



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER 10

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Forest Schools

We are aware of how important it is for our pupils to remain fit and active both whilst they are in school and during the time they are at home (but abiding by the latest laws and restrictions).

As soon as our school hall is back in full use (following the roof repairs) we will ensure that each class is able to utilise the school hall for PE – when the weather means it is unsafe or inappropriate to be outdoors.

However, to help with this, we have allocated as many classes as we can time to work with Mr Thorpe (our Learning Outside The Classroom and Forest School Specialist) this half term.

This week Year 5 and Year 6 had time outdoors, on Wednesday, to enhance their learning. **The timetable for the next few weeks is as follows:**

- Wednesday 11 November: Reception (am) and Year 2 (pm)
- Wednesday 18 November: The Fawns (am) and Year 2 (pm)
- Wednesday 25 November: Reception (am) and Year 1 (pm)
- Wednesday 2 December: Year 3 (am) and Year 1 (pm)
- Wednesday 9 December: The Fawns (am) and Year 3 (pm)
- Wednesday 16 December: Year 5 (am) and Year 6 (pm)

Can you please ensure that your child comes to school, dressed in suitable warm and waterproof outdoor clothing, but wearing clean indoor shoes, on these days. They will also need to bring wellies or outdoor trainers in a plastic bag – clearly labelled with their name – which they can change into whilst they are working outdoors.

These bags with extra footwear will be stored outside, under the shutters next to the classroom doors. Hopefully this will be something that they all greatly look forward to.

Updated Guidance Relating To Schools – Following National Lockdown

In advance of the national lockdown coming into force yesterday, the government updated its guidance to schools; which was published late on Wednesday afternoon.



In addition to the NHS Track & Trace system, our school maintains our own records to enable us to take swift action if we are made aware of a confirmed case of coronavirus (Covid-19) affecting any member of a school community.

If your child – or any member of your household – starts to display any of the recognised symptoms associated with Covid-19, they must stay off school, self-isolate immediately and the person who is displaying these symptoms arrange a test straight away. *Your child will only be able to return to school once the test result is*

confirmed as being negative (or after a confirmed period of self-isolation should the test prove to be positive).

(Covid-19) symptoms:

- a new, continuous cough,
- a high temperature, or
- has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If you are alerted during the course of the school day that a member of your household starts to display any of these symptoms during the school day, you will now be advised by your GP, NHS 111 or any other medical professional to collect any other household members from school straight away. If you can contact the school straight away, we will arrange for your child to be ready for collection as soon as you arrive at school.

As you will be aware, the school has restricted all visits to those that are absolutely necessary since the start of the school year. During the period of the national lockdown these will be further tightened with all parent and carer visits for new admissions being suspended until 2nd December. ***Should you need to contact the school, please contact us via telephone (01928 564053), email (sec.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk) or using the Seesaw or Tapestry App.***



Our school is in the process of installing a new telephone system which should avoid the number of occasions that our school telephone line is engaged – and people are not able to make contact with us.

From this week we have a separate telephone line to make outgoing calls – which means that only when people have telephoned our school will the line be engaged. Soon we will have multiple lines, so contact can be made much more easily.

Any pupil or staff member who is considered Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) will have received a letter to inform them of this by their medical specialist this week.

All pupils classed as CEV should not come into school during the period of the national lockdown and access their learning from home; and all staff considered CEV must work from home.

Whilst we are not expecting this to affect any members of our pupils or teaching team, **if your child needs to self-isolate at any point – and are not too unwell to access remote (home) learning - they are encouraged to:**

- **Focus on any activities they may still be yet to complete in the activity books that were sent home with their end of year report (in July);**
- **Access BBC Bitesize (especially the daily lessons that are being broadcast on the CBBC TV channel between 9am and 10am);**

- Explore the resources available on the Covid Classroom section of the school website: <https://haltonlodge.haltonschools.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Covidclassroom.pdf>
- Engage in the activities set by their class teacher on Seesaw (Year 1 to Year 6) or Tapestry (Reception Class).



