



HERITAGE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher:
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Dear Parents

As half term arrives, I want to thank all of the pupils, staff, parents and governors for helping to make our transition back to school as smooth as it could be. A great deal of consideration, planning and preparation has taken place to ensure we are able to open safely and it has been fantastic to see how well the children have settled back into school life. It is heart-warming to see them interacting with their peers again and enjoying their learning back at school.

Our Risk Assessments remain in place and under constant review - we all share a responsibility of following the guidance to stay safe. The considerations for our curriculum and organisation of learning, particularly where children have to self-isolate, bring new challenges that the staff are meeting with optimism and creativity. For further information on how we will address supporting children when working from home please read our 'Remote Education Policy' which is available on our school website.

I know that many of our families have been coping with the sad and tragic impact that COVID-19 has brought to homes and communities. We have all been required to live, learn and work in different ways whilst maintaining COVID-19 safety. I would like to thank you all for your valuable contributions to date as well as your ongoing support as this academic year unfolds.

World Children's Day

This year marks the 30th anniversary of World Children's Day. It is celebrated on 20th November to mark the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children's rights.

World Children's Day offers us an opportunity to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights and encourage dialogue that will build a better world for our children.

On 20th November 2020, we will spend time in classes focussing on 'Plastic Pollution' and consider the impact on the environment around this issue. **The children will be allowed to come to school in non-school uniform to help make the day more memorable.** No financial contribution will be needed on this day.

Whole School Attendance Figures to date:

I wanted to share with you the attendance figures for the term so far. It is very pleasing to see that these figures have remained high as this provides children with the opportunity to build on their knowledge, skills and progress upon returning to school after partial-school closures. Thank you for all your efforts to support this.

Week commencing	Attendance figure
7 September	97.42%
14 September	94.27%
21 September	98.02%
28 September	99.32%
5 October	98.79%
12 October	98.93%
19 October	99.14%

A huge well done!

In March last year, a number of children in school entered an engineering competition entitled, 'IF YOU WERE AN ENGINEER, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?'[®] as one of their homework tasks. We are absolutely delighted to announce that Tommy Walton, year 4, is the Eastern Region Winner and that Jack Dancy, year 4, and a previous Year 6 pupil were also shortlisted. This builds on our success earlier in the year, when a number of pupils participated in the First LEGO League Challenge which focuses on STEM (Science, technology, engineering and maths).

Our bagpipe tuition lessons have continued online for those children who had lessons at school before the partial school-closure. We are extremely proud to announce that Ethan Chan, Patrycja Fik and Yojit Bodulluri have placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in an online Piping Competition run by The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association. I know the children have put many hours of practice in and it is lovely to see that their efforts have paid off.

And finally

We will be in touch after half term with further information about how we will celebrate Christmas in school this year. But in the meantime you can add a date to your diary which is; **Thursday 10th December – Come to school in your Christmas Jumper day** - to raise money for the 'Save the Children' charity for a £1 donation per child. Further information will follow after half term.

The children have had individual photos taken today. We appreciate that it is disappointing that we cannot currently take sibling photos in school but hopefully this is something we can accommodate when the **whole class photos are taken on 26th March 2021**, as long as restrictions permit.

Normally, we ask that girls only wear shoes to school rather than boots. Due to the fact that the children may spend more time on the field this winter, and cannot currently bring in their wellington boots, we will permit girls to wear boots this winter. Please ensure these are black and ankle height only in keeping with regulation school shoes and are not knee length or suede material.

I hope you all have a super half term and manage to get some rest after a busy start to the school year. We look forward to coming back and building on the hard work that has already taken place.

Yours sincerely



Miss Karen Bell
Headteacher