



Issue 8 - December 2020

Henlow Heart

Dear parents and carers

As we approach the festive season it is usual to reflect on the Autumn term. I'm sure you will all agree that this one has been like no other and the history books of the future will undoubtedly record what we are experiencing now.

I am proud that throughout this term we have prioritised the health and well being of our community. A number of pupils have needed to isolate because of positive cases in their classes and remote learning has been available in addition to remote social catch ups which have been well received.

Learning is vital for all of us and recent communications on our reporting processes demonstrate the fact that we are looking for the gaps that the pandemic may have brought about. Plans for interventions are underway alongside the high quality teaching pupils are receiving. Year 7 and 8 options are currently being launched and we look forward to beginning these opportunities in January.

We have been able to adapt some of our Christmas traditions - the talent show has been an enormous video success! Christmas lunch was enjoyed by many, jumpers worn and one carol recorded in an empty church. We bought every class a live link to A Christmas Carol from the Old Vic and this Dickens favourite was a very close second to going to the theatre. The Christmas card competition received more entries than ever and the judges chose two because they couldn't agree on just one! All winners and runners up feature later in the edition.

Our buildings programme continues successfully and the pictures we have shared reflect the fact that it is on time.....Thanks so much to our team of builders. We are looking forward to being able to enter the SEND lodge soon, the extension to the Sports Hall now has walls and the gym is beginning to look like a theatre....New beginnings also lead me to the goodbyes that we need to say. Miss Pilgrim is leaving us and we will all miss her history teaching and form tutorship. She has promised to stay in touch and will probably come into our classrooms again as a supply teacher. We wish her well as she takes some time for new ventures.



Mrs Newman isn't leaving us..... but she is leaving Henlow Academy. She is going to be Head of School at Meppershall Academy as part of our new Multi Academy Trust. Yesterday the Regional Schools' Commissioner gave permission for the new MAT - more details to follow in the new year. A full tribute to the contribution Mrs Newman has made to the education of many, many pupils appears in the following pages.

As I am writing this update you will all be aware that new information is coming to light around the return of pupils in January. I will send a separate communication to you regarding this as details are still filtering through to schools. On a final note can I thank you all for working alongside us this term - we have received many emails that have shown a real understanding of the issues everyone is trying to cope with and an appreciation of the ways in which Henlow Academy has navigated this difficult path.

I hope you are able to enjoy Christmas and here's hoping for a brighter 2021.....



Caren Earp

Headteacher

Covid Update



Guidance for the Christmas holidays

If you have a positive case of COVID-19 in your household during the Christmas holidays, please ensure that you email covid@henlowacademy.org.uk with the details at the earliest opportunity. This is of particular importance if symptoms start or a test is taken between Saturday 19th and Monday 21st December as there may be implications on others within the school.

Informing us as soon as possible will enable the school to take any and all relevant actions to protect our school community.

We also ask that you inform us of any cases throughout the remainder of the holiday as this will help to inform us of the picture we are all returning to in January.

The covid email account will be monitored on a regular basis and we will respond where required.

Please remember that if anyone in the household is awaiting a test result, the whole household must isolate until a negative result is received. If you receive a positive result, the whole household must isolate for 10 days from when symptoms first appeared, or from the date of the test if there are no symptoms. **Individuals who are isolating MUST stay at home for the full isolation period.**

Central Bedfordshire Council have provided details of how all school staff, pupils and their families can access home test kits even if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19. This information can be found on the homepage of our school website.

Please see the link to: Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

Covid Update



What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID 19)

Having been identified as a close contact, if your child then develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

People who do not have symptoms should not request a test unless this has been specifically requested by Public Health England or the local authority.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The 10-day isolation period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas, and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period. If that is not possible, anyone with symptoms should try and stay as far away as possible from vulnerable members of your household.

For more information, please read PHE's 'Stay at Home' guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Covid Update



For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If you have any questions, please email covid@henlowacademy.org.uk.

Roll of Honour



Holly W, 6SM

Winning the Under 16's category in the Biggleswade Photography Competition

Daniel F, 8LC

Being a wonderful quiz host during lockdown and always being efficient, helpful and kind.

Holly H, 6EC

The only person to complete the whole of the lockdown stair challenge. She climbed the equivalent number of steps to get to the top of mount Everest!

