



# HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel No: 01928 564053

Headteacher: Mr A Hilldrup

Email: [head.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk](mailto:head.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk)

Website: <http://haltonlodge.haltonschools.info/>

## NEWSLETTER 04

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dates for the Diary:

At the start of each school year, we usually circulate a list of diary dates detailing key school events that will be taking place over the next 12 months – so you can plan these into your family calendar and book time off work to attend any special events. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions on social gatherings and the limitations on the people that we can have in school during the course of the school day, we do not have many details to share this year. *Hopefully this will change as we move through the school year!*

We are not planning on holding any PTFA events, such as a Christmas Bingo or Christmas Fayre, in school this term and we have also had to cancel the school photographer coming into school to take individual photographs of the children (and family portraits). Only essential visitors are permitted to be in school at the moment. *However, this week, the children have been producing their own unique Christmas card designs which you will have the option to order in the form of gift paper, gift tags and/or cards in good time for delivery prior to Christmas. If you have any thoughts or ideas about social events or activities the children and families could engage in safely, and adhering to all of the latest guidance, please let us know.*

We are also looking at different ways to hold Parents' Evening and special assemblies – which will have to take place virtually (with Parents' Evening meetings taking place using Google Meet or via the Seesaw App... and assemblies being videoed and streamed into each class). We will share more details about each of these events in due course.

### Dates for Your Diary

W 7<sup>th</sup> Oct      **Flu Vaccination Team in school**  
M 19<sup>th</sup> to      **Bikeability for pupils in Year 5 and Year 6**  
W 21<sup>st</sup> Oct

### **School Closed: Half Term (26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October)**

M 2<sup>nd</sup> to      **Parents' Evening appointments to be**  
Th 5<sup>th</sup> Nov      **scheduled during this week**  
W 16<sup>th</sup> Dec      **Christmas Dinner Day for the pupils in**  
                         **school**  
F 18<sup>th</sup> Dec      **School closes at 1:30pm/1:45pm**



**Reading Book Amnesty:** We are aware that there are over 150 school library and home reading books that have yet to be returned to school from before the school closures (in March). **Can you please have a search around at home and see if you have any books that belong to school – and bring them into school next week?** These can be handed directly to your child's class teacher.



For those children who took part in the interschool football festival back in March – and still have a school football kit (shirt, shorts, football socks) – could you also please return these to school next week? Thank you!

### **Mandatory for Face Coverings to be worn by adults on school grounds from Monday**

Following the recent increase in the coronavirus infection rate, Halton Borough Council, in consultation with Public Health, have introduced further precautionary measures in all schools throughout Halton.



**From Monday, all adults who come on to the school grounds are now required to wear a face covering; and only one adult is permitted to enter the school premises for drop off and pick up.**

#### Drop Off Times:

8:40am (to 8:45am)      for pupils in Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6  
8:55am (to 9:00am)      for pupils in Reception, The Fawns, Year 3 and Year 5

#### Collection Times:

2:45pm (to 2:50pm)      for pupils in Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6  
3:00pm (to 3:05pm)      for pupils in Reception, The Fawns, Year 3 and Year 5

### **Please ensure that you arrive on time so we can keep all of the children safely within their 'bubbles'.**

If you wish for your child to wear a face covering when they arrive at, or leave, school, they may do so – but this is not compulsory. If you take this decision, could you please take it off them as you leave them to enter the school building – and return it to them when you collect them at the end of the school day.

People who are exempt from wearing face masks in public places are also exempt from wearing these on school premises.

Parents and carers are also requested to arrive and leave promptly when dropping off and/or collecting their child. Please do not congregate – especially out on the pavement outside school or on the school playground. **If you are queuing on the pavement to drop off/collect children from Year 1 or Reception class, please stand against the school gate – next to the 2 metre white paint markings along the railings – and do not block the pavement (as other families need to be able to get passed safely, without stepping out on to the road).**

Whether you are outside the school grounds, waiting in the car park area or on the school playground, it is essential that you maintain social distancing at all times. This includes waiting behind the yellow lines if you are dropping off / collecting children from Year 4, Year 3, Year 2 and/or The Fawns.

People must not congregate outside school – they should go directly home.

