



Cabot  
Learning  
Federation

## October Newsletter 2020

[www.heronsmoor.co.uk](http://www.heronsmoor.co.uk)

# This Month's Value is Patience

*"Good things come to those who wait"*

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Nursery and Reception places 2021**

Usually, we would be having open tours of the Academy for parents who are considering sending their children to Nursery or Reception next September 2021. Sadly we cannot do this, however we are:

Making a virtual tour which will be available soon.

Offering the following visits with a member of the Leadership team for those parents who **DO NOT** have an older sibling already attending Herons' Moor Academy.

All visits will be at 3.45pm on:

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>

Please book by phoning the front office. There can only be 6 visitors (parents and children) at one time. Adults are to wear face masks please. Please wait outside the front office on your appointed day.

If these dates are filled up we will offer some more.



### **Parents' Evening**

Usually at the end of Term 1 we would hold parents' evenings so you can find out how your children have settled in. As we cannot do this at the moment, the teachers are going to write very short reports. You will receive these on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

### **Staff**

At the end of Term 1 we will be saying thank you and farewell to Mrs Tracey Lugton (Nursery TA) and Mrs Jenny Litten (Y6 TA). We wish them both well in the new jobs.

### **Secondary School Transfer Forms**

All Year 6 children were given a letter to take home to their parents on their return to school, regarding applying for a secondary place.

**The online application system will be available until  
Midnight (23:59 hours 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020)**



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### **Tempest Individual Photographs**



Tempest photographers are visiting the school on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020** to take individual photographs of your children for you to purchase. **Details of the deadline date for returning your order will be printed on the envelope.** Orders received after this time will not be included in the order sent from school.

Children will be photographed individually and with their siblings, who attend Herons' Moor Academy, (excluding all Nursery children).

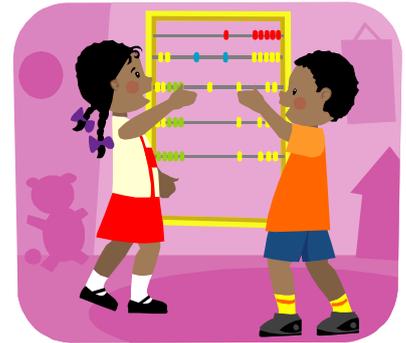
If you wish siblings who do not attend Herons' Moor Academy (including any children in the Nursery) to be photographed, we have arranged for the Nursery gate to be opened earlier so that you can be in the school hall for 8:20am.

### **Herons' Moor Nursery**

**"Where happy children are successful children!"**

Did you know?...

- Your child is entitled to **15 hours FREE** childcare and education starting the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.
- You may even be entitled to **30 hours FREE** childcare and education (see gov.uk)
- Our Nursery offers **flexible sessions**- your child could start as early as **8am** and finish at **3.30pm**.
- We offer **hot meals** for children
- We provide **water and fruit and milk** daily
- Sessions led by **Qualified Teachers**



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### **Academy Spaces**

We are filling up rapidly, which is great news. We now have spaces in Nursery, Reception and Y1. If you know anyone who is looking for a place for their child, we would be pleased to show them around Herons' Moor.

### **LSUP vacancies**

We have vacancies for lunchtime staff. If you would be interested or know someone who would be interested please get in touch.

### **Nut Allergy**

We have at least one child in every year group with a nut allergy. Please could we ask that children do not have nuts as part of their packed lunch to protect these children. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Parking**

Please can parents/carers be reminded that the 3 disabled bays in the car park are for blue badge holders only, they are not to be used when dropping off or picking up children. Also, please be aware of the zebra crossing outside the front office, this can sometimes be difficult to see when mini buses are parked outside the school, remember to drive slowly when passing the school entrance.



### **Parentmail**

Please could we ask that you register and verify your account as soon as possible so that we are able to keep you up to date with information from the school. Even if we have your e-mail or mobile number we will not be able to reach you via Parentmail unless you have verified. To register, you will need to go to [pmx.parentmail.co.uk](http://pmx.parentmail.co.uk) (this must be done initially on a pc via google chrome, not on a mobile phone). The app can be downloaded once you have registered and verified.