Izzy N, 8LC

Achieved her black belt in Taekwondo

Isabelle N, 8LC , George N, 6JF & Sienna P, 7CW

Raising £600 for Mrs Coster by organising a trail around Henlow.

Megan G, 8LC

Achieved the highest score award in a club gymnastics competition.

Emily K, 6AW

Supporting her brother Elliot whilst he undergoes medical treatment.

Tom C, 7JU

Earned his black belt in martial arts.

Charlie L, 7JU

Completing 4 years of gymnastics training.

Lewis H, 7JU

Achieved the best football player of the season award and sportsmanship award

Roll of Honour



Tabitha A, 7JU

For being super supportive to those around her and learning to make KFC chicken which is better than the real thing!

Andrew S, 7JU

Completed reading The Hobbit for the 8th time!

George C, 7JU

Completing amazing artwork.

Cain D, 5RB

Achieving the Chief Scout Silver Award.

Isaac O, 6AW

Being selected to play county cricket.

Jessica C, 7CW

Being selfless and caring to her brother.

Zed D, 5RB

Took part in the largest ever music lesson (2632 people), breaking the Guinness World Record.

Annabel M, 7JH

For passing her Grade 2 violin with distinction

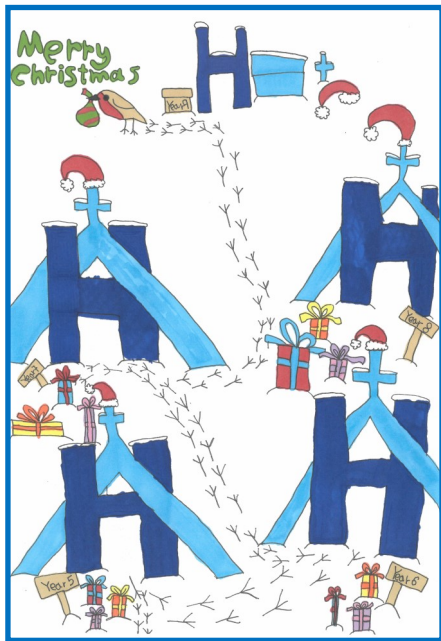
Christmas @ Henlow



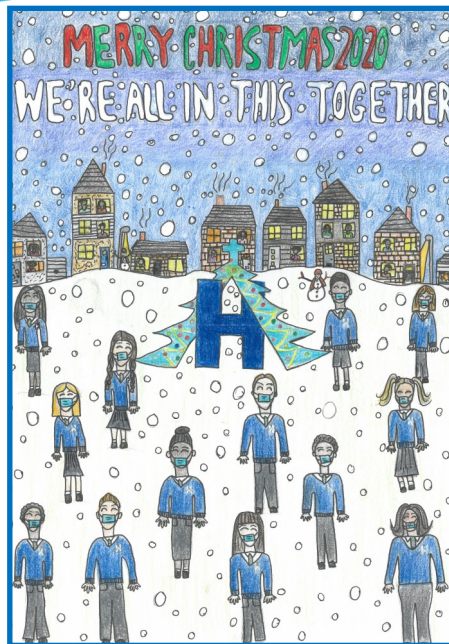
We may not have been able to celebrate in our usual Henlow way but we've still been able to celebrate many of our Christmas traditions. A group of musicians went over to the church to record a Christmas carol for our virtual end of term assembly and the children have been decorating their classrooms. Yesterday we served Christmas dinner to 375 pupils. A huge thank you to our wonderful kitchen staff for making and packaging up all the meals and the support staff for delivering them to all the pupils. We also celebrated Christmas jumper day yesterday.