Further details are included in our Remote Learning Policy – which, as with all key policies, is available on the school website:

<https://haltonlodge.haltonschools.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Remote-Learning-Policy-2020-21.pdf>

Out-of-school activities (including wraparound care) may continue to operate, where this is necessary to enable parents and carers to work, search for work or undertake training or education. Therefore, **our Breakfast Club will continue throughout this period.**

As you can't fail to notice, the repairs to the hall roof are now in full flow – having been delayed due to the inclement weather over half term.



When it is safe for the children who attend Breakfast Club (and for the children in Year 1 and Reception Class) to enter and leave the school building through the hall doors, they will continue to do so. However, when the time comes – most likely on Tuesday (and possibly Wednesday) of next week – for these doors to be put out of action to maintain the safety of all staff and pupils whilst the roofers remove the existing roof immediately adjacent to these doors, we will ask those children and families affected by this to come on to the school playground, follow the one way system, go clockwise around the biodome and drop/collect their children through the double doors at the top of the steps. Should you need to wait for any period of time, we would politely request that you stay on the lower playground (to help maintain safe social distancing from other families who may be using the playground at the same time) and to ensure your children do not go on the adventure playground or any other areas that are marked with yellow paint - and are so out of bounds.



All other out of school activities should close – which means that we will need to cancel our Football Club (Tuesday) and Forest School Club (Wednesday) with immediate effect. Due to the time that it will go dark at the beginning of December, it is now unlikely that any outdoor clubs will restart until after half term.

We sincerely apologise for any upset or inconvenience that this may cause but hope families understand that any activity that may impact on the continued transmission of Covid-19 must cease during the next 4 weeks.

As our Year 1 Phonics and Year 6 Maths Booster sessions are defined as activities which are focused on education, including 1:1 or group tuition, catch up clubs, revision clubs, etc. these are still able to go ahead during this period. Therefore, following a risk assessment of each of these, we have decided that there is no additional risk to these continuing – as they include pupils and staff from the same year group (class) bubble, take place in the classroom that these people have been using throughout the school day and by having



separate collection times for the children from these year groups on the days that these are taking place we are diluting the number of people on the school site at the end of the school day.

If any families have any concerns about their child continuing to attend these activities, please speak with your child's class teacher and let them know. We would totally understand and respect anybody who wished to review their actions and the activities they are undertaking during this time.



In primary schools there is no change to the existing position regarding face coverings: it is not mandatory for staff and visitors to wear face coverings. However, the need for parents, carers and staff to wear a face covering whilst on school premises – during drop off and collection times – remains a legal requirement.

This is most likely to be policed during the national lockdown and we would request for ALL adults (and children over the age of 11) who are not exempt from wearing face coverings to do so and abide by this law; as it demonstrates a high level of respect for the other members of our school community and does make our pupils feel a lot safer.

School Attendance



Despite all the concerns and disruption at the start of the school year, our school attendance has not been too adversely affected by it all during the first half term. Therefore, I would like to thank everyone for continuing to send your children to school - and valuing the importance of education and being in school for children's mental health and general well-being. We have 200 (out of 207) children in school today – which is fantastic!

I must also thank the staff for showing such a great positive attitude, determination to overcome all of the obstacles and barriers, and continuing to provide such a high level of care and education under all of the extra pressures and stress.

Our overall school attendance during the first half term was 95% - which is just 1.5% below the government's acceptable level - with the average school attendance in each class as follows:

Reception = 96.3%	Year 1 = 96.8%*
Year 2 = 94.7%*	Year 3 = 91.7%
Year 4 = 93.8%	Year 5 = 96.4%
Year 6 = 93.6%	

*The Fawns pupils are included in these figures

It is a great achievement for the children in Year 1 to be exceeding the Pre-Covid national average for school attendance in primary schools (and for the children in Reception and Year 5 to be very close to this magical target too) – despite the need for families to self-isolate at times and keep their children off school as a precaution when they have displayed symptoms that mirror those of coronavirus.

It would be great if we could continue to build on these high levels of attendance throughout the remainder of the term – and thank you for your continued support in this regard.

If your child is absent from school, you MUST let us know before 9:15am (when our registers close) - that day – to have the absence authorised. If we are not informed of the reason a child is absent from school, these sessions are, understandably, unauthorised.



What's Happening Next Week?