## **Contact Information**



Could we please take this opportunity to remind you that if the contact information for your child changes, i.e. telephone number, email address or home address, that you please inform the school Front Office as soon as possible. If we need to contact you, we need to ensure we have the most up to date information. Once you have informed us, we will update your ParentMail account.

## **Reception Intake September 2021 (for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017)**

From 1<sup>st</sup> September you may apply for a Reception place for your child if your child was born between the dates above. Applications may be made online at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk) or you may obtain an application pack from the School Admissions and Transport Team at the Town Hall on 01275 888328. Please note that packs are not available from the school. The closing date for the first round of allocations is at midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.



Please remember that if your child attends our Nursery, this sadly **DOES NOT** guarantee them a place in Reception, you need to apply for a place in the same manner as all other parents. If you have any questions concerning this procedure please ask a member of staff or contact the Town Hall.

## **Friends of Herons' Moor – Thank you**

We would like to thank you all for your ongoing and continued support. As you are aware due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the need to social distance, unfortunately we will not be able to run the events we have in the past. There is still the need to fund raise as much as we can to provide the extras for our children at Herons' Moor. Any suggestions or ideas you have on how we can do this safely and effectively would be very welcome.

Dates for the next meeting and the AGM are to be confirmed, however we do look forward to seeing you all at the next virtual meeting.

## **Questionnaires**

Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive responses to our questionnaire. Some of you expressed a wish for video learning/live learning. We are working on this in case we have to shut a bubble or go into lockdown.

## **Parent Questionnaire results 2019/2020**

### **My child enjoys school**

Strongly agree: 130                      Agree: 63                      Disagree: 4

### **My child is making good progress at this school**

Strongly agree: 110                      Agree: 78                      Disagree: 9

### **This school meets my child's particular needs**

Strongly agree: 121                      Agree: 68                      Disagree: 8

### **This school ensures my child is well looked after**

Strongly agree: 135                      Agree: 57                      Disagree: 5

### **There is a good standard of behaviour at this school and the school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour**

Strongly agree: 102                      Agree: 80                      Disagree: 15

### **The curriculum is engaging and encourages my child to become a responsible independent learner**

Strongly agree: 133                      Agree: 62                      Disagree: 2

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## **Tell us what you think about the online learning hubs?**

**75 x Most welcomed, very good, brilliant, great, worked really well, fantastic, helpful, informative, well organised, interesting, enjoyable, great idea, so handy, excellent, interesting, really useful, engaging, 10/10, fun, like it, extremely impressed, very manageable, good system, loved it, amazing**

**12 x It gave structure to home learning, very resourceful, great source of material, really detailed content, helpful links**

**10 x it made home schooling a lot better**

**30 x easy to access/navigate/follow/download/user friendly**

**22 x clearly set out work, correct level of difficulty for each year, good standard, lots of work on them, well put together, well organised, good range of activities**

**4 x Great to have videos from the teachers**

**11 x teacher support available**

**11 x children enjoyed the hub**

**3 x thank you**

**3 x easy to print**

**2 x I prefer school, my child misses school and friends very badly**

**1 x No**

**1 x Didn't use**

**1 x No comment**

**2 x not enough work set**

They have been helpful to know what sorts of things my child should be learning at home.

It is really helpful with monitoring progress, identify gaps and support learning. It is will be beneficial if learning hub will be available even when all children come back to school.

Spelling hub was the best

I don't know how the staff have managed it. Very grateful.

Having spoken to parents with children at other school herons moor have by far done the best!!

My child has done all of it without needing to try and persuade her.

Great support from YouTube, BBC Discovery and other site. Spelling, reading and maths exercises was fantastic to support Children and keep practicing, which definitely helped a lots.

Spoke to friends with children in other schools who have not had as much support as we have the teachers have communicated quickly and responded to any concerns and given advice.

Nice video library

We have used it daily including spelling shed and times table rock stars

There is plenty for us to do even at nursery age.

The topic work for nursery was lovely and gave us a few activities to try each week, we did a few of our own too. It was nice to have some things to print and some craft ideas.

We have found that Purple Mash & Rockstar Maths has been a huge thing for our child and has helped her have more confidence in her abilities.

When the online hubs moved to a structured daily plan this really helped my daughter complete her work at home.

They're fine but would have preferred online lessons like other schools have been doing.

