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**Houghton Conquest
Lower School**

Growing together

Headteacher
Miss C A McCarthy

20th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the summer term!

Welcome to the summer term at Houghton Conquest Lower School. We hope you have all had a nice, restful Easter break and spent quality time together as a family, creating memories and have had some time to relax!

Government Update – School Closure

The latest update from the Government with regards to the ‘lockdown’ is that it has been extended for a further **three-week period**, taking us up to approximately the week commencing 11th May. At this date, we will hopefully have more information, which we will share with you as soon as possible, or before is at all possible. As a school, our circumstances will remain unchanged as they were before the Easter break; we will remain closed except for children of key workers and vulnerable children. We will be open to these children from **Tuesday 21st April between 8.50am and 3.15pm**, with limited staff on the school site to ensure we are following the Government guidelines correctly.

Local Community Spirit

This unprecedented time is very challenging for all of us, but we must show resilience. This has been beautifully demonstrated by Captain Tom Moore from nearby Marston Moretaine, as I am sure you have seen on the news! For those of you unaware of his story, he is a World War II veteran who wanted to complete 100 laps of his garden before his 100th birthday to raise £1,000 for the NHS. At the time of writing this letter, he has currently raised close to £26 million! In school this week, we are going to be creating some birthday cards to send to Captain Tom Moore; it could be a great idea to talk with your children about this and make a birthday card to send to Captain Tom Moore. We will place a box outside of the school where these can be put whilst out getting your daily exercise if you wish, and we will send them off at the end of the week.

Home Learning

As mentioned previously, we do not expect parents and guardians to become teachers, or for formal lessons to take place at certain times of each day. As a team we will ensure we adapt to our pupil’s educational needs on their return to school and our curriculum will reflect this changing need. We only ask our parents to encourage and support essential life skills such



as reading and writing, in whichever way your unique child will be engaged. Writing letters to friends and family they are unable to see at the moment, checking the cupboards and writing a shopping list, weighing and measuring ingredients for cooking, finding the area of your kitchen to replace the flooring or simply learning to program the washing machine are all ideas to engage your child. They are practical and relevant skills to life that will support your child well into adulthood.

However, if you would like to create more structure during the 'school day', your class teachers have been working hard to provide you with another home learning pack, which should be sufficient for the three week period up to the 11th of May. These packs are not compulsory or time-constrained; these are supportive packs that contain suggestions of activities, that can be incorporated into your daily routine as you see appropriate. The home learning packs have been organised into three weekly timetables, which consist of two core learning activities (literacy and mathematics) and one learning activity that is either scientific, creative, or technological per day, with accompanying resources behind each weekly timetable. These can be adapted and amended for however you wish to use them.

Collection of Home Learning Packs

Following your feedback, which has been extremely beneficial, we will be continuing to provide hard copies of home learning packs. This is to support families who have limited technological resources in the household or multiple members of the family needing to access those devices. We also recognise that the activities suggested will reflect the needs of our pupils to be active and practical in their learning through discrete and creative methods.

We have outlined set times for the collection of home learning packs from school, which is designed to limit the number of people on the school site at any given time. We would be thankful if you could support us by collecting your child's home learning pack at the given time as part of your daily exercise, in order to prevent excessive postage demands and further delays during this time. Where possible, please limit the number of people visiting the school to collect home learning packs.

The home learning packs will be labelled and on a table in the designated area (detailed below) for you to collect. This will run across two separate days if you are unable to get to the school on the first day.

Tuesday 21st April		
Class	Time of Collection	Location
Robins	Between 9.30am and 12.00pm	School Car Park
Doves	Between 9.30am and 12.00pm	Under the canopy, outside the green gate, where you drop your child off.
Owls	Between 12.30pm and 3.00pm	School Car Park
Falcons	Between 12.30pm and 3.00pm	Under the canopy, outside the green gate, where you drop your child off.

Wednesday 22nd April		
Class	Time of Collection	Location
Robins	Between 12.30pm and 3.00pm	School Car Park
Doves	Between 12.30pm and 3.00pm	Under the canopy, outside the green gate, where you drop your child off.
Owls	Between 9.30am and 12.00pm	School Car Park
Falcons	Between 9.30am and 12.00pm	Under the canopy, outside the green gate, where you drop your child off.

If you have more than one child in the school and in different classes, you will be able to collect multiple packs at the same time. These will be still available to collect in the designated areas above.

Please remember to continue following Government guidelines with regards to social distancing when collecting home learning packs. Please also remember to only collect the pack that is allocated to your child.

If you have been/are currently self-isolating and/or display symptoms, please do not come to collect the home learning pack yourself. We will ensure the home learning pack gets to you as soon as we can.

Pre-School

We currently are not providing home learning packs for pre-school children as they are of a non-statutory school age and their learning is stimulated through play within the environment they are immersed within. However, parents of children who attend our pre-school are more than welcome to email Miss Sophie Meech on hcpreschool@hcschool.org.uk if you would like some guidance and support with activities for your children to complete at home during this time, as we are more than happy to support with this.

Safeguarding and Communication

Safeguarding is and will always remain a priority for us. If you have anything you wish to discuss, please contact the school line on **01234 740202** or email **office@hcschool.org.uk** and Miss Heaslip will get in touch with you as soon as possible.

To make an immediate referral use the access and referral hub: **0300 300 8585**.

Please remember that we are still always here to help during this time; you can contact us on the phone number or email address above, or you can make direct contact with your child's class teacher via email. Your child's class teacher will be communicating with you weekly to ensure open dialogue is available to help support you and your child during this time.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely



Miss J Heaslip
Acting Headteacher