



Heath Lane Nursery School
Heath Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1TT
Telephone (01442) 255418
Email admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Hayley Yendell

11th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I started making phone calls home to check in with you all. I prioritised those of you that we had not recently seen and were unlikely to see imminently as a result of the school closure. I made 65 phone calls, left messages on 25 answerphones and had some lovely chats. It seems that you are doing amazingly well given the range of challenges that you currently face; juggling working from home with childcare, keeping children entertained without the option of going out and coping without usual support networks to name but a few. Some of you expressed guilt that your children are on screens longer than you would like, that you are not providing them with as many educational activities as you feel that you should, and that your routines have fallen by the wayside. I would like to reassure you by saying that all of this is absolutely fine. Be kind to yourselves-you need to do what you can do to ensure that you are all as happy and healthy as possible. Everything else can wait.

If it makes you feel any better, I spent Thursday working from home in pyjamas and my children's new getting up time is after 11am! This will not last forever...

Next week I will endeavour to contact those of you I did not manage to speak to. Just to remind you:

If you ever need to just hear a friendly voice, please e-mail with your phone number and one of the team will be in touch. E-mails are checked regularly and one of us will always be happy to pick up the phone.

Facebook

Thank you again for sending in lots of photos of your children. It has been a great comfort to lots of our children to see their friends in the weekly slideshow. Some of you who previously did not want children on Facebook have contacted us to say that you would like them included in the slideshow. If you would like your child's photos to be included please send by 3pm Friday to: admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk

Primary National Offer Day

This week I received confirmation that parents will receive offers of primary school places for 2020 admissions on 16th April. We know that this can be a very worrying time for families so we are pleased that offers will go out on this day as planned.

What is not currently known is how the local authority will manage the admission appeals. Hertfordshire county council are working urgently on guidance to establish alternative appeal arrangements using a



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range of remote mediums such as holding panels via telephone or video conference, or in writing, and at extending the normal timescales. We will pass on further information when we are notified of arrangements.

Timescale of schools reopening

There have been many conflicting reports and articles regarding when schools will open again. Just to let you know that we get no more information than you do with regards to this; we receive our information and directives from the daily government briefings. We will always be honest and transparent with you but it is very unlikely that we will receive any information prior to it being announced nationally. I can assure you that the staff at the school are committed to opening again as soon as it is safe to do so. We really miss you all!

Scavenger Hunt

Please find a scavenger hunt attached to the e-mail. This is a completely voluntary activity but do feel free to carry out with your child if you feel it would benefit them. If your child does have a go we would love to know how they got on!

ONGOING REMINDERS FROM PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Supporting Key Workers

You will be aware that we are open for the children of key workers and staff are continuing to provide care and continuity for those children of parents who have a key role in the fight against COVID 19. We are aware that working circumstances/government guidance are changing at a rapid place. If you believe that you are a key worker and require a school space to support you go to work please e-mail us at: admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk

Financial Challenges

I am very aware that some of you will be facing great financial challenge in the days/weeks/months ahead. If you are in a very difficult situation already and do not have the funds to purchase food please contact me directly on: Head@heathlane.herts.sch.uk

Wishing you all a lovely Easter weekend.

With kind regards,

Hayley Yendell
Headteacher