Christmas Card Competition

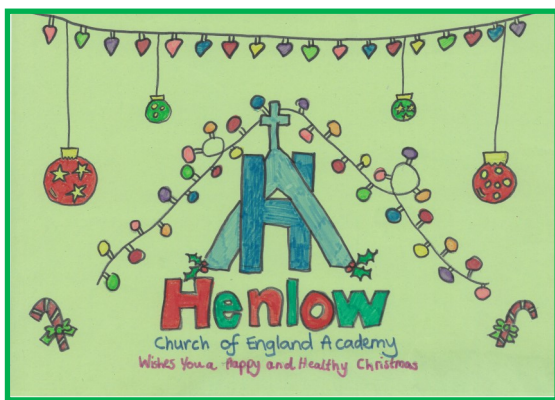


Year 6 Winner and joint overall winner
by Holly W, 6SM



Year 8 Winner and joint overall winner
by Lorna G, 8RT

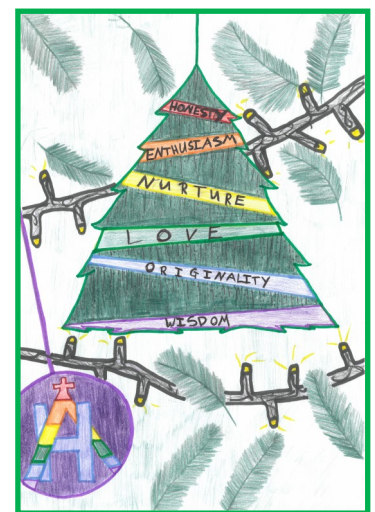
Every year Mrs Earp runs a Christmas card competition for the pupils to design the Christmas card that she sends out from Henlow Academy. This year she has been blown away with the standard of the entries. It was extremely difficult to pick a winner, in the end we had 2 designs of Christmas card printed. Congratulations to Lorna G and Holly W for their amazing designs represented both Henlow today and Henlow's future.



Year 5 winner
by Emilia W, 5NS



Year 5 runner up
by Zara W, 5IL



Year 7 winner

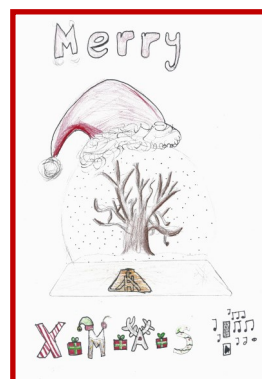
By Arabella H, 7CW



Year 6 runner up
Paige W, 6JC



Year 6 runner up
Flora CW, 6AW



Year 7 runner up
Olivia P, 7SP



Year 8 Runner up
by Kai C, 8BF

Build Update



We are now nearly 4 months into our next phase of building work and the buildings are already taking shape.

Our new SEND lodge has been built and is currently being decorated inside. We hope to be able to move into it by the end of January.



There was great excitement around school when the old mobiles were demolished! The foundations of the new block are completed and now the walls are going up at great speed. The children have loved being able to see from the playground how the build is progressing.

Goodbye Mrs Newman



By now, I am sure you are aware that our wonderful Mrs Newman is moving to become Head of School at Meppershall Church of England Academy. Henlow are incredibly proud of this move and know that Meppershall will thrive under her guidance.

Mrs Newman joined Henlow Middle School (as it was once known) in 2003 as Head of English. Over the last 17 years, Mrs Newman has held many roles as well as the English subject leader, such as Head of Year 5 and most recently, Assistant Headteacher. Many of our pupils will have been visited in their former lower schools by Mrs Newman, who loved to welcome them to the Henlow family.

In school, we have no doubts that Mrs Newman will be remembered for many things by all staff and pupils. Her energy and enthusiasm shines through in everything she does and this is echoed by everyone at Henlow. Her true love of dance is embedded in so many events that Mrs Newman has been part of over the years (and even some, where you wouldn't expect dance to be relevant). Mrs Newman has led the Gym and Dance display for many years, been involved in both KS 2 and 3 productions, organised Arts Weeks and in school experience days - Narnia Day, Harry Potter Day, Talent Shows and many many more. She has organised a multitude of school trips to ensure all pupils get the very best out of their Henlow experience : Hazard Alley, Roald Dahl Museum, Kentwell Hall and many residential trips also. Mrs Newman has a fiercely competitive side and this is always seen when House merits and sports are announced. Gribble is her team and she can be heard cheering louder than any member of the House during these events. Before the House system was in place, Mrs Newman showed her competitive side by coaching her form classes in the Tug of War competitions on Sports Days -something that made her classes look like professional Tug of War athletes in comparison with everyone else. Mrs Newman throws herself whole-heartedly into everything at Henlow and the pupils' happiness and interests are at the centre of everything she does. She has given so much support to staff, parents and pupils over the years and you can see why she will be dearly missed by all. I am sure you will all want to wish her the best of luck in her new venture as we all do.



