



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER 22

14th May 2021

Welcome

Next week we are looking forward to meeting the parents, carers and guardians of the children who will be starting at our school, in

Reception, in September.

We now have the largest number of pupils attending our school and have been very pleased to welcome new pupils – and their family members – to our Reception, Year 1, Year 5 and The Fawns classes in the last month.

As we are full in almost every class now, we do have a waiting list for any parents who wish to send their child to our school – should a place become available in the future.

Face Coverings



Although secondary school and higher education pupils will no longer be required to wear face coverings in schools and colleges from Monday (17th May), all other protective measures remain in place.

This means that **it is still compulsory for anybody who comes on to the school site – including the car park area and the school playground (as well as inside the school building) – to wear a face covering; unless they are exempt from doing so.** Equally, staff in school will continue to wear a face covering when they are using any of our communal areas (the main corridor, the main office and staff room) where social distancing is not always possible. They will also, as has been the case for a prolonged period of time, continue to wear a face covering when they welcome the children into school at the start of the day and supervise them leave at the end of the day.

We would hope that ALL parents and carers will support this – by wearing a face covering whenever they enter the school gates (or whilst they wait outside the hall gates – along Grangeway).

Social Distancing



We would also like to discourage parents from congregating on the school playground – particularly at the end of the day. We have a wide range of measures in place to keep the children in year group bubbles throughout the school day so that,

if we were to have a positive case confirmed amongst any of our pupils or staff, any subsequent self-isolation periods would be limited to the least number of classes (bubbles).

The school adventure playground is currently out of bounds at all times of the school day – until it is replaced. Children are not permitted to play on or in this area at any time – and this includes after school.

Could we also remind you that, out of respect and to maintain the safety of all of the people who use the school playground, that children who bring bikes or scooters should take these straight to the bike store. They should not be riding these on the school playground either at the start or end of the day.

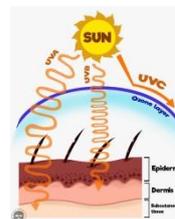
Lateral Flow Tests



All staff – and families who have children in school – are still strongly advised to make use of the regular rapid (lateral flow) test kits that are now freely available to everybody – and to carry out two tests each week; to continue to help find and isolate asymptomatic cases when they do occur.

Parents are reminded that the school does also have access to PCR Test Kits. It is still much quicker to be tested at a local symptomatic testing centre. However, if you are considering ordering a PCR Test Kit to be delivered to your home, you can request one from school – for your child – to speed up the process.

Sun Safety



Although the weather is far from hot and sweltering at the moment, hopefully – within the next few weeks – we will have a period of warm, sunny weather that will coincide with when the children are in school.

Whenever we do have a sunny day, or a period of intense sun, we do speak with the children about how to keep themselves safe and protected.

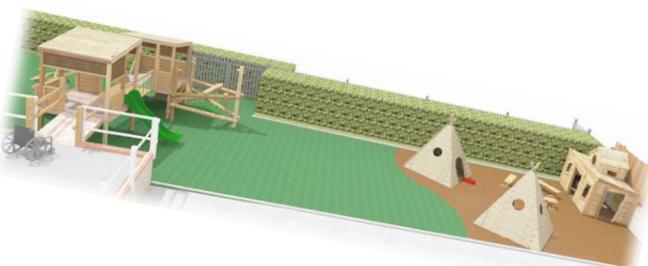
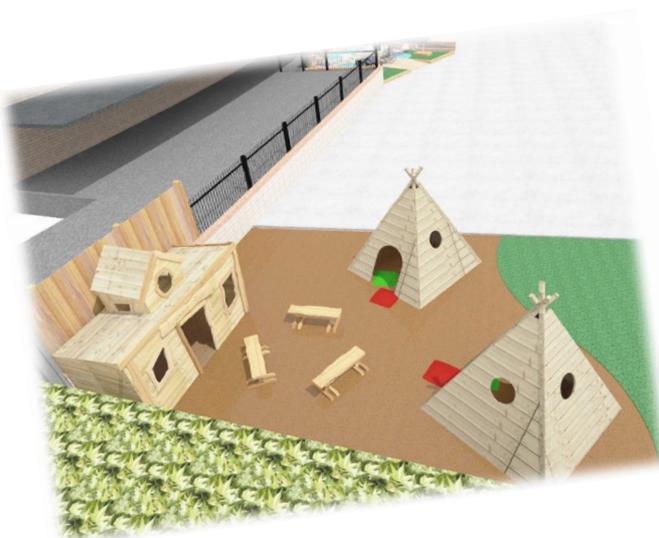
On these occasions, we ensure that the children have access to plenty of water, encourage them to use the most shaded parts of the school and remind them not to roll up their short sleeves (so their shoulders remain covered). We will also reduce the amount of time the children are in

direct, full sunlight and move PE lessons indoors – in extreme hot weather conditions.

However, in addition to sending your child to school wearing sunglasses and a sun hat (ideally one that also covers the back of their neck), we also ask that on such days your child arrives at school with a minimum of factor 15 (all day) sun screen applied to their face, neck, arms and legs. This is increasingly important on PE days.

Most sun creams now offer protection for at least 8 hours – so once applied will remain effective for the full duration of the school day. However, if you are concerned that through sweating, washing their hands or splashing their face throughout the day that the sun cream needs to be reapplied part way through the day, you are invited to send a bottle of sun cream with a label that contains (i) your child's name, (ii) your child's class and (iii) your signature (with the date you have signed this) – so that we know you have consented to the contents of that sun cream bottle being applied by the child to their skin.

A large den and wigwams will give children some quiet areas - and areas to hide.



New Adventure Playground

We have been asked by several people if we can share the designs for the new adventure playground area, that will begin being constructed at the end of this month – and hopefully be ready for the children to use on 28th June (when we will be starting a two week, whole school, Olympic themed project in school – that will include daily sporting activities linked to maths).

A dry river bed – which, when the water pumps are switched on, will allow the children to create dams and reroute the water flow (that will originally cascade down the water wall).



There will be a small stage and amphitheatre too – with some shade (to offer protection from the sun).



There will be a large climbing structure for the children to use – which will be accessible from the ramp that leads up to the school field.