



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER 12

20th November 2020



The total amount raised by our school for Children In Need was £343.24. Thank you to everybody who contributed to raising this sum of money!

New School Telephone System

A few weeks ago, we informed you that the school was having a new phone system installed. By having a separate line to make outgoing calls, there have been fewer occasions when the phone line has been engaged or the phone has continually rung without being answered.



The full switch over is expected to take place on Monday – during the morning. The school telephone number remains unchanged, but the voicemail message and the sounds (including menu options) that you may hear when you call the school will change.

If there is nobody in the office to answer your call, you will still be able to leave a voicemail message. However, we will also be able to make and receive multiple phone calls – which should mean that calls made between 8:30am and 3:30pm are answered more swiftly.



Parents' Evening

We hope that those parents and carers who have taken up the option to have a conversation – either over the telephone, via a Google Meet (video chat) or using Seesaw – with their child's class teacher this week have found these very useful and informative.

Whilst schools are having to restrict the number of visitors on site and avoid face-to-face meetings wherever possible, we realise that we can't replace key aspects of Parents' Evening: such as the opportunity to browse through your child's work books and look at the displays that showcase some of our pupils best work.

However, by still providing you with the opportunity to find out how your child has settled into school this term, discuss what they have achieved already and share any concerns, we hope that you feel knowledgeable and confident about how your child is progressing and what they need to do to make further progress over the next few weeks and months.

Please remember, should your child need to stay off school to self-isolate for any reason, they should:

- (i) In the first instance, use the activity books that were sent home with the end of year

report (in July) to complete a couple of activities within each of these each day. *Photographs of these can be taken and placed on Seesaw to show what they have done.*

- (ii) Visit the Covid Classroom section of the school website – and look for activities that would interest and inspire your child.
- (iii) Contact your child's class teacher – via Tapestry (Reception) or Seesaw (Year 1 to Year 6) – to inform them of the likely length of your self-isolation so that work can posted on here for you to access during this period.

We have received and set up the first 16 of the 46 extra devices that we have requested through the Department for Education's "Get Help With Technology Service Scheme". If you have requested a device to support with your child's education at home – but have not been contacted to collect one of these first 16 devices – please feel reassured that you will be contacted once the extra devices are delivered to school. Unfortunately we do not have a date for this yet!



Do you need employability support?

Directions is a free employability course that provides:

- Individual support from our key workers
- Access to online learning to help you develop your skills
- The option to volunteer at Citizens Advice

Get in touch if you are:

- A resident of Halton
- 18+

Not in work, education or training



Anti-Bullying Week

As this week is Anti-Bullying Week throughout the UK, all of the children in school have been taking part in lessons focusing on different aspects of bullying; and sharing how this type of behaviour affects children (and adults).

As parents and carers, the most important things that you can do to help your child to understand, help prevent and deal with bullying are to:

- Know what your child is learning about bullying at school (so you can talk to them about this);

- Encourage and support them in trying out the skills they are learning at school;
- Model using non-bullying behaviour yourself, and showing respect for other people.

Children are programmed to learn by watching, by trying out what they see others doing and by repeating behaviour that is rewarded. It is often said: "Don't worry that your children are not listening to a word you say – worry that they are watching everything you do!"

Quick Checklist: What bullying is (and isn't!).
In SEAL your child will learn that bullying:

1. ...goes on for a while, or happens regularly.
2.is deliberate. The other person wants to hurt, humiliate or harm the target.
3.involves someone (or several people) who are stronger in some way than the person being bullied. The person doing the bullying has more power; they are older, stronger, there are more of them or they have some 'hold' over the target (e.g. they know a secret about them).

Because these three things have to happen together for something to be called 'bullying', they will learn that bullying is not:

- A one-off fight or argument
- A friend sometimes being nasty
- An argument with a friend

What is it like for parents? A Case Study

There is something about knowing that your child is being bullied that brings out our most primitive protective instincts.

When my seven year old son (who has Asperger's Syndrome, which means among other things that he finds it difficult to make friends) asked me to write a note to a little girl who had just started at his school, inviting her to tea, I positively glowed with excitement at the prospect of his days being made happier by having a friend (a first!).

The little girl had played with him the day before, obviously not yet aware that it was the height of uncoolness to bother with the 'loser kid'. The next day at playtime, he plucked up the courage to give her the note I had written with such high hopes.



Immediately a group formed around her, whispering and giggling as he stood on the sidelines as always.

As I washed up later, he told me what had happened and asked me innocently – "Why did she tear the note up and throw it on the ground mummy?"

Nearly seventeen years later I have tears in my eyes writing this.

