



NEWSLETTER



1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES



I hope you managed to enjoy the half term holiday—we were very fortunate to have such unseasonably warm weather for the whole week.

This week has been quite a momentous one at John Hampden because we have welcomed back approximately 65% of our EY, FS, & Y1 pupils following the school closure on 20th March. Letters sent home during the planning process for the re-opening made it clear that the

choice as to whether to send your EY, FS or Y1 child back to school was entirely yours, and we respect the decisions you have made. For some, it was clearly too soon and they have opted to **stay safe at home**. We have uploaded new learning to the website for this half term and I hope you will find what has been provided is useful and engaging in supporting your child's education at home. Others have opted for their child to **stay safe at school** and we have implemented all the protective measures outlined in our risk assessment to ensure that all those returning to us, pupils and staff, are as protected as possible within the school environment.

This week I have had the real pleasure of wandering around the grounds of the school and, through the open doors and windows, hearing children laughing and chatting again. The school has started to come to life once more and it is so much better for it. I have loved watching eager, excited children walking back into school, looking forward to seeing their friends again and quickly adapting to the new routines and the new expectations. They have been truly fantastic at following our guidance about hygiene and distancing but I also think they've had fun. During the day I do not enter the classroom bubbles but I am meeting the children outside or seeing them through the windows. I watched one happy group walking back from the playground and overheard one child saying, 'This is the best day ever!' This was followed by a wonderful group wave from a bunch of smiling children, seated in their classroom and appearing to be so glad to be back—long may it continue!!

I don't want to forget the majority of our Year 2 pupils and parents who have not yet had the chance to opt to return to school - we are missing them and would love to welcome them back too, if it is judged appropriate to do so.

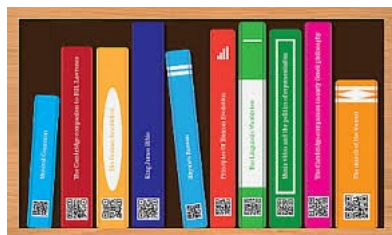
As I mentioned in previous communication, we will continue with our current arrangements until at least the 19th June—by then there may be more Government guidance regarding the next steps we need to take.

I do understand why some parents have opted not to send their child back yet, but I do want to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at John Hampden for their continued and unwavering support, and for putting aside their personal circumstances and anxieties to return to work in the school. The re-opening process has been challenging but throughout it all they have continued to demonstrate their commitment and dedication. They are a very special team of people.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself, or the class teachers if you require any support with home learning or if you want to share something fantastic that your child has done at home. Just remember that most teachers are in the classrooms each day so you may not get an immediate response.

Thank you for your continued support.

2. MESSAGE FROM MRS PARKINSON



Thank you to all who have brought back reading scheme books. Unfortunately we will not be able to send any books home for a while. However, we would still like the children to read and listen to stories as much as possible. I know many have read all of the Oxford Owl ebooks. Big Cat Collins have a range of ebooks and also Buckinghamshire libraries have some books online and audio books too. There is a 'Kids' tab with books for different age ranges as well as popular reads, comics and read along books. Please see below for information.

How To Access Free Collins Big Cat ebooks

Access 330+ free KS1 ebooks from our primary reading programme

Go to [Collins Connect](#) and click on the Teacher portal and enter:

Username: parents@harpercollins.co.uk

Password: **Parents20!**

and click Login.

A Message From Buckinghamshire Libraries

You can still access your local library – online!

Buckinghamshire's libraries are adapting quickly to this changing situation. We have closed our libraries following the Government's instruction to us all to stay at home, but **you can still access our fantastic library service and still borrow books, magazines and newspapers online.**

Buckinghamshire libraries have already:

- waived all fines and fees
- extended the loan periods of hard copy books until June so customers with borrowed books don't have to return them
- increased the amount of eBooks and other online resources available to borrow

To find out all about what we offer online go to www.buckscc.gov.uk/elibrary. **We are working hard to make it quick and easy to join online if you're not already a member.** Please keep checking our website as above to get the latest info and please bear with us as we update the pages.

Happy reading.

There are boxes at the front of each queue for the classrooms. Please would you return the reading books your child was given in March as soon as possible. Thank you



3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Chartwells Packed Lunches

ParentPay is now live for ordering of packed lunches. If you require your child to have a packed lunch on the designated days they are in school please log on in the usual way for week commencing 15th June. The deadline for orders is midnight on Tuesday 9th June. If you did not contact the school office to order a lunch for week commencing 8th June you will need to provide a packed lunch for your child. Thank you



A big thank you to parents/carers, who have brought their children into school this week, for adhering to all the new timing and queuing arrangements. Your support is greatly appreciated. We will review these arrangements in due course to see if we can make things easier for everyone but, to start with, let's trial the new systems and only change things when we are confident we can do so safely.

This table gives confirmation of the timings:

Year Group	Doors Open	School Finishes
Early Years	9.30a.m	12.30p.m
Foundation Stage	9.00a.m	3.00p.m
Year One	9.15a.m	3.15p.m
Year Two	8.45a.m	3.30p.m

Please try to adhere to these timings because the staggered start times are designed to allow each year group to enter safely without coming into contact with others. Also, try not to arrive too early as you will just be standing in a queue!