



End of Summer Term Updates:22/7/21

What another busy year! Thank you to the staff and children for all of their hard work this year and to you as parents/carers for all your support.

It is important the children have a break from school routines during the holiday. However, we are encouraging the children to enrol in the summer holiday library challenge as well as send a postcard to their new teacher. The staff have also put a list of activities together as some families have asked for some [further resources](#) (which was given out on the class homework list earlier this week). There is lots of mental health help available, should you need it, and we have put all the [links on our website](#).

Whilst we understand the current COVID guidance has now changed, we will be keeping our COVID routines until the end of term. Experience tells us things can change quickly making planning for September difficult, thus we have gone ahead and made some plans.

Due to the high absence rate at the end of this term (approximately one third of the children did not attend in the last week, despite only four children needing to self-isolate) we can assume that many families, even though restrictions are lifting, still have concerns. Therefore, apart from the bubbles, we are planning to keep most things in place. Although the legal requirement to wear a face covering in England ended on 19th July, the government expects and recommends that people continue to wear a face covering in crowded spaces. We all know social distancing at the gate is difficult so we are encouraging adults to continue wearing face coverings (if you are medically able). We are also asking you to remember to use the pupil diary for messages and to clear the playground as soon as you have picked up your children, keeping toddlers at your side.

I am therefore asking you for the first week of term to:

- Continue to wear masks and keep your social distance.
- Collect KS1 children (1,2) and any older siblings at 3.15pm and collect KS2 pupils at 3.30pm (Y3,4,5,6). NB: Reception do not stay all day.

Unless the Government advise otherwise **after the first week we will:**

- Return to the normal school day – all children collected at 3.30pm (NB: Reception finish at 1.30pm in week 2).
- Continue to ask you to keep a social distance and wear a mask.

At school from September:

- We will continue with regular handwashing, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated, promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, as well as continue with our enhanced cleaning routines. Children will continue to come into school on their own, with a member of the leadership team and a teaching assistant at the gate. Reception children can be walked round to the classroom door, if needed, by parents during September.

- We will minimise contact face to face and what can be carried out over the phone/online will be.
- We will keep our communication systems in place and the office will remain closed (new style pupil diaries for messages, phone for absences).
- Staff will wear masks at collection times due to the significant number of families we will be mixing with.
- We will organise two morning breaks and two lunch sittings to keep the numbers lower in the playground but will be mixing. For example, those in mixed year group classes will get to see and play with their year group during social times.
- Other than governors, we will not be inviting visitors into school to help or to go on trips until we can be sure things have settled down.

New Covid Rules Regarding Testing:

The DFE also published a [letter for parents/carers which was tweeted](#) earlier this week as **COVID rules for schools changed on Monday 19th July 2021.**

- Pupils with symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate and get a PCR test. They should continue to self-isolate until the results of their test.
- From 19 July, pupils who are a close contact of another pupil who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace.
- From 16 August, pupils who are identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace should get a PCR test. Close contacts do not need to self-isolate while waiting for their result. If they receive a positive PCR result, they must self-isolate.
- Pupils with a positive test result and confirmed case of COVID-19 will be marked as Code I (illness) until they are able to return to school.

Remember pupils will still be required to: Stay at home if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 and take a PCR test. The household, including any siblings, should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

Governance Board: Mr Chris Palmer has written a [letter to all families](#) which has been added to the website.

Website Updates: The annual updates regarding pupil premium, sports premium and assessment have been all added to our website.

School Trips: We are hoping the water sports trip will go ahead but will remind families about missing forms and ask for any additional voluntary payments at the start of the new term.

School Swimming: A reminder that families voted for this not to take place. Instead it was voted that we have a KS2 water sports trip each year (thus, we booked Channel Adventure for September). Plus a catch-up swimming programme will be organised for those not able to swim 25m by the end of year six. Therefore, you might want to take advantage of the local pools swimming lessons over the summer or maybe enjoy a family swim.

Staffing Changes: We will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Biffen (TA), Mrs Belsten (MDSA) and Miss Sanford (Teacher) this term. I would personally like to thank them for all their hard work whilst at High Ham and wish them all good luck in their forthcoming adventures. We are also welcoming back Mrs Drew (Teacher) from maternity leave and Mrs Roberts (MDSA and TA) will also be coming back to work at High Ham as she used to be a TA with us many years ago.

Year 6: We are looking forward to having our leavers service for our Y6 tonight and thank the PTA with their support of this event (they have paid for all children to have a maths set) as well as the Church Charity Trust who will provide the children with a leaver's bible. They have been a really lovely year six class who have coped well with all the changes this year and I know Mrs Edwards and Mrs Thorne have really enjoyed teaching them and join me in wishing them well in the future, I hope they keep in touch, we always like to hear good news stories of past pupils and we ask them to remember us when they are famous...

New Reception Children: As some missed out on the induction afternoons due to Pre-School closure, Miss McElwaine has added some messages on the [new starters page](#) of the website.

Thank you: Finally, thank you your support and understanding this year with all the changes. I am sure we are all hoping for some calmer times ahead. Please do not worry about September, I am sure the children will soon settle into their new routines and classes. It will take us all a couple of weeks to settle into our new routines so please just reassure children, if they are nervous, at the start of term. For those in mixed aged classes we have some single year group work planned but this will take a little time to get going at the start of term.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for the kind gifts/cards but more importantly the kindness you have all shown at the end of this extremely hot week...

Enjoy the break!

Mrs Rosser

Final reminders:

- If you have a KS1 pupil, have you booked school lunches with Parrett Catering?
- Current Y2,3,4 families – have you returned your water sports form?
- Last day of term – PTA tuck shop and muffin day for all.
- If your child is starting in Reception, have you completed all of the forms on the [new starters page](#) of the website?

In the meantime, I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday and most importantly a well-deserved rest.