All I wanted to do was to march up to the school, demanding that the child be removed immediately (or better still publicly flogged!).

Fascinating Fact ..
Why do children bully?

Children who regularly bully others at the age of 8 are FIVE times more likely to end up in prison than those who don't....

Children bully because:

- they want to be 'in' with the cool gang
- it feels like fun - they don't realise how much it hurts
- they dislike or are jealous of someone
- it makes them feel powerful or respected
- it gets them what they want (sweets, money)
- they are bullied themselves and are taking out their hurt and anger on someone who won't fight back
- they are having problems in their life that are making them feel bad

REMEMBER: People who are happy with themselves do not need to bully other people!



What is it like for parents? A Case Study

I was even ready to tell them that if something wasn't done straight away I would sort it out myself – and while I was at it, I would teach those children who had joined in with the cruelty a lesson they wouldn't forget as well!

Underneath the rage were layers of feelings - helplessness at not being able to help my beautiful, innocent son to stand up to these bullies, inadequacy (what sort of parent allowed this to happen to their son? What had we done wrong?) and even resentment and frustration with the difficulties he was born with that made these incidents so much a part of his life.

The second thing I desperately wanted to do was to find some magic words or advice that would protect him from it happening again. So I told him that bullying is just a part of life which builds character, and that if he ignored them they would stop. But they didn't, and I felt awful because now he felt even more frightened and alone - the only person he thought could help him hadn't been able to.

My friends were full of advice – tell him to fight back, to stand up to them, to shout 'sticks and stones may break my bones...'. He tried, but they were stronger and there were more of them. They laughed at his efforts and he came home and sobbed, feeling worse than before. Now he said he felt like a double failure – once for being bullied, and again for not being able to stop it.



What is it like for parents? A Case Study



And so we suggested that he change whatever it was about him that was causing him to be bullied – maybe his clothes, his hair? Could he try harder to fit in? But new clothes and a haircut made no difference.

When I found myself trying to teach him a new way to walk (the latest thing wrong with him, in their eyes), it dawned on me that no matter what he did they would

always find something new to pick on. It was them who had to change!

I often think how different my son's time at school might have been if schools and parents had known and done more about bullying. Would someone have challenged the fact that he was never included in playground games? Might he have had at least one friend if they had been taught to understand difference in a more positive way? Might some children have found the courage to stand up to those who were whispering and giggling? Might the children have thought twice about their behaviour if they understood how it felt to be bullied? I think the answer is yes and welcome the work that schools now do in anti-bullying week, and the rest of the year because of it.

If your child is being bullied:
www.familylives.org.uk
(Tel: 0808 800 2222)

Pause for Thought

Between 15 and 25 children commit suicide every year because of bullying – it's up to us – all of us, schools and parents, to do something about it.

Fascinating Fact...

Why schools don't just get rid of bullies ...

Parents are often surprised when schools don't automatically exclude children who are bullying others. Of course, as parents, our first concern will always be for our own child's safety and happiness. It is natural to ask why the school seems to want to work with their tormentors instead of getting rid of them.

There are three reasons. Firstly, if schools excluded every child guilty of bullying, they might have very few children left! The majority of children have been bullied, seen bullying and bullied themselves. There is no evidence that children are born 'bullies' or 'victims' – they change roles according to where they are and who they are with.

Secondly, if schools simply move the problem on to another school, others will continue to suffer. Surely the best thing to do is to deal with the problem and try to stop the child from bullying altogether? Of course, the school will always have the right to exclude them if their efforts don't change the situation. But the third, and most important, reason is that there **are** ways of changing bullying behaviour. Helping them to understand their target's feelings and the effect of their behaviour on them (developing their empathy), teaching them to stand up to peer pressure from others, giving them support to manage the problems they are facing in their own lives – all of these things can change bullying behaviour for good.

So when you feel like the parent in the case study, try to understand what the school is doing, and why. When children who are bullied are asked what they want to happen they very rarely mention punishing the other child or revenge, they almost always say:

'I just want it to stop.'

Maybe we should think the same way!



Bikes and Scooters

Over the next two weeks, the roofing company will be moving off site and we will be able to safely reopen the bike shed to any pupils who wish to bring their bike or scooter to school.

In order to avoid this becoming an area where people may congregate, we will be asking those children (and adults) who do bring a bike or scooter to school, to:

- (i) Disembark as they arrive at the main school gates and check that there is nobody else using the bike shed;
- (ii) When it is clear to do so, walk to the bike shed with their bike or scooter;
- (iii) To place their bike away from any others that are there;
- (iv) To walk back to the turning circle – through the large gates – and wait at the front of school and/or enter the school building through their designated entrance.

