

# HCJS ATHOME

8 JANUARY 2021



## FROM THE HEAD: CHANGE AND CHANGE AGAIN

As I write this first thing on Friday morning, it is hard to believe that it is only 5 days ago (Sunday morning) that the Prime Minister clearly stated on the Andrew Marr show that primary schools would be returning to school this week. As parents may know, many schools across the country were unable to open or to open fully due to safety concerns and staff shortages. The Junior School staff spent our INSET day on Monday, talking through concerns and reviewing our routines and systems in school so as to further minimise the potential for spread of coronavirus, and, as I wrote to parents on Monday evening, we were all looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday morning. Clearly the situation was changing around us, and the Government changed its policy. All of us – School Heads, teachers and other school staff, parents, and children found ourselves having to react quickly to the announcements of Monday evening. I am sure that for many of the children the news was unsettling and upsetting – I remember one of my older children (now in his 20's and a teacher himself) so looking forward to the first day of each term, that he would go to bed wearing his uniform under his pyjamas to get to school more quickly the next day! Some of your children, I am sure would not have been aware that they were not coming back to school until Tuesday morning itself. I should like to thank parents for your understanding and for your forbearance as we respond to this new situation in school. You should have received our Learning at Home booklet on Tuesday, and your children should all now be up and running on Firefly and Zoom. We will be developing our provision and making various changes over the next few weeks, some of which are detailed below, so please continue to bear with us as we do this.

*Chris Wright*

## REMOTE LEARNING PROVISION

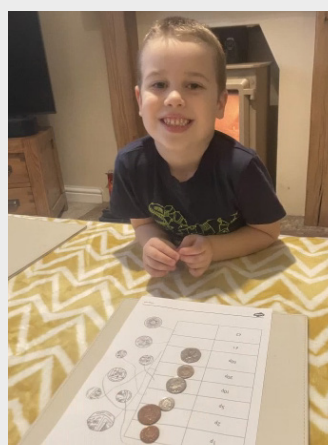
We will be increasing the amount of live contact for the children from that offered during the last lockdown. Staff will be holding more lessons live on Zoom, and offering more drop-in sessions too, during which children can drop in to see a member of staff in their Zoom room to ask for help, or simply to say hello. Each day's live lessons and drop-in sessions will be listed in the daily overview (sent each evening), so that parents and children can plan around these. Parents should expect live sessions to take place anytime between 0900-1030, 1100-1215 and 1315-1530. This will necessitate a slight change in timing for Y2 and Y3 live form times. These changes will be reflected in the daily overviews.

## HCJS ADVENT CALENDARS

I do hope that your children enjoyed our HCJS Advent Calendars. Of course, when we consider doing the same again in future, I would want to know that the stories were well received and that children did indeed engage with them – it may be for example that your child lost interest as the term ended, or perhaps was not engaged by the project at all – or perhaps they loved the stories! Please do send me a brief email ([c.wright@herefordcs.com](mailto:c.wright@herefordcs.com)) giving me some feedback, so we can assess whether or not the project was worthwhile and one we might repeat in future.

## LEARNING AT HOME THIS WEEK...

**YEAR 1:** WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON OUR MONEY SKILLS AND CREATING OUR OWN SHOPS

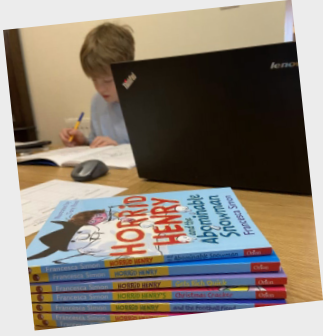


## CHANGE TO GUIDANCE REGARDING THOSE WHO CAN ATTEND SCHOOL

The Government has changed its guidance around which children are allowed to attend school at this time. The new guidance, which allows a wider group of children to attend than before, can be found [here](#).

If your children qualify for the provision, please complete the Firefly form [here](#), if you have not already done so. We will then contact you each week with details for next week's provision and a booking form.

**TABITHA (3M)** has been enjoying the snow!



**OLIVER (4W)** enjoyed his Horrid Henry work at school so much last term that he asked for a book series on his Christmas list (and has read them already!)

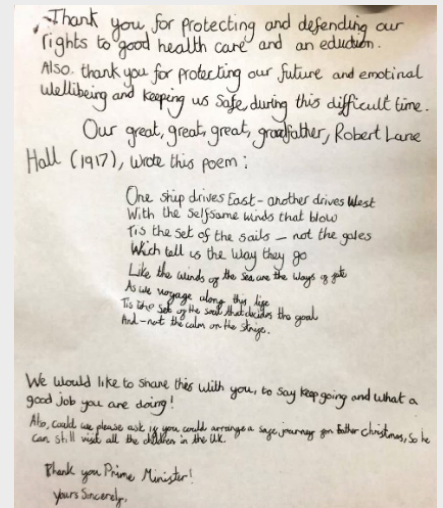
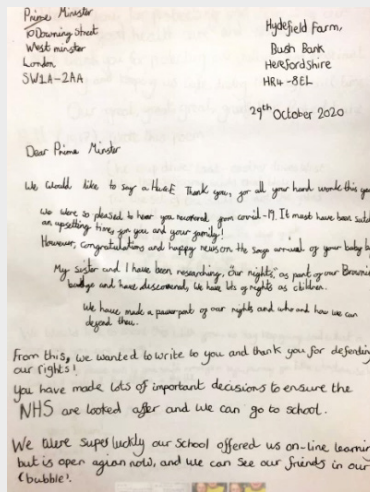
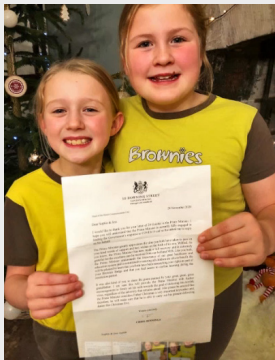
## LEARNING SUPPORT

Unfortunately, it will not be practically possible to offer 1-1 live sessions to all of the children on our Learning Support register during this lockdown. Subject and form teachers will be available, should your child need any assistance with a specific piece of work. However, should you have any further concerns, please contact me (t.denny@herefordcs.com), and I will be happy to offer some drop-in Zoom times to provide further support and guidance. Mrs Denny

## USEFUL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

Please also note that I have set up a page on [Firefly](#), which contains some useful resources that can be used at home to support with English and Maths. I will be looking to add to these over the coming days and weeks, so do keep checking the folders. Mrs Denny

**JESSICA AND SOPHIE** were thrilled to receive their Brownie badge, 'Our Rights', last term. As part of their task, they penned a letter to the Prime Minister and were delighted to receive a response.



**STAFF NEWS:** We are pleased to welcome two new members of staff to HCJS this term - Mrs Paula Cumming (Year 3 teacher) and Miss Emily Sevenoaks (Nursery Leader).

Mrs Cumming (pictured right) joins us as form teacher to 3D and Head of English, whilst Mrs Deakins is on maternity leave. She will also be teaching year 5 and year 6 English. Mrs Cumming is an experienced teacher of Key Stage 2. She has recently moved back to the UK from the Middle East, where she was Academic Deputy Head of Brighton College Prep School in Abu Dhabi. She enjoys exploring Herefordshire, reading crime fiction and spin classes.



Miss Sevenoaks (pictured left) is a first class graduate in Early Childhood Studies and brings a wide experience of early years education. She enjoys being outside and going on long walks, spending time with her nieces and nephews and travelling to new places.