For those children in Year 5, any pupils who was not in school when the **flu vaccinations** were first administered and those pupils who have joined our school this school year, we were expecting the School Health Team to be back in school on Monday (9th November) to 'catch up' with those who still require immunisation. **We have been informed today that these will now take place on 4th December instead.**

On Tuesday 10th November, we are expecting the School Health Team to be in school to carry out the Vision and Hearing Screening Tests for those children in Year 1 (who would normally have undergone these checks towards the end of their year in Reception). *Unless these are delayed too, these will take place during the morning, in the room that is usually used by the Year 2 children as their Break Out Zone – so the children are not adversely affected by any noise from the roofers in or near the school hall.*

I	1	20/200
A	2	20/100
M	3	20/75
N	4	20/50
I	5	20/40
N	6	20/30
E	7	20/25
E	8	20/20
E	9	20/20
H	10	20/20

On Friday we will be celebrating Children In Need. Our school has always supported this national campaign and **this year we will be inviting the children to come into school wearing non-uniform; in return for a donation of £1 (or more) to this charity.** *If you could have this money ready next Friday to drop into a bucket as the children arrive at school, it would be most welcome.*

We also have some merchandise that we will be selling on Children In Need's behalf:

- £2.50 Pudsey Ears**
- £2.50 Blush Ears**
- £1 Stamped Pudsey Wristband**
- £1 Pudsey Pin Badge**



If you, or your child, wish to purchase any of these items please place the correct money in an envelope labelled with your child's name, class and the items you wish to purchase. These will be collected by your child's class

teacher who will hand them in at the school office. Your child will then be given the items they've paid for and ordered either that day or the next school day.

Although this will be a scaled down event for our school, we hope our families will support our decision to continue to raise money for Children In Need - and we hope to be able to make a sizeable donation from the school community once again.

Community News



Ideas of Things 'To Do' Over The Weekend or After School

If you are struggling to come up with ways to keep yourself busy and keep on top of your child's enthusiastic energy, here are a few ideas to keep the boredom away (during the lockdown):

Finger painting - Let your child express their creative side with this messy but fun way to paint - put down a plastic sheet or newspapers and let them get stuck in.

Origami - This can keep the kids entertained for hours (especially if you make their favourite animals) and it makes very little mess. Win-win.

Bake a cake - This is a great way to teach your child the basics of baking and is sure to go down a treat.

Play hide and seek - If you make sure to make all the nooks and crannies in your home as child-safe as possible before playing, this will provide fun for all the family.

Make salt dough jewellery - Salt dough jewellery is an inexpensive way to let your child expand their fashion choices.

Make wooden spoon puppets - Easy and simple to make, you can create anything from a dragon to a ballerina.

Stage a historical re-enactment - This is a great, educational activity for kids with lots of energy and a dramatic streak.

Create plastic bottle rockets - If your child is less than interested in science at school, this experiment could certainly change that.

Play scrabble - A family game of scrabble is a great way for older children to brush up on their spelling and vocabulary.

Story time - Take it in turns to read stories to each other. Try to use different voices for each character, to really make the tale come alive.

Make a scrapbook - Grab your child's favourite little trinkets, along with old tickets from fun days out, postcards from holidays, photographs from their earliest years (and whatever else you wish) and put them in a scrapbook together for safe keeping.

Make gingerbread people - Why not make yourself and your child into a gingerbread person for a fun creative activity and a yummy snack.

Indoor gardening - Give each child a pot plant to care for and watch it grow, along with your child's gardening skills. **Make a colourful baking soda volcano** - This is another [fun science experiment](#) which will not only entertain but can teach your children about chemical reactions.

Make scented playdough - [Making your own playdough](#) not only saves you money but also provides great family fun both during and after the activity.

Make a paper train - Not too different from origami, [this paper train template](#), created by c2c Rail, will certainly help keep kids entertained during lockdown. All you need is a paper, a printer, some scissors, some glue and some colouring pencils.

Make birthday cards - Whip out your yearly planner and make a note of all of your loved ones birthdays' coming up. Then start making extra personalised cards for each of them with photos, drawings, and glitter.

Shrink a crisp packet science experiment - Use this [step-by-step guide](#) to shrink a crisp packet, then turn it into a keyring by puncturing a small hole in its corner and feeding the ring through.