At the end of the day, any pupils who leave the school via the playground can collect their bike or scooter on their way past. All other pupils will be asked to follow the one way system around the side of the school, up the steps (or ramp), to the bike shed. Once again, it is vital that people – adults and children – maintain social distancing at all times.

We aim to have the playground floor markings redone by this date to help remind people about this new procedure.

Start Of The School Day

This week we sent a reminder to the families of the older children who attend our school:



We appear to have an increasing number of children arriving early for school - some as early as 8:15am.

When the children are arriving before these times, they are largely left unsupervised, congregate under the large oak tree at the front of the school and we have had some reports of inappropriate and antisocial behaviour during this time period.

If you could ensure that - if your child walks to school alone - they do not leave home until a suitable time, it would be much appreciated. Thank you!

If you were to witness any antisocial or inappropriate behaviour by any of our pupils – especially at times of the day when they are wearing their school uniform (and so our Behaviour Policy is still enforceable) – we would hope that you would feel confident to report this, either by telephone or by emailing the school: sec.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk or head.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk.

If you have a child in Year 3 and wait on the school playground for 10 minutes after dropping a sibling off in Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and/or Year 6 could you please ensure that your children are mindful that the school day has started and the children in a number of classrooms have already started their lessons.

With this in mind, it is important for the children to stay away from the school building (as the windows to the classrooms are open to aid ventilation), they do not use any school equipment (as this is allocated to each class) and they remain on the upper playground. It is also vital for families to maintain social distancing during this time – which we have shortened as much as possible.



CORONAVIRUS

NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

5 November to 2 December

National restrictions apply to England:

<p>Meeting Indoors </p> <p>You cannot meet anybody socially indoors unless they are in your household or support bubble.</p>	<p>Meeting Outdoors </p> <p>You can meet with 1 person from another household in outdoor public spaces, following social distancing. Children under 5 and anyone dependent on continuous care do not count towards the 2 person limit.</p>	<p>Weddings and Funerals </p> <p>Weddings, civil partnership ceremonies can only take place where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover. Funerals can take place with up to 30 people in attendance.</p>	<p>Working from home </p> <p>You must work from home if you can. If you cannot work from home you should continue to go to work (unless you are clinically extremely vulnerable).</p>
<p>Essential Shops </p> <p>Open. Essential shops should follow COVID-secure guidelines.</p>	<p>Non-essential Retail </p> <p>Closed. Can only open for click-and-collect and delivery services.</p>	<p>Exercise </p> <p>You can exercise outside on your own or with your household; your support bubble; or one person from another household.</p>	<p>Leisure and Gyms </p> <p>Closed, except for allotments and outdoor playgrounds.</p>
<p>Hospitality </p> <p>Closed except for takeaway, click-and-collect, drive through and delivery services. Takeaway not permitted after 22:00.</p>	<p>Education </p> <p>Early years, schools and FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions.</p>	<p>Healthcare Services </p> <p>You can leave home for any medical reason.</p>	<p>Residential Care </p> <p>Care homes are encouraged to provide safe, COVID-secure visiting opportunities. See the guidance for details on how to keep visits safe.</p>
<p>Travel </p> <p>You must not travel in the UK or overseas other than for permitted reasons, including work, education, medical reasons, caring responsibilities or for essential retail.</p>	<p>Public Transport </p> <p>You may still use public transport, but should only travel for permitted reasons and should look to reduce the number of journeys you make, avoid travelling at peak times, and walk or cycle where you can.</p>	<p>Overnight Stays </p> <p>Overnight stays and holidays away from primary residences are not allowed, except for work and other exempt purposes.</p>	<p>Entertainment and tourism </p> <p>Entertainment venues are closed. Public gardens at visitor attractions are open.</p>
<p>Vulnerable People </p> <p>If you are 60+ or clinically vulnerable, be especially careful to follow the rules and minimise contacts with others. If you are clinically extremely vulnerable you are advised to stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors for exercise or to attend essential health appointments.</p>	<p>Worship </p> <p>Closed except for: Funerals, broadcasting acts of worship, and individual prayer.</p>	<p>Childcare </p> <p>Registered childcare and childcare activities open to enable parents to work, or respite care. Parents can form a childcare bubble with another household for informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under.</p>	<p>Youth Clubs and Activities </p> <p>Some youth services are able to continue, such as 1-1 youth work and support groups, but most youth clubs and groups will need to cease for this period.</p>

For more information and detailed guidance visit: gov.uk/coronavirus