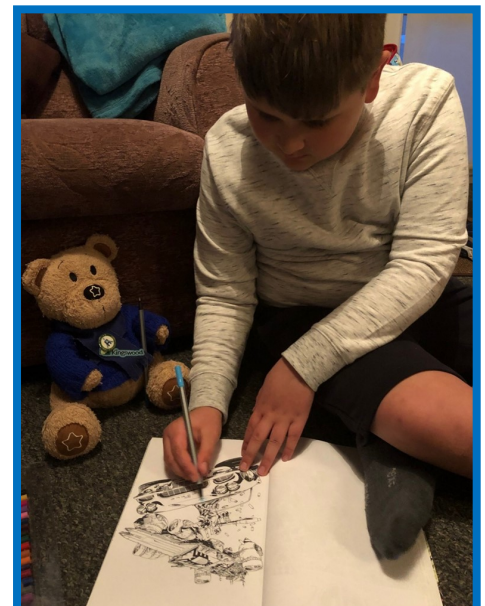
Goodbye Mrs Pilgrim



Today we say a sad goodbye to Miss Pilgrim. Miss Pilgrim qualified as a teacher at De Montfort University, Bedford but before that she had already had a varied career including time spent in the RAF and hosting a gardening programme on the radio! Miss Pilgrim has since dedicated her time to the pupils of Henlow with a brief interlude working as a painter and decorator! Miss Pilgrim has been a fabulous form tutor and leader of History; a subject she is passionate about. She is a wonderful teacher first and foremost who always applies a firm but fair attitude putting the pupils at the centre of all she does. Miss Pilgrim will be greatly missed by staff and pupils.

The Travels of Henry Henlow Norfolk October Half Term 2020

We stayed in a chalet near Hemsby over half term. Grandma came with us and we took Henry Henlow to a family fun farm to pick pumpkins. We went to the beach at Winterton and saw horses riding along. And we did lots of colouring and played games. I hope Henry Henlow had a good time with us!



Library News



The Reading Agency is running a challenge this winter to encourage children to continue reading over the Christmas holiday period.

With the theme 'everyone is a hero', children can take part and join the online website which includes fun activities and competitions.

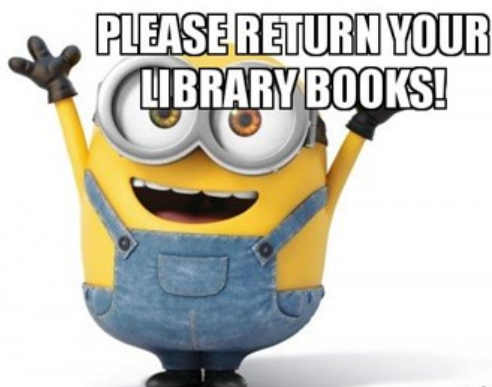
For further details please click on the links below:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/children/news/join-the-winter-mini-challenge-and-become-a-reading-hero.html>

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/winter-mini-challenge-2020>



Overdue reminders have been sent out to classes and parents/carers. Unfortunately, there are still **many** resources outstanding. There are now library book returns boxes in each class in addition to the main returns containers by the library door. Please can you remind your children to return ASAP. Thank you



Just a reminder that we are still running an **online library service**.

Click "n" Deliver

Pupils can log onto our Reading cloud library system to search and reserve resources. Books are then delivered to pupils classes. www.readingcloud.net

To login to this online system, pupils will need to ask their form teacher for their user name and password or they can email me.

cwhite@henlowacademy.org.uk

We are delighted that many of our pupils are already using this facility and we would like to encourage more to do so.



Thank you for all the book donations that have been given to our school. These are now being read and enjoyed by other pupils.

We would still welcome any further donations should you wish to consider them for our use.

We recently launched our first ever 'online book fair' Thank you to parents/carers who supported this new initiative.

We hope your children enjoy the books that you purchased.

Meet Our New Staff



Name	Isadora Lines	Role	Year 5 Form Tutor
-------------	---------------	-------------	-------------------

Introduce Yourself

Hello, I am Isadora and I am the new Year 5 Form Tutor. Having previously worked at Henlow some may recognise me from teaching last year during my university training. I love to travel and experience new things all across the world, I lived in Australia for 3 years travelling and working in different places. My dream is to travel India. Unfortunately I do not have any pets but I would love a Dalmatian or a Great Dane!



Why did you want to join come to Henlow?