Not easy that easy for younger children still learning to read who are having to read instructions etc.

Worked really well to start with and children were keen at the beginning of lockdown. (More of a struggle by the end of summer term, but that was lack of child motivation, not hub!)

It's hard if your language is not English. It's hard to help the child even if you use google translator and the sentence sometimes does not make sense. Thanks to the teachers, they made contact and helped as best they could

Having 3 children at the school meant that at times it was definitely a juggle as they all often needed to use the laptop at the same time but we made it work.

i couldn't access much on there as my child had to have an individual plan because of his academic level so his support worker sent work home, which was fab.

Homework its ok but sometime its struggle

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We started off really well, then the frustration and arguments came so we did school work as and when we could. I also am not a teacher and cannot believe the patience and commitment that goes into it, I'm hoping as soon as school resumes my son can catch up as i don't feel I've been able to do enough.

Ability to download instructions would have been helpful

Year 3 was a little different that yr 6 in that work was sorted per subject, per week, this just meant lots of scrolling, compared to finding the day and all subjects being there. Only a small gripe but when I am encouraging my child to use the blog to check what she has to do it is more confusing for her.

it was nice to see what was planned for the week so we could plan our days and move stuff around where needed. It was much easier having work arranged for the week rather than just a pile of worksheets. Having 3 children at the school meant that at times it was definitely a juggle as they all often needed to use the laptop at the same time but we made it work.

Not always well thought out. Costs a lot in printer ink. Makes it hard for the parents

As full-time working parents, we don't have enough time to spend a few hours daily on learning with our toddler. She needs an English teacher for better motivation and understanding

I like the hub but for us it has been short on material for the kids to do and learn.

Very good but I have not had time to look at them much as I am working full time and studying.

My son would rather not do school work unfortunately!

I have found the maths and science good as the videos are engaging and "teach" however it is difficult to help your child progress in English from a series of powerpoints that contain words and phrases such as

"Plenary"

"Class teacher to model writing introduction"

"CT to show good examples of children's dilemma stories under visualizer"

I appreciate that these are the power points that would be used in class but they have in no way been adapted for "home learning" i have been working my usual full time job from home throughout and having my child learn independently via the blog, and this has made the English very difficult and highlighted to them that others are being "taught" in a school and in their mind they are being left behind.

They have been good to help the children learn at home however they do not replace the support a teacher can provide. School must reopen in September for all children, otherwise the children's education and mental health will seriously be affected.

they've been fine but my child hasn't been at all motivated to learn at home. there are far too many distractions even though I've been printing out the work and trying to get him to do it. it just ends in arguments.

The home school maths has been bland and not very challenging but happy to find our own when needed. He has enjoyed the English and topic work set.

a bit tricky when we didn't have a printer but we have one now so better that we can print the sheets for our son to complete.

Great, however the school have not done enough to help my son as he is very behind due to his prematurity.

Would have been good to have some more interaction with class teachers, the ability to submit work, etc. It all seemed very optional for year 1, which is understandable, but not very motivating if no one sees or marks the work.

It would have been nice to have had some videos by their teachers. It would have given it a more personal touch for the students.

They have been good for ideas but i have mostly used more bespoke work from his 1:1 Learning Assistant. The hub, though fun was mostly too difficult for him. I have been well supported with packs of alternative work - so we have managed very well.

To many things to do at home for kids and parents in this difficult time.

Great for seeing what everyone's up to, however not been as suitable for home learning for my child, as he does not take direction as well from his parents. I can see it will benefit the majority though!

For year 5 there has been so much content to work through, my child has been attending school 2/3 days per week since lockdown as both of us as parents are key workers. We gave up trying anything from the hub after week 2 as we found it was things had already done in school that week anyway

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My child had been attending school 2/3 day per week during lockdown as both us parents are key workers. Her teacher told her she needs to be doing work from the hub as home work, we haven't bothered as everything that is on there is things she has already covered in school that week We haven't tried it with my daughter yet as she attended and still attends nursery during the pandemic. I can clearly see she's much better at communicating and talking, recognizing a lot of different things and her general development is going the right way and I'm very satisfied.

