

The FenHil News

‘Respect, Honesty, Kindness and Collaboration’

15th May 2020

Website: www.fenstanton-hilton.eschools.co.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Reopening Plans

Thank you so much to those who filled in the survey that we sent outside earlier in the week for parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. There were some really thoughtful and insightful questions asked and overwhelming support for what we are doing as a school, so thank you.

I firstly have to emphasise that I will only be opening school when I feel it is safe to do so. We are working to the timescale of the week beginning 1st June, however clear guidance is yet to come. A lot of what we are planning currently is conjecture.

I can confirm, that when we reopen it will be in ‘bubbles’ and as much as physically possible we will be keeping children in these ‘bubbles’ to reduce the risk of infection. This will involve two members of staff with up to 10 children. We will move towards an education based provision for those children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 but this will be unlike the set up that they left school with. Realistically we will need to divide children into groups, and because of staffing and space issues we cannot guarantee that they will be with their teacher or with friendship groups. They will, however be grouped by year group. We have ordered cleaning materials so that we can keep school clean, especially smooth surfaces where experts say the virus can live longer. At present the advice is that staff and pupils do not need to wear face coverings, although this may be a decision I make for our school, however the choice for whether your child wears a face covering will ultimately lie with you. We will have a small amount of PPE for treating children who are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 – high temperature and or cough.

I can say that I do not have all the answers yet, we are making provision to socially distance children, however this is incredibly difficult in the younger years. However, science says that the older the children are, the more important it is to distance, as the more likely they are to contract the virus.

As parents, I am aware that some of you will be inconvenienced by certain year groups not opening or a full curriculum and timetable not being in place. I do request you to consider the bigger picture here. I am in charge of ensuring the immediate safety of over 300 persons. I will be cautious with my decisions and I will only open if I feel we can safely adhere to guidelines.

We will continue to maintain online learning for those at home and those shielding. There will be no penalty notices for those not attending until 31st July. It is an ‘opt in’ approach to school at present and I will support decisions that you make when they prioritise the safety of the children. I will provide further update when I have it. Heads are being supported by Jonathan Lewis, the Director of Education in Cambridge and Peterborough who is providing up to date and excellent advice, in conjunction with the Department for Education.

Please be assured that we are all working very hard to make sure that your children are prioritised and their education can continue via the online learning. Plans are continuously evolving and when I have more information I will let you know. Thank you so much for your patience and support at this time. It means so much to us all that you are with us.

Early Intervention Family Worker

Jane Rogers, our Early Intervention Family worker continues to update you with strategies to help you manage at home, it is attached to this newsletter.

World Record Art Lesson!

I'm very excited to invite you to be part of breaking the world record for the largest online art lesson! This will be an official Guinness World Records title attempt so if we are successful, we will be making history...from home!

The lesson will take place online on the 21st May at 4:00-4:30pm BST. It will be led by World Book Day author and childrens' book illustrator, Rob Biddulph. Year 4 certainly know him from #DrawWithRob and you might know his books, 'Odd Dog Out' or 'Blown Away'. The lesson is free to join and suitable for everyone at home. To count towards the world record, all you need to do is register at www.artworldrecords.com and then join Fenstanton and Hilton on the day.

The project is also raising money to help fight COVID-19 but there is no obligation to donate.

Please register at www.artworldrecords.com and pick up those pencils on the 21st May!

Foster for us and enquire today

Can you consider fostering in support of this year's Foster Care Fortnight 11th – 24th May 2020.

There are around 1000 children & young people across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, particularly teenagers and children over ten, who need the love and support from foster carers. Anyone who is interested can find out more about the process by phone or video call and ask any questions they may have about becoming a foster carer and what's involved.

[Foster Care Fortnight](#) is the UK's largest foster care awareness raising campaign, and aims to show the positive impact foster care has made on children's and young people's lives.

We are encouraging people from all walks of life to consider fostering – and we want to hear from anyone who is over 21, has a spare bedroom and the passion and dedication to help children and teenagers thrive.

People should not rule themselves out because they have children, are single, married or partnered, work, unemployed, live in rented accommodation or want to foster past retirement age.

If you would like to register your interest then please visit: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering or www.peterborough.gov.uk/fostering Or call 0800 052 0078

Finally...

Thank you for your kindness, trust and patience at this unprecedented time. I will continue to work hard to update you and make sure school is ready for when we need to be. Stay safe and look after yourselves, have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

Claire Worth,

Headteacher