



Breakspeare School

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11th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the time when the term dates and holidays were decided, we didn't have information about the additional national bank holiday awarded, due to her Majesty The Queen's Jubilee Celebration. As like many other schools, we have made a decision to alter our half term holiday dates and therefore Monday 6th June after half term the school is closed for the students and staff.

I'm extremely pleased to share with you that we have been able to appoint two new teachers to the Sunflower Federation. Sarah Caudwell, a very experienced SEN teacher, will start in our Ladybird's class at Meadow Wood School after the Easter break. Samina Omar, who has worked at Breakspeare in a different role, will have her own class at school in September 2022.

It is with regret to share that Zarqa Aslam has resigned from her NQT position at Breakspeare School. Gill Allet who has worked at Meadow Wood School for a number of years has decided to make a career change leaving the school in March. We wish both Zarqa and Gill all the best in their future roles. We thank Gill and Zarqa for their contribution on teaching and learning in our schools and wish them all the best in the future.

A couple of words about COVID-19 management in our schools for after half term:

We will move to the next phase in our operations that are more flexible and provide those students who can, access to a wider range of learning opportunities and activities.

Our plan has been discussed with and agreed by the PH local group.

- Our schools continue operating within the bubbles

Meadow Wood	Breakspeare
Bubble One – Rabbits and Field Mice	Bubble One – Red, Orange, Pink
Bubbled Two – Ladybirds, Owls and Squirrels	Bubble Two – Gold, White, Green, Yellow
	Bubble Three – Silver, Blue, Purple

- If there will be up to 2 linked cases within the bubble, this bubble moves to the outbreak management plan. Other bubbles can continue their out of school and in-of-school activities as normal.
- The staff will carry on with daily LFDs the week after half term. After that they will carry on with daily LFDs only if their bubble operates following the outbreak management plan otherwise they test twice per week.
- Outbreak management plan is in place for two weeks after the last confirmed case within the bubble.
- We encourage our parents and secondary age students to carry out twice per week LFD testing.
- EHCP reviews can take place at school as mutually agreed.
- External visitors for enrichment and learning activities can resume subject to their negative LFD test on the day visiting our school/s.
- We continue to be cautious and for example will not allow all students to resume eating in the dining hall.
- We will review and amend this plan in line of any new guidance that DfE or PH may send to schools during the half term break.

We continue with all basic COVID-management control measures: good hand/respiratory and environmental hygiene; enhanced cleaning; ventilation; wearing IIR-masks when transitioning within the school environment and supporting the students' transition to/from their transport.

We will make necessary changes in our COVID-19 management on our careful observations of the situation and given guidance at the time considering COVID-19 transmissions in our schools and in general in the UK and Hertfordshire.

You can help and support us by

- Not sending your child to school if they are ill and/or present with COVID symptoms
- Considering your child's attendance to school knowing that that COVID symptoms with children can be very mild such as just runny nose or feeling under the weather
- Continuing LFD testing your secondary age child and any adults in the household twice per week
- Carrying out LFD tests for 7 days after being in contact with somebody who has been diagnosed with COVID

We truly appreciate your collaboration and communication with us during the global pandemic. Although we have had outbreaks in our schools our situation seems to have, in general, been much better than in many other schools. I believe that this is not only because of our actions in COVID-control measures but also thanks to our parents and carers supporting our actions and being vigilant at home. Thank you!

I would like to share a couple of photos of our schools' activities:



Meadow Wood School students have been super happy because they now have access to our new wheelchair swing. It has been very exciting for them to manoeuvre the swing completely independently using the 'swing rope'.

At Breakspeare we celebrated NSPCC Number Day on 22nd. It was lots of fun to access a wide range of number learning activities in and out of classrooms.



The Sunflower Federation has been fortunate to receive a very generous donation of £2000 from The Bushey Action of Disability Group. Both schools will have £1000 to buy movable soft play equipment. Meadow Wood School's soft play internal installation will be completed for summer term.

If you have any questions about the content in this letter or your child's school life, please do not hesitate to come back to me. I wish you all a very happy, relaxing and safe half term

Very best wishes,

Merja

The HCC has asked us to share the following with you:

Ahead of February half-term, we'd like to say thank you once again for continuing to play your part and for helping to keep yourselves and others safe from COVID-19.

If you're travelling abroad this half-term be sure to check and follow COVID-19 guidance for your country of travel and on re-entering the UK, you can find the latest travel guidance at:

- **Get vaccinated** - vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19.
There are lots of walk-in options available locally for first, second doses and boosters, you can find your nearest vaccination centre and also book an appointment at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

Young people aged 12-18 yet to receive their COVID-19 vaccination(s) don't need to wait for a visit to their school or setting. You can find out more, including walk-in options for clinics for young people, and book at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>

- **Half term COVID-19 'Relax and Vax' sessions for nervous teenagers**
Five of the larger vaccination centres across Hertfordshire and west Essex are running 'Relax and Vax' sessions during half-term week aimed supporting 12 to 18-year-olds who are nervous about having their COVID-19 vaccine.

Specially trained staff will be on hand to help overcome worries like a fear of needles and answer any other concerns using simple and clinically effective relaxation techniques to help reduce tension and support them through the process. Children aged 12-15 need to be accompanied by a consenting parent or carer and just mention they're nervous on arrival so that the staff can make adjustments and they're given plenty of time and support.

You can find a list of participating venues and times at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

People under 18 who have recently had COVID-19 must wait 12 weeks before having their vaccination.

- **Test regularly** – 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't display symptoms. Regular rapid testing at home can help to prevent transmission. Find out all the ways to get home test kits (LFD tests) at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest
- **Stay at home** – if you have symptoms stay at home and book or order a PCR test online at: www.nhs.uk/get-tested

If you test positive you must self-isolate for the required period and not have people visit you at home. There is support available to help people who need it to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

Please don't send children and young people back to school following half-term if they have any symptoms or feel unwell. There continues to be a high number of outbreaks across Hertfordshire's childcare, nurseries, schools, special schools and colleges – they need your support to help protect our communities and have the least disruption to children's learning and development as possible.

We hope you enjoy a healthy and safe half-term.

Hertfordshire County Council