

School Newsletter

Friday 15th January 2021

On site critical worker provision

With a significant and worrying increase in the number of Coronavirus cases locally in Hillingdon to almost double that of the national average we are taking whatever steps are required to keep our school open as safely as possible. We always base our decisions on our robust risk assessment process, but to do this where we are experiencing rising demand for on-site places may necessitate us asking you for further information about your work. So, to those parents whose children are already attending, or those who are planning to send their children to school next week, please do not be offended if we ask you to provide evidence of your critical worker status and for details of your own working week (which days etc.). This information will be very helpful in planning provision as effectively as possible.

Food vouchers

We are glad to have been able to support some of our vulnerable families with weekly food packages since the start of term. We donated the leftover food packages and magic breakfast packs that were not collected to a local food bank and homeless charity.

The national voucher scheme will commence from next week and those families eligible for free school meals will receive food vouchers instead of food packages. We will text those parents directly when the food vouchers are issued. If you were not previously eligible for free school meals but have had a change in your personal circumstances, please contact the school office for information about how to apply.

Year 3 critical worker on line PE lesson



The Year 3 children in school who are part of the critical worker and vulnerable pupil group enjoyed taking part in a Joe Wicks PE work out. Those of you at home can join these lessons every day during lock down. More details can be found here

<https://www.thebodycoach.com/blog/pe-with-joe>

Home Learning Packs

If you have limited or no internet access at home, home learning packs will be available for collection from the school office every week:

Mondays, 12.00 – 3.00pm

Tuesdays – Fridays, 9.30am – 3.00pm.

Key dates for your diary

Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021: School is closed for half term.

Wednesday 31st March 2021: Last day of Spring term. School finishes at 1pm.

Community Links

COVID-19 vaccination: UK unpaid carers are in priority group 6

The government's vaccine committee (JCVI) has revised its recommendations to include unpaid carers in the vaccine priority list. It now recommends unpaid carers who get Carer's Allowance or who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person (child or adult) whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill should be prioritised alongside people with underlying health conditions.

This means unpaid carers are now in priority group 6.

Let your GP know now that you are a carer and ask if this could be registered on your medical record. All GP practices will have a carer registration form.

Additional information

The priority groups 1 to 9 are listed in this document on page 10

[Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation: advice on priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/531111/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-advice-on-priority-groups-for-covid-19-vaccination.pdf)

and footnote 3 applies to people in priority 6 including "those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill."

Hillingdon Council's School Travel and Road Safety Team

We have recently received an email from Hillingdon Council's School Travel and Road Safety team, regarding the increased use of E-Scooters across the borough. The council have received numerous reports of E-Scooters being ridden across the borough on public roads, in parks and even through town centres, which you may have even noticed yourself.

Please click the link below to view the E-Scooter guidance document which has been created to inform parents and residents about the use of E-Scooters:-

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/e-scooter

We would encourage you to have a look at this document as there are road safety and legal implications associated to the unlawful use of E-Scooters within the borough, which you may be unaware of.

Lateral Flow Tests

Hillingdon residents can book slots for a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) if they wish to, at the Beck Theatre, to test all those without any COVID-19 symptoms.

The rapid lateral flow swab tests provide results within an hour and help to identify those who are unknowingly carrying the virus. It also enables those who test positive, their household members and their close contacts, to self-isolate, which can help drive down the R rate locally and save lives.

Please note: If you have any COVID-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough, high temperature, or loss/change to your sense of smell or taste), you should self-isolate and book a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test at a local testing site by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by phoning 119.

Click this link for more information and to make LFT bookings, one booking per person:
[Hillingdon Lateral Flow Tests](#)



Don't miss out on our training for parents, professionals and family members this term. We've added new FREE training, including our brand new "Understanding and Supporting Autistic Adults" <https://www.hacs.org.uk/training-and-events>

Our next training sessions are:

Autism & Sensory Differences

Wednesday 20th January 2021 6pm – 8.30pm

Autistic individuals experience sensory information in very unique ways, including over-sensitivity, under-sensitivity or poor modulation. This Zoom training session for parents and professionals will focus on the sensory experiences of autistic people, how to reduce sensory distress and strategies for creating autism-friendly environments.

£10 per person or 50% discount for HACS Members – use the code HACS2020 at the checkout

***NEW* Legal Advice Workshop: EHCP's: Navigating the Maze**

Thursday 28th January 2021 6pm – 8.30pm

This workshop is for Parents and Carers of Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs who are new to the system and want to know what to do. You may be thinking of applying for an EHC Plan, you may already have applied and been turned down, or your Local Authority may have said 'Yes' and you are wondering what happens next and what to look out for. You may already have an EHCP and want to learn more about your legal rights, such as the Annual Review process.

£20 per person or 50% discount for HACS Members – use the code HACS2020 at the checkout



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Executive Head Teacher: Mr A.Sunner

Head of School: Mr J.Downs

***NEW* Anxiety and Behaviour Support meetings**

Behaviour Support Tuesday 26th January 2021 7pm – 8.30pm

Anxiety Support Tuesday 4th February 2021 7pm – 8.30pm

This Support group is Free to members who are supporting an autistic person who is currently being affected by Anxiety or Behaviours that challenge and would like to seek advice about these issues. (Please note that our staff are not medically trained. The advice provided via these groups is not suitable for acute, crisis or emergency cases.)

Understanding Autistic Children & Young People

Wednesday 24th February 2021, 6pm – 9pm

This interactive Zoom training session will explore the four areas of difference associated with autism. You will be able to interact with the trainers and other parents throughout the session.

£10 per person or FREE for HACS Members – use the code AutismSupport20 at the checkout

Pre-recorded Webinar: Understanding PDA and Autism

Available on demand 6pm – 8.30pm

This recorded webinar is hosted by Laura Kerbey looks at the differences and similarities of Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) and gives attendees a "tool-kit" of strategies to effectively support children and young people with this profile of needs.

£10 per recording or 50% discount for HACS Members – email enquiries@hacs.org.uk to buy your copy