



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER 05

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I'm sure that the news this week, that somebody within our school community had tested positive for Covid 19, came as a shock to many of you. To our knowledge, it is most likely that this individual contracted coronavirus outside of school (over the weekend) and, to date, nobody else at our school has tested positive. Therefore, we hope that this will be an isolated incident.

The decision to close two bubbles - and ask so many of our pupils to self-isolate for 14 days from the last point of contact (as they may have come into close contact with the infected person) – was not taken lightly. However, it was deemed to be a necessary precaution to take – to control the potential spread of the virus within our school; and keep all of the other children and adults in school safe. *We sincerely hope that none of the children who are self-isolating go on to develop any symptoms or pass on the virus to any other members of their household. However, as outlined in the information leaflet that was sent out with the notification message on Studybugs on Wednesday, please remain vigilant and if you feel that any member of your household starts to display any symptoms of Covid-19, please isolate and get tested straight away.*

While the children are in school, we take every precaution necessary to ensure that the children in each bubble do not mix or access the same areas within the school building. Each child also has their own set of equipment to use and resources are kept within each bubble. *The only exception to this would be the use of school iPads which are thoroughly cleaned should they need to be used by children in a different bubble within 72 hours of them being used previously. However, as we now have two new full class sets of iPads, we are able to restrict their use to just one bubble – just as we do for the computers in the IT Suite.*

We have also had a full-time cleaner, in addition to the usual cleaning team at the end of the school day, since June - who makes sure all areas of the school (especially the high use areas, such as toilets, door handles, light switches, sinks and dispensers) – are cleaned repeatedly and regularly throughout the school day. The children also routinely wash and/or sanitise their hands throughout the day – to kill the virus should they come into contact with it – and the children's tables (and chairs) are cleaned a lot more regularly than normal.

We believe that these measures are the best way to prevent the spread of any illness or virus from the children in one bubble to the next. However, this relies on the children who attend our school not mixing with other

children (or adults) outside of the school day too. *Therefore, please give a lot of thought to what you allow your children to do during the evening and at weekends – to help restrict the spread of the virus.*

The restrictions on households mixing in Halton came into force at the beginning of this week, on Tuesday, and I am very appreciative to those families who are ensuring that they are fully adhering to this advice – as the significant rise in confirmed cases in the local area is alarming.

I would also like to thank all of those people who have followed the instruction to wear face coverings whilst on the school premises at both the start and end of the school day. While I would hope that everyone would fully respect any individuals who are unable to wear a face covering, for any reason, this measure – in addition to maintaining 2 metre social distancing at all times – is vital if we are to minimise the risk of Covid-19 spreading throughout our school community.

Having spoken to so many of the children about the rules and routines that we have in school – and giving the children the opportunity to ask questions about all of these – I would hope that every child feels safe in school; and understands why each of the actions we have taken have been done to help keep them as safe as possible whilst they are in school.

It is my intention to share some of the children's amazing work, in the school newsletter, over the next few weeks, so that we can start to celebrate their achievements, focus on the more positive aspects of school life and feel more positive about what our young people are doing (and achieving).



As a start, I would like to initiate a family competition – for you all to work on at home (as a household). The competition is to redesign any (or all four) of the logos that we have for our four houses: Bridge, Castle, Mersey and Priory.

Ideally these logos will be represented as a coat of arms – or as a shield – and we are looking to have a series of recognisable emblems and symbols that represent each of these key words incorporated within each design.

Currently the principle colour for each house is: Bridge (red), Castle (blue), Mersey (green) and Priory (yellow). However, you can change these if you like!

Whilst we will accept entries on a sheet of paper, ideally we would like entries to be emailed to sec.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk – **before Friday 9th October.**

It is our intention to combine many of the ideas that our children and their family members, into four new designs – which will be created into a set of new banners to be displayed in our school hall. Remember: Sometimes, simplicity is best!

If we use your idea, you may win a prize – so please make sure you include your name (and class)!

Hopefully this will be a pleasant family activity for you to do as a family.



To minimise the impact of any bubble closures on the education and well-being of the children who are self-isolating at any time, the adults who support your child in school will set daily activities – and they will also be available for at least one hour each day to answer any of your questions or queries; and offer their support.

The activities will include videos and we also hope to include some 'live' lessons – so your child can keep in regular contact with their class teachers.

Please ensure that you are familiar with Seesaw (or Tapestry for those who have children in our Reception class) to access all of this!

If your child is absent from school as a consequence of displaying Covid-19 symptoms or having been asked to self-isolate by Public Health England (via the school) or NHS Test and Trace – and they are usually entitled to a free school meal – Halton Catering Service are still able to provide a free school meal (in the form of a packed lunch).



For those children who still have a sibling attending school, these will be sent home with them (so you have them ready in the fridge for the following day).

Other families are able to order a packed lunch – if they are able to arrange collection from somebody who is not symptomatic or not self-isolating. To do this, we need to know the name of the child and the name of the person who will be collecting the meal. This information needs to be emailed to sec.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk – with SCHOOL MEALS in the subject line – before 9:30am each day. These lunches will be available for collection from the school office between 11:30am and 12:45pm. Those people who come to collect these must be wearing a face covering. These meals will contain enough food for at least two days – to avoid people needing to visit the school every day.



Reading Book Amnesty: We are aware that there are still over 120 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 too? Without these kits, we will struggle to enter a school team in interschool competitions (whether these are virtual or real) Thank you!



Some other things that you may be interested in...

Farmvention: Climate Superheroes

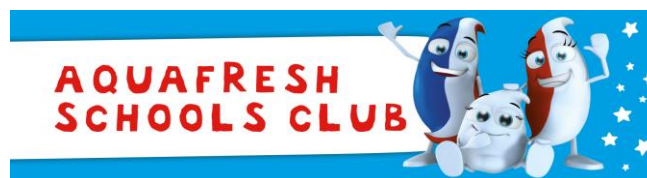


Can you help the nation's farmers tackle one of earth's greatest challenges?

Our **Farmvention competition** (click on this hyperlink to find out more) is back and this year we're looking for young people to use their ingenuity and problem-solving skills to create an innovation or invention to help farmers fight climate change.

The top nine entries will win £1000 for their school to spend on STEM or outdoor learning equipment and will receive their prize at a prestigious awards ceremony at the Houses of Parliament in Summer 2021.

The Aquafresh Brush Time Tale Competition is live!



Why get involved? Every year there are 60,000 school days lost to tooth extractions and poor oral health. In order to help make brush time more fun, Aquafresh is tasking pupils in Years 1 and 2 (aged between five and seven) to create their own Brush Time Tale. It's simple to enter; parents will simply need to upload their child's story to the **Aquafresh Brush Time Tales microsite**.

The Prize

The competition gives pupils the chance to win a copy of their story, brought to life by children's illustrator Becka Moor. The prize doesn't end there - the winning child will also win an iPad with the latest apps to help encourage their story-writing skills and the school will win £500 of Oxford Reading Tree vouchers to spend on whichever books they would like. The class of the winning pupil will also receive samples of Aquafresh toothpaste and toothbrushes to use at home.