

Friday, 19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We finish our second full week of the spring term with a celebration of the achievements of a number of 'Halebank Heroes'. Well done to the following children who have shown us all that they are stars:



STARS OF THE WEEK



| | |
|-----------|--|
| Reception | Oscar: for fantastic phonics, reading and behaviour! |
| Year 1 | Sofia: for being a happy and enthusiastic member of Class 2 |
| Year 2 | Jake: for showing resilience and being a superstar in English |
| Year 3 | Ruby: for using lovely ideas and facts in her writing |
| Year 4 | James: for great written methods of multiplication in maths |
| Year 5 | Poppy: for excellent maths work |
| Year 6 | Malak: for working hard and not giving up when things get difficult |

Dropping Off and Picking Up

Now that we have reached the second week of the new dropping off and picking up arrangements, it is good to see almost everyone sticking to the times they have been allocated. We appreciate your support very much and your cooperation is certainly helping us all to keep as socially distanced as possible. Thank you for continuing to wear your face coverings and for leaving the site quickly. If you are one of our 'early birds' and you like to be ahead of schedule, please wait in your car or outside the school grounds first; it is only fair to everyone else that we minimise congestion at both entrances. Please also remember to park safely whichever entrance you are using; there have been some sightings of cars parked on the yellow zigzags outside the school gates. It is so important that everyone remembers to prioritise the safety of the children and their families, while also being considerate of our neighbours, their homes and driveways. Thank you for your help.

DfE Laptop Loans

During the partial school closure, a number of families borrowed one of the laptops that were provided to the school by the Department for Education. As per the loan agreement signed by parents, the laptops should now be returned to school in good condition. We plan to create a bank of laptops that will be connected to our school network for use by all pupils; I would appreciate it if the laptops, cases and chargers could be returned to us by **Friday, 26th March** so that our IT technician can set them up for use in school. In the event of a 'bubble' closure in the coming weeks or months, we will be able to offer a device loan agreement to those families who might need support in accessing remote learning.

News from the School Kitchen



This term, we have welcomed a new member of staff to the Halebank team. Mrs Tracy Morris has joined Mrs Robinson in the school kitchen and she is already getting to know the children of the school. Affectionately referred to by one of the children as 'the new pudding lady', Mrs Morris has taken on the role previously held by Mrs Watkin.

After her retirement in the autumn term, Mrs Watkin sent a lovely card to the school which expressed her thanks to everyone for the lovely gifts and good wishes that she received on her last day with us.

We have received confirmation from Halton School Meals that the current three weekly menu cycle will continue to run for the rest of the year (a copy is available on our website under the [Newsletters](#) tab). A new menu will be launched in September.



READING CHAMPIONS



| Class 1 | Class 2 | Class 3 | Class 4 |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Thomas W | Irene | Rocco | Charlie |

After School Clubs

Our after school clubs have all started this week. If you have completed and returned a permission slip to us, your child's name has been added to the club register and he/she can start immediately. Pupils should be collected from the **front entrance** once their clubs have finished at 4.15 pm. Thank you.

Easter Free School Meals Vouchers

Halton Borough Council has received additional funding as part of the Covid Winter Grant Scheme. The grant will be used to fund vouchers for pupils eligible for free school meals during the Easter break. Funding of £30 (per child) for the two week break will be ordered and sent out to families through Wonde; eligible families will receive their supermarket vouchers in the same way they did earlier in the term.

Whilst all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive a free school meal under the Universal Free School Meal entitlement, parents and carers are strongly encouraged to also complete a [free school meal application form](#). If you think that your circumstances have changed and you may now be eligible, please visit HBC's [Free School Meals](#) website.

School Uniform

We are aware that a number of children appear to have grown out of some of their clothing and footwear and we appreciate that it has been a challenge getting to the shops to replace these items. The correct footwear in school is particularly important so if you are in the process of buying this, we ask that sensible, **black** school shoes (not boots, trainers or open-backed footwear) are worn throughout the school day. Your child will also need trainers or pumps when the classes have their PE days.

Uniform can be bought from Boydells in Widnes, either in the shop or ordered over the phone. It is also available from <https://myclothing.com>. If you prefer, school uniform can be purchased at a shop or supermarket of your choice. The colours of our school uniform are as follows:

- **navy blue** cardigan and/or sweatshirt
- **royal blue** polo shirt
- **grey** skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts
- **pale blue** checked summer dresses (summer term only)

After the excitement of the first week back in school for some time, we have noticed many children feeling tired after another full week with us. Let's hope everyone can have plenty of rest over the weekend!

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you again on Monday.

Yours sincerely

Richard Harley
Mr R Harley