

# The FenHil News

‘Respect, Honesty, Kindness and Collaboration’

19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Website: [www.fenstanton-hilton.eschools.co.uk](http://www.fenstanton-hilton.eschools.co.uk)

Twitter: @Fenhilp

PTA Twitter: @FenHilPTA

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **School Updates**

We are now coming to the end of the second week of our bubbles returning to school during the partial reopening. The children have responded really well to the routines for hygiene, maintaining social distancing and staying within their bubble. Thank you for the positive feedback from parents this week while being on the gate. It is good to hear from parents, who say their child is happy and enjoying being back at school under these circumstances. We appreciate your continued support in keeping to the drop off and collection times and keeping your distance at the gates.

The staff teaching in the bubbles are with the children at all times, including through breaks and lunchtimes and have also been maintaining the home learning for their class. Teachers focus on their classes by posting learning tasks and being in touch via the Google Classroom on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They continue to comment on all work which is required to be submitted. Staff who are shielding at home are supporting with home learning and developing our curriculum further ready for the children to return to school.

The Key Stage 1 team have started to post recordings of reading stories and will be linking these to their guided reading tasks. We are hoping to expand this to Key Stage 2 soon.

From next week you will receive information where you will be able to have a virtual meeting or phonecall with your child's class teacher. This will be an opportunity to discuss learning opportunities and whether we can offer further support. Details of these times will be emailed to you directly.

We held our first virtual assembly today and welcomed some families this morning. We hope you enjoyed seeing the children receive their awards and celebrating their success. We will continue with these assemblies each week and have started to plan other virtual events which the children can take part in at home. These will be a virtual sports day and music concert. This week the two year 6 bubbles joined together where Mr Austen

trialled teaching a History lesson to his class bubble and Mrs Carminati's bubble. The children were very excited to see each other and we will be reviewing how we can open this up to year 6 children who are continuing with home learning.

The recent Local Authority Guidance have instructed schools to remind parents that while some measures are relaxing, it is vital that we remain cautious. We have been informed that the next two weeks are crucial and that the number of cases of COVID 19 in Huntingdon is rising. Until guidance changes we will continue with strict hygiene routines in school, maintain 2 metre distances and ensure bubbles/classes do not mix. Staff have worked extremely hard to ensure these measures are implemented at all times. We have received guidance from the Local Authority that we can challenge families who are not socially distancing and seeing other families outside of their family bubble. The school has the right to challenge families on this matter which could lead to the school withdrawing your child's place to attend school. We urge you to maintain these measures to ensure we keep our children, staff and community safe.

Government Guidance this week stated that if schools can accommodate extra pupils they can make arrangements to do so. However they also stated that *‘There is no expectation on primary schools to welcome back additional children where they do not have capacity to do so.’* We are currently at full capacity in all of our bubbles. We do not have staff capacity to start a new bubble at present.

Each school is different and during these times schools will be doing different things. It is my job to do what is right for our community within the constraints of the staffing, resources and policies that are in place. I endeavour to keep you up to date as much as I can with the information I am given going forward.

We are reliant on you reading everything that comes out from school via email which is our communication

method during this time. Please take time to read and understand the communication that comes out to you.

### **Calling all Singers and Musicians!**

We had planned to have a music festival at the end of our school term, where children and adults could come together to celebrate our love of music. However, Covid 19 has changed those plans but we would like to have a virtual concert instead.

If you or your child play an instrument and would like to perform a short video to run no longer than 1.5 minutes, shot in portrait- then please upload it to your child's Google classroom where you will find a folder called Music Concert.

Likewise, if you love to sing, or your child does, why not make a short video of you singing together!

We would like the videos to be uploaded by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July at the latest. This will give us time to put them together.

Once we have all the videos, we will make them into a concert that we will post on the school's Instagram account and the website. Please be sure not to overrun timewise and to shoot your videos in portrait.

We very much look forward to seeing what you send us.

Mrs Turner

### **Virtual Sports Day**

As we are unable to have a Sports Day at school this year, we have decided to run a virtual sports day that you can take part in at home or at school.

There will be 10 different challenges for you to complete at home or in your bubbles. Including, a drawing competition. You will be able to earn an award for completing the challenges. Virtual sports day will take place week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> June. For those who are at home, you will have a week to complete the activities. You will need to complete a questionnaire and upload photos before 10pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July. The questionnaire will be added onto your Google Classroom.

On the questionnaire you will be asked to write in the time or number for each challenge. Then for each year group and bubble we will be awarding either a bronze, silver or gold certificate. Also, 1 child will be selected for a platinum award, this will be given to a child that has the best overall score in their class.

**Bronze award:** 2 challenges completed. **Silver award:** 3 to 6 challenges completed. **Gold award:** 7 or more challenges. **Platinum award:** best overall score.

We hope this will be lots of fun for you all!

### **Instagram**

Please send your photos of your children's learning at home to our Instagram email address: [instagram@fenstanton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:instagram@fenstanton.cambs.sch.uk)

It is so lovely to see what the children have been up to and what lockdown life is like for them.

### **Outdoor Water Safety**

Please follow this link to a letter about Outdoor Water safety produced by Cambridge County Council. <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/asset-library/Corona-Virus-Schools/outdoor-swimming.pdf>

### **Support for Home Schooling and Busy Homelife**

We understand how tricky life may be at home currently with those of you who have children at home and are also trying to work from home. I attach a document called 'Balancing effective remote working and a busy home'. This certainly helped me when I was working from home before we extended our offer to more children and Mr. Worth has found it useful too. None of it is rocket science but allows you the time to reflect and take a break. I hope you find it useful.

### **Finally...**

Have a wonderful weekend with your families, we will continue to work hard to support you going forward.

Best wishes,

Claire Worth, Headteacher