◆ All staff came into school to prepare the site for social distancing measures and prepare the in-school offer for returning pupils.

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Quick link to our Twitter Feed:

Quick link to Calendar Dates:



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HEPS Diary Dates



HEPS Chair of Governors & Safeguarding Governor:

Mr Russell Head

Vice Chair:

Mr Sam Jackson



Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs Tiffany Doughty Davis, Headteacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Miss Jenny Chadbourne



- ◆ Communication has been regular and available on the website, through email and Twitter with significant changes noted by videos on Twitter.
- ◆ Work is ongoing for the curriculum changes required to prepare for returning pupils in Autumn 2020.
- ◆ The school has been open every day since February half term, holidays and bank holidays included, with staff coming in to take care of groups of children; both teaching staff and lunchtime supervisors. We felt privileged to support the work of NHS staff and other very important keyworkers who have worked throughout this crisis on the frontline.

Letters/emails sent out w/c 22 June 2020:

PFA Year 6 Leavers Cards - Please reply with consent as soon as possible

Learning Pack 12 now available on HEPSathome page on school website —under the Learning Tab

Year 6 Leavers: We have said a sad farewell to some of the fantastic Year 6 children today but do hope to see all of the Year 6s at some point in the future. As with all of the children who have attended this school, we like to keep those links going. We encourage them to pop in if they are ever passing whilst we are on the gate, help with after school clubs, undertake work experience with us or shadow us in preparation for their future careers. They will always be a part of our school community. We wish them very well for their next steps.

Staff News: Mrs Lyes will be leaving us at the end of term as she has secured a SEN TA position at another school. We thank her for her time at HEPS and wish her every success for the future.

Finances: I am pleased to report that the 2020/21 budget for our school was passed by Trustees yesterday. We are in a healthy position financially which will enable us to build upon our teaching and learning successes and respond further to the needs of the school building and site over the next 12 months.

Additional Classroom: I have been in contact with Somerset County Council regarding our expansion plans. Unfortunately, because of COVID, changes to staffing and processes have not enable this to progress. We will keep you up to date through this newsletter.

School Places: If you wish to request a school place you need to contact the School Office by Thursday lunchtime for a possible start the following Monday. Your child will be added to our waiting list with places awarded according to government guidelines.

PFA: Due to personal circumstances, Sarah and Chloe will be stepping down from their roles as PFA Chair and Vice-Chair at the end of this term. We have really enjoyed being involved with the PFA and will stay on as members of the committee to help anybody who would like the opportunity to take on these roles. Hopefully, we will be able to hold an AGM, in some form or another depending on COVID-19 restrictions at the time, at the beginning of next term to which all parents /carers will be invited. So if you are interested in getting involved, in any capacity, please get in touch via the PFA Facebook page.

Safeguarding: TikTok has enjoyed a dramatic rise to become one of the most popular social media apps on the planet. Young people, in particular, love its short-form video focus and it is now one of the favourite tools of expression. Your child may either be using it already or asking to be allowed on it – but what exactly is it, and are there any risks you should be aware of? A guide for parents can be found: <https://parentinfo.org/article/tiktok-what-parents-need-to-know>

Capture a Comment: *“Miss Chadbourne—we would like to say thank you very much for making our lessons fun and interesting, making us independent but being there exactly when we needed you. You are kind, have taught us lots of things which are not maths and English, getting us ready for life after HEPS. She has been funny and firm and has taken good care of us. We think this was our best year here.”* (Year 6 pupils, Kingsmoor)

Question on the Gate: *“Can we still go ahead with Sports Day on the last afternoon of school?”* (A question from a pupil this week.)

“With current regulations and guidance we will not be able to hold our annual HEPS Sports Day. As much as we would like to, we cannot hold this due to the proximity of children to others being too challenging, the introduction of new adults close by, even with it being outdoors and the sharing of necessary equipment. If we can reschedule it early next term, we will.”