



**Headteacher**

**Mrs Nicola O'Connell BA (Hons) MEd (Cantab)**

**Holtsmere End Infant and Nursery School**  
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22.5.20

Dear Parents,

When we closed the school on the 20<sup>th</sup> March to all but our key worker children I always thought that we would fully return before the Summer break but sadly this is not to be.

Over the last few weeks there has been a great deal of guidance and speculation to contend with however, we now have a plan to extend our opening but unfortunately only to certain year groups. There is still so much scientific uncertainty and concern for vulnerable members of your family's and I know that this has factored in the decision of many of you not to send your children back to school before July 17<sup>th</sup>. I would like to re-iterate that in terms of attendance you will not be penalised for this and I fully appreciate your concerns.

For those children who are returning to school it will be different; we will try to make it as fun as possible for the next 7 weeks.

I believe that our school is unique with it's warm, friendly and caring culture and this will continue but we do wish that we were all back together.

So what does this mean for everybody until July 17<sup>th</sup>?

### **Wider re-opening**

For those of you that wish your child to return you will have received your letters.

Please read them carefully. There are lots of instructions on how we are staggering start and end times, which entrances to use etc. and of course keeping a safe distance.

It is important that you follow these in order to help us keep everyone safe.

**If you change your mind and want to send your child in you MUST give us at least 1 weeks' notice.**

We have a number of staff absent and I will need to amend rotas and to check that we have adequate space. Similarly for Year 1 who are on a Week A/ Week B timetable please only bring your child to school on their designated week.

- Hazel Class are in Hazel Class Group – Week A – June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Oak Class are in Oak Class Group – Week B – June 8<sup>th</sup>

All teachers have been briefed on the safety measures being put in place.

All support staff are taking part in virtual meetings today to ask questions and so that I can address concerns.

### **Access to the site**

In the interests of safety and adherence to Government guidance we politely ask that you do not visit the school office unless you have been asked to.

If you have any queries please do call the office on 01442 211963 or email

[admin@holtsmereinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holtsmereinfants.herts.sch.uk)

### **Home learning**

- The weekly home learning projects and additional learning ideas will continue to be uploaded to the website each Friday.
- We are also putting together some further 'Home learning' Packs for those children staying at home with new resources and these will be available to pick up from June 1<sup>st</sup>. (Please come between 10-2 to avoid parents dropping off their children at school).
- There will still be a weekly newsletter so please keep sending in your photographs of home schooling and your children enjoying activities. We love seeing them and I know that parents like to share them with their children.
- There will be a daily virtual assembly for the children in school with Mrs O'Connell and these will be uploaded to the website too on a daily basis if you would like your child to take part.

### **Year 2**

We are so very sad that the Government didn't give Year 2 priority to return to school before the Summer break. Mrs Silver, Miss Turner and I are in conversation about what we can organise for an opportunity to celebrate your time with us and say goodbye. Our usual end of year presents have arrived, we will give them to you in person, if not before July definitely in September.

We will keep you posted!

### **Joining us in Nursery and Reception**

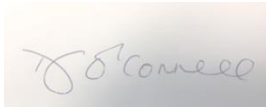
If you have a child who will be joining us in Nursery and Reception sadly our usual meetings will not be taking place but we are hoping that a transition day at the end of the Summer holidays will be permitted and this is what we are focussing on. In the coming weeks you will receive information packs about starting school, please read them carefully and contact us if you have any queries.

### **Books**

We are aware that many of you will have some reading scheme and library books at home. We would very much appreciate it if you would return these; a plastic box will be outside the main

entrance for you to pop them in and we will spray them with antibacterial spray before children in school use them. We cannot afford to replace such a huge number of books for the year ahead. I would really appreciate your help with this.

There has been a great deal of organising to do and if I have forgotten anything please forgive me and contact us if you have any questions and want to clarify anything.  
Have a wonderful weekend and take very good care of yourselves and each other.



**Nicola O'Connell**  
**Headteacher**