



I was looking forward at Easter to the coming of May, with its warm sunshine and generally dry days... a time when we could get back onto the field and revert to a more normal routine for break and lunchtimes. Unfortunately, we have had to revert to our no field timetable far too often this half term and with it, a staggered schedule outside. The good news is that handover of the new playground has been promised for the end of the half term holiday, which will be a very welcome boost for us all in school. The weather outlook is good for next week so please do enjoy the outdoors as a family.

## **Headteacher Mission Statement Awards**

Congratulations to the following children who received a Headteacher's mission statement award for the first half of the Summer Term:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Cedar</b>    | <u>EVIE</u> – for being kind and caring and always putting others first.<br><u>ALAN</u> – for being a thoughtful and supportive learning partner to everyone he works with.  |
| <b>Cherry</b>   | <u>MANAELI</u> – for always following our School Mission Statement and demonstrating a positive attitude towards her learning.<br><u>HAREL</u> – for a wonderful improvement in all areas of his learning and trying really hard to follow our new school rules.   |
| <b>Elm</b>      | <u>SEAN</u> – for coming into school each day with a positive attitude and applying that attitude to his schoolwork.   |
| <b>Fir</b>      | <u>ANTONI</u> – for concentrating in class and challenging himself to exceed his class targets.<br><u>HENRY</u> – for trying his best at everything he does and being gentle and thoughtful towards others.<br><u>IDA</u> – for being kind and caring to everyone. She makes everyone smile with her cheerfulness and positive attitude.   |
| <b>Hazel</b>    | <u>ANASTASIA</u> – for her caring and considerate nature. She always starts each day with a smile on her face and sets a great example to her classmates through her excellent behaviour and encouragement of others.<br><u>LILLIAN</u> – for her positive attitude towards all aspects of school life. She always listens carefully and adheres to class rules and expectations without exception. She is a fantastic role-model to all her classmates. |
| <b>Maple</b>    | <u>BRANDON</u> – for his conscientious and enthusiastic approach to all learning activities and challenges set in class and for always looking out for others around him.<br><u>ALICE</u> – for putting the needs of others before herself and for always offering to help around the classroom and in communal areas around the school.   |
| <b>Oak</b>      | <u>AVA</u> – for always living out the mission statement, for being aware of the needs of others and for being a great learning partner.<br><u>MAJA</u> – for her gentle thoughtfulness towards others and for contributing very well to all aspects of class work.  |
| <b>Pine</b>     | <u>JOSEPH</u> – for the thought and care he shows towards all of his peers. He makes it his duty to live out our mission statement every day: a true role model.<br><u>GRACE</u> – Grace fearlessly tackles every task and has resilience anyone would be proud of. This mind-set has enabled her to make fantastic progress this year. Well done.   |
| <b>Sycamore</b> | <u>ANNA</u> – for being a true 'Pentecost Person' in the way she treats people with kindness and respect and through the focus and commitment shown to her work. She is a great role model.<br><u>CHLOE</u> – for her enthusiasm towards all aspects of school life and for her willingness to challenge herself and improve her learning further.   |

**Willow**

AIDEN– for his positive approach to all he does and his outstanding effort in class.

ISABELLA – for always being a friendly, caring member of our school community and an excellent role model to all.

**School Building Update**

Temporary Entrance to the school between 7<sup>th</sup> June -18<sup>th</sup> June

At the end of our 17<sup>th</sup> monthly building meeting this week, it was confirmed that the phase two building works are now about four weeks ahead of schedule. As long as everything goes to plan next week during half term, we will be returning to school with an operational playground and staff car park. The final works involve landscaping the area where the temporary car park is located in front of the admin offices. These works should take in the region of two weeks to complete with a date of 18<sup>th</sup> June as the final handover.

During the final building phase parents and pupils entering the school from Hadham Road will need to enter the site via the car park exit gate close to the old Nursery building. Just as in October of last year, staff will be on site prior to your arrival and the gate will be manned to ensure safe entry for all.

We still need to employ our current one-way system route around the school. The only difference will be to parents collecting both KS1 and KS2 pupils, who can now wait for KS2 in the playground as opposed to walking a loop of the school again.

School timings will remain the same after half-term as we still have to stagger entry and exit from the school site.

**Report cards and consultations**

I mentioned to the pupils in assembly today how proud we are of all of their achievements this term having read every single report card that went home. We are seeing progress in books again and the majority of pupils are really applying themselves. Hopefully, that came across during the parent consultations this week. We had a few technological issues for a small minority, for which I apologise. The school internet in the new building is much more reliable although, as we have all experienced in this last year and a half, things can happen beyond our control.