Make a rainbow sensory bottle - Afterwards, place a light under the bottle, to let the colour fill your room.

Wash the car - Kids love any excuse to play with garden hose pipes and water guns. So now the summer weather is approaching, try asking them to help give your car a rinse.

Decorate some garden rocks - When you next go outside to exercise, try to collect as many smooth rocks as you can. Back indoors, get inspired by [this video](#) and then get decorating.

Play charades - This popular family game will help get you all moving.

Make bookmark creatures - These [unique bookmarks](#) are fun to make and could help inspire your child's love of reading.

Cook dinner together - Now that the evening commute is a distant memory for many, why not use this extra time to teach your child this very necessary life skill?

Go on a bike ride - Use your daily exercise to see more of your local area by bike - just make sure to keep a safe distance from others.

Play hopscotch - Put the phones and tablets down and grab some coloured chalk for some outdoor fun on your driveway.

Karaoke - With so many different karaoke songs to choose from on YouTube, this activity could unleash your child's inner star.

Write a short story or comic book - Give your kid a notebook and a pen and get brainstorming story ideas. It's likely your child will surprise you with their endless imagination.

Play skipping games - If you have some outdoor space to call your own, grab a skipping rope or two and teach your child the catchy skipping rhymes you used to chant in your school days. If your memory fails you, try these [golden oldies](#).

Binge the Harry Potter series - First get them to read the books, if they haven't already, before sitting down as a family to enjoy the film series together. This will help transport them to a fantastic world far removed from the current lockdown.

Learn a foreign language - With the help of online tools such as [Duolingo](#), [Gus on the Go](#), and [Little Pim](#), to name a few, you'll be a multilingual household before you can say bravo.

Play fetch with the dog - Use your exercise time to play a simple game of fetch with your family's best friend. If you don't have a dog, time playing and looking after any pet is always goof fun!

Try your hand at poetry - There's more to poetry than reading Shakespeare and Wordsworth. It can be an exciting way for your child to express themselves. Try these [unique ways](#) to get your child's inner poet to surface.

Dig a flower bed - If you have a garden, you'll no doubt be wanting to spend as much time in it as possible during lockdown. So why not make it look as beautiful as possible, with added flowers. Kids love getting messy, so this muddy task will certainly brighten their day.

Stretch it out with some yoga - This helpful [YouTube channel](#) promises to make your kids stronger, calmer and wiser. What's not to love?

Make a healthy smoothie - Follow these [easy yummy recipes](#) together, to enjoy the sunny weather with a healthy smoothie in hand.

Make Ice lollies - Use an [ice lolly mould](#) and some fruit juice to create some scrumptious ice lollies to enjoy when the sun shines.

Learn an instrument - Many instruments can be bought [online](#). So even if you child doesn't already play an instrument, now is a great time to do so, especially if you are struggling for ideas for Christmas.

Race paper airplanes - Use [this helpful guide](#) to create many different shaped paper airplanes. Then use your bedroom window as a launch site, to see which ones fly the furthest and the fastest. If you don't own a garden, try racing the planes in your living room, to avoid littering.

Build a hut - When you are out on your next family walk, try to collect as many sticks as you can. If you have a garden, these can be used for many hours of hut building. Later on, if the weather permits it, you can use it to sleep out under the stars.

Decorate their bedrooms - You and your children are probably missing the novelties of everyday life. So why not let them spruce up their bedrooms with fresh new paint, or rearrange their furniture, to help stave off the boredom during lockdown.

Facetime the grandparents - Many of us are missing our Grandparents during lockdown. Even a quick call is sure to keep your children and your parents happy. After all, a virtual hug from a grandparent is better than no hug at all.

Enter a photography competition - There are now several photo competitions online to help young people get the most out of lockdown. With a quick search, you'll soon find the one that best suits you and your child. Here are some [awesome ideas for nature photography](#) during lockdown to get you started.

Expand their musical knowledge - Share with them your favourite bands and artists from the past, for some musical based bonding.

Have fun with their hair - Whether you and your child's hair is long or short, there are many fun styles to try on each other.

Build a pillow fort - Everyone loves a well built fort, whether you are an adult or a child. So grab some sofa cushions, bed sheets and fairy lights and make a cosy fort to escape to when lockdown blues kick in.