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17th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm writing to share, a couple of updates from DfE, a message from HCC and to invite you to the first Parents'/Carers, Coffee morning /afternoon on Zoom.

Firstly I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you for your support and understanding when we have needed to make alternative schooling arrangements in some of our classes due to some significant staffing challenges. The reasons for staff absences are out of our control, such as the need to self-isolate, complex health issues, and other personal reasons. When a significant number of staff are for example shielding this consequently impacts negatively on our daily resources to secure safe school organisation and provision. When we consider alternative temporary schooling organisation we always liaise with yourselves, the LA and our governors. We endeavour to keep any alternative organisation in place for the shortest possible period of time.

DfE UPDATES

PARENTS' INFORMATION <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

SAFE-WORKING INCLUDING PPE <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS IN EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020>

MESSAGE FROM HCC We're sharing this information on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council and the Local Resilience Forum who support the countywide response to coronavirus.

Did you know that only 20% of people in Hertfordshire self-isolate when they are asked to by a nursery, school, college, workplace, Test and Trace or a health professional? 1 in 4 of us admitted that we'd still pop to the shops even if we had been asked to self-isolate.

We know it's not easy and self-isolation can have a real impact on our lives, however if we're asked to do it, it's one of the most important things we can do to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

We've pulled together a guide which we hope simplifies some of the rules around self-isolation, the reason for the number of days you might be asked to self-isolate for (including as part of a school bubble), how to recognise symptoms of coronavirus and when to book a test.

Guide: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/play-your-part-important-information-about-how-you-can-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus>

Help is available to support you and your family should anyone from your household need to self-isolate, or if you've been affected by coronavirus in anyway – there is some information about the help available in the guide.

Thank you for continuing to play your part in the fight to reduce the impact of coronavirus in Hertfordshire, and for helping to keep our communities safe.

PARENTS' COFFEE MORNING / AFTERNOON: Will take place via Zoom call. We have chosen to use Zoom in order to secure easy access for a larger group of parents and carers. Zoom is a good platform for informal meetings.

- Breakspeare coffee morning Fri 20th November 10 – 11
- Meadow Wood afternoon tea Fri 20th November 1.30 – 2.30

The coffee morning / afternoon tea will provide an opportunity to share experiences and thoughts in a friendly atmosphere with other parents.

Topic: Breakspeare FAB coffee morning

Topic: Breakspeare FAB coffee morning

Time: Nov 20, 2020 10:00 AM London

Topic: Meadow Wood Parents' Afternoon Coffee and Tea

Time: Nov 20, 2020 1:30 PM London

I'm looking forward to meeting with you on Friday.

Thank you again for your continued support and co-operation at this challenging time of the global pandemic.

Take care.
Keep safe.

Merja