Ensure your household adheres to self-isolation rules (if any member of your household displays any symptoms) and follow the following advice:

**COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) ABSENCE:**  
A quick guide for parents/carers



What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
...my child has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Do not come to school</li> <li>✓ Contact school</li> <li>✓ Self-isolate</li> <li>✓ Get a test</li> <li>✓ Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative
...my child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Do not come to school</li> <li>✓ Self-isolate for at least 10 days</li> <li>✓ Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...they feel better. They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.
...somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Do not come to school</li> <li>✓ Contact school</li> <li>✓ Self-isolate</li> <li>✓ Household member to get a test</li> <li>✓ Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...the household member test is negative
...somebody in my household has tested positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Do not come to school</li> <li>✓ Contact school</li> <li>✓ Self-isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>	...the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
...NHS test and trace have identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Do not come to school</li> <li>✗ Contact school</li> <li>✗ Self-isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>	...the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
...we/my child travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine	<p>Term time holidays, including absence as a result of needing to quarantine, are unauthorized.</p> <p>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Do not come to school</li> <li>✓ Contact school</li> <li>✓ Self-isolate for 14 days - even if a test is negative</li> </ul>	...the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed
...we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Do not come to school</li> <li>✓ Contact school</li> <li>✓ Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	...school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again
...I am not sure who should get a test for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Only people with symptoms* need to get a test</li> <li>✓ People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive</li> </ul>	...when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met

\* Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste.

[nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus)

If you have children in secondary school, you will also read that wearing face coverings in all communal areas will be mandatory for staff and pupils; and those travelling on dedicated school transport will now need to adhere to the mandatory wearing of face coverings whilst on these too.

The letter from Mil Vasic that details all of this in greater detail is included with this newsletter.

Dear Parent and Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of the Council maintained, faith and academy schools in Halton to set out additional measures that we believe need to be put in place in response to the present COVID-19 situation.

The National rise in COVID-19 transmission rates is well documented and Halton has not been immune from the rise in positive cases. Although, rates vary across the region, and our size of the town and town are all different. You may not have seen coverage of this in the local media.

Incidentally, we have had a small number of positive cases amongst pupils and staff in schools. Schools across the region and at necessary steps have been taken in line with Public Health England advice and as a result a number of Halton schools have had to send class bubbles home to self-isolate.

We have been in discussion with Public Health and School leaders and now as part of the Schools and Council's response to the current situation we will be introducing further precautionary measures at schools. We are asking for your help by adhering to the following recommendations:

- All adults to wear a face covering when visiting or entering the school premises
- Only one adult to enter the premises for drop off and pick up
- That you arrive and leave promptly when dropping off/collecting your child – please do not congregate and maintain social distancing as we know that the virus is easily transferred from person to person
- Young people avoid congregating outside school and mixing with other schools and go directly home
- All adults and pupils wear face coverings in all communal areas in secondary schools (not mandatory) except for those with an exemption
- All staff wear face coverings when they come out onto the playground during drop off and pick up times
- Create your household adheres to self-isolation rules

Yours sincerely,  
Mil Vasic  
Strategic Director, People

People Directorate  
Municipal Buildings, Kingsway, Wlinton, Chester CH48 7GF  
Telephone: 01243 323 020 www.halton.gov.uk

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We would also like to remind parents/carers that the only items that the children are permitted to bring into school are:

- Their coat
- Their water bottle (which must only contain water and be taken home to be cleaned each day). It is really important for every child to have a water bottle in school, so they can remain hydrated and do not get thirsty (especially in the warm weather)!
- Their book bag (which can only contain their reading book, homework diary/reading record and homework)
- A morning break snack (pupils in KS2 only)
- Packed lunch box

No other bags or equipment is permitted – other than outdoor shoes for Forest School sessions (Year 3 and Year 4 only).

Book bags can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £3.50

Please ensure that your child does not bring into school their own hand sanitiser, toys from home, their own stationery or unnecessary bags.

*When you do not need to wear a face covering*

In settings where face coverings are required in England, there are some circumstances where people may not be able to wear a face covering. Please be mindful and respectful of such circumstances, noting that some people are less able to wear face coverings, and that the reasons for this may not be visible to others.

- This includes (but is not limited to):
- children under the age of 11 (Public Health England do not recommend face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons)
  - people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
  - employees of indoor settings (or people acting on their behalf, such as someone leading part of a prayer service) or transport workers - although employers may consider their use where appropriate and where other mitigations are not in place, in line with COVID-19 Secure guidelines
  - police officers and other emergency workers, given that this may interfere with their ability to serve the public
  - where putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress
  - if you are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate
  - to avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others
  - including if it would negatively impact on your ability to exercise or participate in a strenuous activity.

- There are also scenarios when you are permitted to remove a face covering:
- if asked to do so in a bank, building society, or post office for identification
  - if asked to do so by shop staff or relevant employees for identification, for assessing health recommendations (e.g. by a pharmacist), or for age identification purposes including when buying age restricted products such as alcohol
  - if required in order to receive treatment or services, for example when getting a facial
  - in order to take medication
  - if you are delivering a sermon or prayer in a place of worship
  - if you are the persons getting married in a relevant place
  - if you are aged 11 to 18 attending a faith school and having lessons in a place of worship as part of your core curriculum
  - if you are undertaking exercise or an activity and it would negatively impact your ability to do so
  - if you are an elite sports person, professional dancer or referee acting in the course of your employment.