



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

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your children are well. There has been a lot of coverage in the press recently about how much education children are missing with little/no acknowledgement of some of the fantastic experiences they are having during this extended family time. There is coverage about how stressed parents are with home learning but nothing about the fact that parents always have been and always will be their child's first and most influential educator. There is coverage about the negative impact absence from school will have on your children with no reference to the fact that in years to come they might fondly remember the period of time that the weather was great and you went on lots of walks, washed your hands lots and ate together as a family more often.

There has also been coverage about the importance of children returning to school and headlines implying that teachers are preventing this from happening. I want to assure you that I do not know of a single teacher who does not value children's education or understand the importance of children being in school-it would be crazy if we didn't! I have spoken to over 50 Headteachers in the last two weeks and none are opposed to opening their school and children returning. We all want the same thing; the safe return of all children at some point. Rest assured that at Heath Lane we will be ready to support you and your child, both at home and in school whenever you choose to send them back.

### **The Proposed Reopening of Nursery**

Since the government briefing announcing the phased reopening of schools we have been busy preparing for the '**proposed**' reopening of the Nursery on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. I think it is very important to highlight the word 'proposed' here. As a school we will be ready, the staff are ready and our learning environment will be prepared. However, Boris Johnson previously said the phased reopening of schools is subject to change based on the 'R' rate of infection. We are expecting an announcement at some point on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May**. Like previous government directives to educational establishments this is likely to come in the form of a public briefing. However, in the unlikely event of the information coming to schools directly we will inform you as soon as possible.

### **What has happened behind the scenes this week?**

To ensure that we are well prepared for the proposed phased opening the following has happened this week:

- A robust risk assessment has been carried out, shared with governors and shared with staff.



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- The governing body have met again to review the plans for reopening
  - The learning environment has been planned and reorganised to ensure compliance with government guidelines
  - Information has been gathered regarding the preferred days and sessions for those families who are sending their children back to school.

### What will be happening next?

- The risk assessment will be uploaded to the school website on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May for parents to view
- A deep clean of the learning environment will take place on Thursday
- A 'Children returning to school' handbook will be published to clarify expectations
- We will confirm the sessions we can offer to individual children early next week. We are pleased to confirm that ALL children who requested a place back at school will be offered at least ONE of their preferred sessions days
- I will continue to keep you as updated and informed as possible

### ONGOING REMINDERS FROM PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

#### **Facebook**

We have had a great response to our weekly slideshow so will be continuing this every Friday. If you would like your child's photo/s to be included please send by 3pm Friday to: [admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Head@heathlane.herts.sch.uk)*

These are unprecedented times and we would like to thank you all for your unwavering support. It has been very much appreciated.

With kind regards,

Hayley Yendell

Headteacher