

Friday, 18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We finish another full week 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	Roman: for having a fantastic week and for being a superstar!
Year 1	Georgia: for being incredibly helpful around the classroom
Year 2	Layton: for excellent maths work
Year 3	Louie: for being a fantastic role model
Year 4	Lillian: for working systematically in maths
Year 5	Lucie: for working hard and contributing to class discussions
Year 6	Maddie: for having a great attitude and working hard

Picking Up and Dropping Off

We are now getting used to our new routines at the start and end of the school day. For the most part, parents and carers are coming onto the school grounds at their allotted times and leaving the site as quickly as possible. The staggered start and end of the school day is supporting social distancing and I would ask you all to stick to the times we have given you for dropping off and collecting your child. If you are in the earlier slot in the mornings, we will expect you to pick up in the earlier slot at home time; the same applies for the later slots. This will enable us to maximise the time your child has in school. I would like to remind you not to arrive on the school grounds **before** the times we have given you in order to reduce congestion around the classroom doors and on the paths. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Groups	Pupils	Drop Off	Pick Up
Group 1	Pupils with surnames A-J	8.40 – 8.50 am	2.55 – 3.05 pm
Group 2	Pupils with surnames K-Y	8.50 – 9.00 am	3.05 – 3.15 pm

School Vision and Aims



During the summer term, staff and governors of the school worked together to review the school's vision. Contributions were also made by the children who were with us in the summer. Together, we felt that it was time to adopt a new motto and vision statement for our school to convey what Halebank is all about and what we hope to achieve together. This is the result of our shared work and I would welcome any feedback or contributions you may have to offer:

At the heart of Halebank Church of England Primary School is a caring Christian family with one core purpose: **'Let your light shine.'** Matthew 5.16

We are committed to educating 'the whole person' through the four basic elements of **wisdom**, **hope**, **community** and **dignity**.

As a school, we aspire to:

- Enable learners to grow in the wisdom, creativity, knowledge and skills which provide the foundations for success in life;
- Offer a broad and rich curriculum which stimulates, inspires and builds confidence;
- Provide the hope, encouragement and courage to admit and learn from mistakes, overcome difficulties, and forgive and reconcile;
- Create a climate for learning that is rich in opportunities and high in aspirations;
- Work together to build relationships within and beyond the community, valuing and respecting the contributions of others;
- Contribute positively to the school and wider community through experiences, opportunities and celebrations which promote lifelong learning;
- Teach the value of uniqueness, self-worth and inherent individuality;
- Promote equality and an understanding, acceptance and celebration of diversity.

School Photographer: 28th September

The school photographer will be visiting on the morning of Monday, 28th September. Due to current restrictions, the photographer will only be taking individual, portrait photos. I regret to inform you that on this occasion, we will not be able to accommodate younger, pre-school siblings for family photographs.



READING CHAMPIONS



Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
Isabella T	Lottie	Sienna	Ellie

Applying for a Place in Reception for September 2021

The application process for school places for Reception pupils (September 2021) is now live. Applications can be made online by clicking [here](#). If you have a child who needs a place in Reception next September, please have a look at the documents that have been emailed to you today (these can also be found on our school website). These include the Primary Booklet and Information Flyer 2021 and a letter for parents of children eligible to apply for Reception 2021. If you know anyone who has a child ready to start with us next year, please share this information with them. If you have any questions about the application process, please let us know and we will be happy to help. The deadline for applications is **15th January 2021**.



Packed Lunches

Should your child bring in a packed lunch, staff have requested that any foods that could present a choking hazard (such as grapes) are cut into small pieces. Many thanks for your help with this.

Home-School Communication

While we appreciate that home-school communication is more challenging this term than it has been previously, there are a number of ways you can keep in touch with school.

Contacting the School Office and Reporting Absence

If your child is going to be absent, you have a duty to notify school and inform us of the reason for absence. Parents should contact school, as early as possible, **on the first day of absence** and you can currently do this either via telephone or text.

- *Phone*: please dial **0151 425 5798** and select **option 2** to leave a brief message on the absence mailbox, stating your child's name and reason for absence.
- *Text message*: please send a text to the Schoolcomms text messaging service **0151 329 2134**, stating your child's name and reason for absence .

The absence mailbox and text messaging service are not monitored throughout the whole day, so they are only to be used for reporting absences to ensure important messages are not missed.

For all other queries or important messages (excluding absence reporting or class work queries) please contact the office by telephone on **0151 425 5798**. Select **option 3** to speak to the office or send an e-mail to Mrs Fenlon at sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk

Contacting Class Teachers

If you need to contact your child's class teacher or you need to speak in more detail about his/her learning, please use the class email addresses below:

- Mrs Power: Class1@halebank.halton.sch.uk
- Mrs Draper: Class2@halebank.halton.sch.uk
- Mrs Eley/Mrs Griffin-Jones: Class3@halebank.halton.sch.uk
- Mrs Bennett: Class4@halebank.halton.sch.uk

As our teachers are working in class full time, they will not be able to respond to your emails immediately. Please be mindful of sending emails late at night or during weekends as our teachers need time to prepare for the days ahead and time away from school. Thank you.

Contacting the Headteacher

I am usually out on the playground from **8.40 am** in the morning and from **2.55 pm** in the afternoon if you need an informal chat. I can be contacted via email at head.halebank@halton.gov.uk. If you need to make a more formal appointment, please contact the school office. Thank you.



School Website and Twitter

Latest school information can be found by accessing the school website at www.halebank.halton.sch.uk. We also post regular 'tweets' via Twitter and these can be viewed at https://twitter.com/halebank_sch

Covid-19 Reminders

Should your child fall ill while in school, staff will assess the situation, seek advice and contact you if necessary. If we believe that your child is displaying virus symptoms, you will be advised to collect him/her and arrange for a test, using the [NHS website](#) or by phoning **119**.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

The school will do its utmost to keep you informed of any situations that arise and we will act accordingly based on the instructions we are given from the Local Authority and Public Health England.

After School Clubs

It's not too late for your child to join one of our sports clubs this half term. The three clubs on offer are football (Y5/6), multi skills (Y1/2) and dance (Y3/4). Further details can be found on last week's newsletter and you will need to complete and return the permission slip if your child wants to participate.

STOP PRESS..... Covid-19 Update from Halton Borough Council

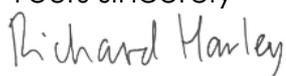
I would be grateful if you could read the attached letter for parents and carers from Halton Borough Council which we have just received. The Council has been in discussion with both Public Health and school leaders; this has resulted in the introduction of additional precautionary measures in schools:

- **All adults to wear a face covering when visiting or entering the school premises**
- Only **one adult** to enter the premises for drop off and pick up
- Arrive and leave **promptly** when dropping off/collecting your child – please do not congregate and maintain social distancing as we know that the virus is easily transmitted from person to person
- Young people to avoid congregating outside school and mixing with other schools and go directly home
- **All staff wear face coverings when they come out onto the playground during drop off and pick up times**
- Ensure your household adheres to self-isolation rules

Please note this additional advice, **particularly with regard to the use of a face covering while on the school premises**; staff will ensure that they wear a face covering at drop off and pick up times, starting on **Monday**, and we ask that you all do the same.

Have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing you again on Monday.

Yours sincerely


Mr R Harley