



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

**Headteacher: Mrs Hayley Yendell**

17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Well what a year this has been! I spent some time with governors last week reflecting on the year. It was only when I stopped to take this time to think, that the enormity of the last term really struck me...

**From 23<sup>rd</sup> March the government put a lockdown in place and schools were only open to the children of keyworkers and vulnerable children**

***During this time staff had to:***

- *quickly send out communication identifying key workers and vulnerable children*
- *keep up to date with guidance-one week 41 amendments/updates were made to the guidance!*
- *identify staff members who had to shield*
- *put a staff rota together to ensure full coverage for children*
- *send out home learning packs together for children*
- *organise for a magazine to be sent to each child as a well done present!*

***During this time parents had to:***

- *Identify whether you were key workers*
- *Make provision to look after your children at home*
- *Engage with home learning tasks*

***During this time children had to:***

- *get used to a whole new routine*
- *get used to not seeing their friends*
- *not go out to parks/shops*
- *not see friends or family*

**The school re-opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> June in line with government directives following strict guidance**

***During this time staff had to:***

- *Prepare to reopen the Nursery to much larger numbers*
- *Deal with the unexpected bereavement of Miss Lafleur*



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- *Reorganise the whole learning environment to ensure we could maximise numbers by taking more than one bubble*
- *Work in isolation from each other in their bubbles*
- *Support with the enhanced cleaning of the nursery*
- *Continue to provide support with home learning*

***During this time you parents had to:***

- *Make the really difficult decision of whether to send your child back or not*
- *Make adjustments to your routine to accommodate the reduced hours when you did send them back*
- *Continue to support children at home and adjust your lives; some of you to go back to work, some of you to work from home and some to continue with your new normality with concerns about eased constrictions*

***During this time children who came back to school had to:***

- *Cope with not being with their usual group or their usual adult*
- *Understand that they had to stay in their bubbles*
- *Communicate with friends in other bubbles across the barriers*
- *Wash their hands really frequently and take part in the enhanced cleaning of the Nursery*
- *Share the outside area and take turns with resources*

...and these are just the headlines! I have to say that it has been an unprecedented whirlwind but as with all challenges it really has brought out the best in everyone. I would like to say a final thank of the year to:

**My staff team;** they have done everything that has been asked of them and more! They have not questioned coming in to support children at the peak of the crisis and beyond; they have worked tirelessly to ensure that home learning challenges have been set, they have always made sure that they have greeted children with a warm smile and provided a warm safe place at the Nursery even when they were not always as happy and confident and calm as they seemed.

**You, the Parents:** I have felt so incredibly grateful to have you all as our parent body. Your communication, support and positivity throughout this challenging time has been amazing.



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You have done your best to support your children and this has been evident from the photos we have seen.

**And finally and most importantly**....the children; how amazing have they been?!? Their whole world has changed in the last 5 months; they have not been able to see the people they usually see, they have not been able to play with their friends, some have gone back to school where everything has changed. And yet they have continued to get on with life, take everything in their stride and show their true resilience. Whilst they have all missed time at school they have also gained enormously; they have spent more time with their family, they have been for long walks, they have been allowed to see the benefits of life slowing down... This generation of children will be more resilient than any other!

My first year of Headship has certainly not been easy but there has never been a dull moment and the staff, you the parents and the children have reaffirmed for me that it is the best job in the world!

So farewell to the children moving on! We will be posting photos of our leavers onto Facebook at the end of the school day. You will be fabulous and amazing at your next school as you were here! And we are looking forward to seeing a large number of you return in September!

**Hayley Yendell**  
**Headteacher**