**Equality Duty**

Many thanks to those who have already completed our online equality duty questionnaire sent out earlier this week. We are asking for responses to be completed by Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The link to the questionnaire is here: <https://forms.gle/Q2KZcUKFRvr4TjtW8>

**Reminders**

**Birthdays**- As a school if your child is celebrating their birthday, sweets should not be given out as this does not promote healthy eating and some children in our school have food allergies. If you want to mark your child's birthday in school, we would always welcome a fiction or non-fiction book for the class library.

**Mobile phones**- the Local Authority are quite clear that parents should not be using their mobile phones whilst in the vicinity of children on the school site. This is due to the outcomes of serious case reviews regarding safeguarding, child abuse and protecting children online.

**School Uniform**- please check your child's uniform this half-term to ensure that their name is still visible in all of their clothes and PE kits. Jumpers are being taken off without any names or initials and whilst your child will know the smell of your washing powder, we don't!

A copy of the latest school uniform price list is attached.

**Pupil Absence**- if your child is absent from school, you must email the school or leave a phone message regarding this and the reason for your child's absence.

## **DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS**

**Please note: Dinner money must be paid in advance.** School meal prices are £2.70 per day, £13.50 per week. You may pay any amount of your choice to keep your balance in credit. Please pay online using the School Gateway system. All you need to do to activate an account is download the school gateway from your app store or visit the website [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com) and click new user. You will receive a message with a PIN number and you can use this to log in. Please be sure the school office has your up to date email and mobile phone number.

Two weeks' notice in writing to our Catering Manager is required for any changes in dietary pattern.

## **Communication from HCC**

Hertfordshire County Council have asked us to share the following update with you ahead of half-term:

Thank you all so much for playing your part and helping to keep case rates of Covid-19 low in Hertfordshire. During half term, and as restrictions ease more generally, it is more important than ever that we follow current guidance to help keep each other safe and our nurseries, schools and colleges free from outbreaks.

Please do not send children back into education if they are sick or feel unwell. If you or children have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

## **Reminder of some of the latest guidance from 17 May:**

- 6 people, or two households (each household can include a support bubble, if eligible) can now meet indoors and up to 30 people can gather outside
- If you are meeting with family and friends, the government is asking that you personally consider the risks associated with COVID-19 when deciding on things like wearing face coverings and social distancing for both you and your children
- Restaurants, pubs and cafes can reopen and so can indoor entertainment and attractions such as cinemas, bowling alleys, museums and children's indoor play areas. All of these services will have COVID-secure measures in place, please encourage your children to follow the rules when out and about

## **Travelling within the UK**

If you do go away, you should aim to do so safely. For instance, one of our close neighbours, Bedford, has a high number of cases and people are being advised to avoid travelling in and out of the area unless it is essential (for work or education).

You can find the latest travel guidance for England and the rest of the UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#travelling-within-the-uk-the-republic-of-ireland-and-the-channel-islands>

## **Travelling internationally from England**

There are no longer any restrictions on leaving England to travel internationally, however to protect public health in the UK and the vaccine rollout, you should not travel to [countries or territories on the red or amber lists](#).

If you do need to travel to an **Amber** destination for an emergency, you must update any setting attended by your child(ren) and;

- All family members who have travelled must quarantine for 10 days at home upon their return and can only leave home to take a test
- Paid for PCR tests must be completed by all those who have travelled aged 4 and above on day 2 and again on day 8 following your return

- Please do not send children back to nursery, school or college without completing the mandatory quarantine period

## **Support for families**

This is a challenging time for everyone, and we want you know that help and support is available for anyone who needs it in Hertfordshire. HertsHelp can provide free, confidential advice and practical help for things like food, essential bills and emotional support. Call 0300 123 4044, email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net) or visit [www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)

We hope you enjoy half-term and remember – hands, face, space, fresh air and test. These key things will help to keep you and your loved ones safe.

## **Hertfordshire County Council**

### **Finally**

In this month of May, our chaplaincy team have led the praying of the rosary remotely across the school and we have celebrated and given praise to Mary saying yes to God.

O Mary, my Mother,

I offer you my soul, my mind, and my heart.

Make of me God's instrument.

Give me a penetrating mind to discover,

firm to judge,

open to understand,

free to serve the truth;

an honest mind in telling what it sees rather

than what it wants to see;

a tolerant mind which does not dictate to

other people,

but which explains what it sees clearly;

a mind infused by the light and the truth of

your Son Jesus,

patient in faith,

while waiting for the vision of eternal life.

**Amen.**