**How do you feel communication/support has been from the Academy during this time? Is there anything else we could have done?**

77 x Great, brilliant, fantastic, excellent, very good, very impressed, 100% happy, couldn't be better, amazing, fabulous, outstanding, exceptional, perfect, superb, very happy, Beyond expectation, so helpful

25 x Good, fine, OK, good support, satisfied, fairly good, happy, sufficient

4 x School/staff done best it can, brilliant job, great job, during these difficult times

10 x school/teachers responded very quick to questions/ speedy reply/super fast reply

5 x Regular check ins

3 x all the information has been presented clearly

8 x very supportive

2 x The two emails a week from the year team have been reassuring

Thank you, very grateful

the Hub made us feel connected during these strange times

I feel it has been very helpful and have found the information to be sufficient

I don't know how the staff have managed it.

2 x a lot of updates via parent mail

all year 3 teachers have been amazing.

I feel that I have been able to access support and appreciate the ease of contacting my child's teachers. The school have kept me updated with all important updates promptly and with detail.

Can't speak more highly of Herons' moor and all the staff.

Happy about school opening during this difficult time, big thank you to all staff at school who look after kids. Many thanks 5 ☆

I think school have been very supportive and understood that we can only do our best with home learning whilst we are trying to work etc as well

2 x felt full informed and assured

Great support especially from his one to one support

I am truly impressed and thankful. i think you all have been amazing during this hard time

No problems at all

understandably some updates were near to the days they affected (we are aware that this is out of the schools control).

enough to know we are not forgotten but no so much we feel it was too much.

I also know I can email for support or help if needed.

1 x other schools have done better

2 x Not great

1 x only heard from my children's' teacher once

1 x some of my questions/suggestions have been ignored

4 x A video call with teacher/class would have been nice

5 x Teachers could have been in touch on a more personal level, 1:1,

2 x group learning on Teams

1 x very disappointed

2 x Feel my child was forgotten about

2 x more effort made to bring children back into school

relies on an app too much instead of connecting with parents properly

I think the school could have made contact on a more personal level rather than it being us that has to make contact.

I know some schools have been able to remote face-to-face contact with children ( even just personally for a few mins to touch base with them)this would have been nice for my daughter but I

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appreciate this might not have been possible.

I've heard that some other schools have had lessons recorded by the teacher - it might have been nice to have something like this to teach some of the lessons and keep some continuity between the children and school

Things that should have been discussed were not always reported to me unless I asked.

### **Any comments/questions about Herons' Moor Academy's recent Ofsted Report**

8 x No

10 x Well done, great school, pleased, glad, good result

3 x Well deserved

2 x Amazing school

4 x Amazing teachers, hard work put in the school/teachers/staff

Thank you

Impressed with the Ofsted report and it reflects the hard work the staff do.

Support has been there if it was needed.

Felt it was a fair reflection of the school.

Amazing school with amazing teachers who nurture and support our children

keep up the good work

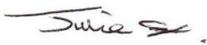
You have all been incredible with my ASD 7 year old and the improvement I've seen in him is amazing.

Glad that the hard work the school puts in to educate our children has been recognised.

Agree with a lot of the content

As always if you have any queries, comments or suggestions we will be pleased to hear them.

Yours Sincerely



Julie Fox  
Principal

### **Dates for your diary**

19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Mon		Short report out to parents/carers Food donations for Harvest
20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Tues		Food donations for Harvest
21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Wed		Food donations for Harvest End of term for students
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Thur		INSET DAY
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Fri		INSET DAY END OF TERM 1

<b>TERM 2</b>			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Mon		START OF TERM 2
10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Tues	All day	Year 6 bikeability
11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wed	AM	Year 6 bikeability
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Tues	All day	Year 6 bikeability
18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wed	AM	Year 6 bikeability
19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Thur		Individual and sibling photos
24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Tues	All day	Year 6 bikeability
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wed	AM	Year 6 bikeability
26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Thur		Flu vaccines Rec – Y6 Making Christmas decorations
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Fri		Making Christmas decorations

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30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mon		Making Christmas decorations
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fri		Charity Christmas jumper day
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Thur		Christmas lunch End of Term for students
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fri		INSET day END OF TERM 2
<b>TERM 3</b>			
4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mon		START OF TERM 3 INSET DAY
5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Tues		First day back for students