



### Headteacher News

I cannot believe I am here at Hunton CE Primary School writing this to many of you as your Headteacher yet not having met you and your children yet. I can't wait for the day when I do as I have heard many wonderful things from the staff and can feel those special relationships which makes Hunton the unique school it is. I know the staff are busy making contact with your children, not just through online lessons but also with telephone calls. We are missing them!

I hope you are managing to find some routine in this now extended lockdown situation. We've all had to adapt again to new ways of working, so I wanted to take the opportunity to say what an amazing job you're doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time. Staff have been working hard to prepare remote learning. Hunton was extremely fortunate not to have had bubbles close before Christmas which means, that unlike other schools, this is the first time staff have had to plan and deliver remote learning for both in and out of school. This is very different for us but we felt it important to let you know we are still learning and developing all the time with the intention of offering the children at Hunton the very best provision. This may be different to other schools, just as what we offer in school is different. Schools are unique and we have carefully chosen learning themes and tasks that we hope your children will like to learn both in school and at home. Thank you for the appreciative comments and praise with what we are offering – we are trying our best and doing something very new and unfamiliar.

I know some of you have had difficulty getting used to the platform, especially if you have other children using different ones and you yourselves are working from home too. The challenge for you as parents is immense – well done for trying to ensure your children get the best from remote learning that they can. This will be different for everyone, but please remember lots of devices can be used to access Microsoft Teams – Kindles, Xbox, Playstation, Smart TVs. Some of you have asked for more learning, some want set times / live learning, some less. We are trying to offer a middle ground that suits most of you so you can choose when to access learning at a time convenient to you.

We hope you find the lessons and activities helpful but please do not put too much pressure on each other as we will work with you to fill any knowledge gaps once we return to school. Try to focus on the present.

There may be days when you feel or the children feel overwhelmed and under pressure by everything that's happening and as a mum I do understand there are times when children say, 'No!'. I wanted to just give my perspective on it all as a Headteacher and I hope this can help with that somewhat.

On those 'No!' days remember that your child is still experiencing valuable learning by doing any of the following:

- Lego – imagination, problem solving, fine motor skills
- Playing outside – physical fitness, gross motor skills, co-ordination
- Cooking – life skills, independence, maths and reading skills
- A bit of reading every day (independent or to them or via audiobook etc)
- Some free writing now and then. If they'll keep a diary or something, great. If not, would they draw a comic?
- Practical hands on maths. Be that via cooking, cleaning, outside or some maths games, physical or digital.
- Some fine motor work: cutting, playdough, tidying up small toys, sewing.
- Physical exercise everyday – include walks so children notice their surroundings and can name some birds, trees, plants.
- Some art/music where possible through the week.
- Can they independently work on a project about something they love? Get them researching from a book or online, putting together something to present to you or family.
- If younger, lots of imaginative free play, the more independent the better.

Give yourself and them a break.

It's definitely a strange and challenging time, and there may be times when you and your child may feel wobbly and worried. We're here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. Our well-being tab on the website now has a number of resources. This week I have added a link to Hugh Bonneville reading a children's book explaining COVID-19. [Coronavirus: A Book For Children | Illustrated by Axel Scheffler | Read Aloud by Hugh Bonneville - YouTube](#)

Take lots of care everyone and have a relaxing weekend,  
Mrs Makey

*Compassion, Hope, Reverence, Wisdom*

*Life in all its fullness*



## Dates

### Term 3

15 Jan	2021 Year R admissions deadline
29-31 Jan	Great British Birdwatch
1-5 Feb	Children's Mental Health week—Place2be
9 Feb	Safer Internet Day
12 Feb	Last day of term

### Term 4

22 Feb	Staff development day
23 Feb	Term 4 begins
1 April	Term 4 ends

### Parents' Consultations

These were planned for the week before half term but because of the situation we are planning to hold them before Easter. Dates and arrangements to follow.

### Great British Birdwatch

The RSPB are running their annual garden birdwatch 29/31 January 2021. It is a lovely activity for families to take part in.

[Big Garden Birdwatch](#) | [Join the fun - The RSPB](#)

The children can register online and request a pack. There are PDF posters, identification guides etc.

There is also a school garden birdwatch which can be included in science and maths planning. With everyone's well-being in mind, an hour birdwatching for families at the end of the month, would be an activity that everyone could take part in and share.

The BBC have launched [Blue Peter on YouTube](#) at CBBC. If you are interested in this, please subscribe to <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter> - (it's obviously completely free to subscribe!) and don't forget to watch the live programme on CBBC at 5.00pm every week, or on BBC iPlayer.

## Year R Admissions for September 2021

If you have a child due to start in Year R in September 2021 we would advise that online applications are now open for parents wanting to apply. The closing date is midnight on the 15th January 2021. Applications should, where possible, be made online using [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola). Offer day is 16th April 2021 where you will be offered a school for your child. Please see [www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions) for full details or contact Mrs Tompkins in the school office should you have any enquiries.

### Statutory Assessment Update

The Government has made some amendments to the testing that happens in primary schools for this academic year. All statutory tests such as the Y1 Phonics Test, KS1 and KS2 SATs have been cancelled. You can be assured that as a school when children return, we will be assessing children and adapting learning for them.

### Free School Meals

If your circumstances have recently changed and you receive any of the qualifying benefits below, you may be entitled to free school meals for your children. It is easy to check online via the following link [www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals](http://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals).

All children in Years R to 2 are entitled to free school meals but you should still tell KCC if you receive any of the following qualifying benefits as this enables us to get extra funding and further improve the quality of education given to the children at Hunton. Qualifying benefits include:

- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance (income-related)
- Employment & Support Allowance (income-related)
- Support under the Immigration & Asylum Act
- The guaranteed element of pension credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit

Please see the link above for specific conditions.