After enjoying my training and teaching here last year I knew Henlow was the place I wanted to teach in most. I love the close community within the school, everyone is always helpful and kind. I knew that Henlow would be a great place for me to work with KS2 and perhaps even KS3 classes. I have always enjoyed learning and teaching is a wonderful profession which allows you to learn everyday.

Favourite Food

I love Indian food - being a vegetarian I like to try a different vegetable dish each time.

Favourite Subject

In school I loved art and textiles, English and P.E. I still loved to try new craft projects, read and I am very active going to the gym almost every day!

Favourite Place in the World

My favourite place would have to be Exmouth on Australia's west coast... I would even say that the reef in Exmouth is even better than the Great Barrier Reef!

Favourite Book

Having read lots of books over lockdown I would say my favourite book is The Boy at the Back of the Classroom or The Nothing to See here Hotel.

Pupil Contributions



Christmas Jokes

Who gives presents to dogs at Christmas?

Santa paws
Hattie C, Year 5

What do reindeer hang on their Xmas tree?

Horn-aments!
Dexter E, Year 5

Have you heard of the mathematician who is afraid of negative numbers?

He will stop at nothing to avoid them
Henry J, Year 7

What did one snowman say to the other snowman?

Is it just me or do you smell carrots?
Zed D, Year 5

A Christmas Rap

Every Christmas we are jolly,
And like to put up holly.
We enjoy putting up the Tree,
And also like to sing with glee.
On top of a Tree we put a star,
And families comes from far.
We hope that every year it snows,
And all the lights make the house glow.

By Dillon C, Year 8

If your child(ren) do something out of school which you think should be recognised we would love to hear about it. We love to put our pupils extra curricular achievements on our achievement board outside Mrs Earps office and put them in our newsletters. Please email Mrs Westcar at hwestcar@henlowacademy.org.uk with a photo and an explanation of what your child has achieved.



Xanthe W had her first ever karate grading and did brilliantly achieving her Orange belt. She only started karate in January so has only really been able to train in face to face classes from August. She has worked really hard to learn her Kata in order to do her grading. Fantastic work, Xanthe!

Pupil Contributions



Christmas joy

Christmas time is happy and jolly
On my Christmas pudding, we lead a leaf of holly.

All the presents lay under the tree
The children shout and scream with glee.

All the elves make the toys
They're making them for girls and boys.
In my Christmas cracker, I got a paper crown
Inside my present, I got a teddy bear, Coloured brown.
The waterproof roof dripped and dropped.
The sparkly star sat on the Christmas tree at the very top.

When I went to bed, I heard the sleigh bells ringing.

At my front door, the people were singing.

I went to see my yummy chocolate calendar waiting for me
Tonight is Christmas eve,
so we have our decorations up so people can see.

In the Christmas holiday, we have some fun

My dad makes a lovely chocolate bun.

Santa claws went down the chimney with a grin

Mrs claws sowed some gloves with a pin.

I hanged up my stocking with my brother

And helped make dinner with my mother.

All the reindeers were galloping with pride

Old St. Nick said, "come and ride."

By Lakshreya and Jasmine, Year 5



Isabelle and her younger brother today. They walked 11k for Children In Need and have managed to raise £942. What an amazing achievement!

Fundraising



We have had an excellent start to the year with Henlow Academy's fundraising. Thank you to everyone who has donated on the non school uniform days, Harvest Festival and Christmas Jumper day.

We have raised:



Our Christmas tree for 2020 has been kindly donated to the school by Arlesey resident and local businesswoman Jodie Lusby of Pure Balance Accounting Ltd. We thank you for your generosity.



A huge thank you to parents and carers who have been donating to The Need Project this year instead of sending in thank you gifts for staff. The Need Project have let us know how generous you have been. We are incredibly touched and thrilled that so many families can be helped. Your donations have gone towards The Need Project making family parcels for those in need.

Job Vacancies



MIDDAY SUPERVISORY ASSISTANT

Salary: NJC Scale Points 1-3 (£17,364 - £18,065 pro rata)

Required as soon as possible to assist from 12.35 pm – 1.35 pm daily, during term time, with the supervision and care of our pupils during lunchtimes. This equates to 5 hrs per week. Part-time or job share would be considered. If you would like to apply for any of our vacancies please visit our website http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/vacancies_1/502822

2 x TEACHING ASSISTANT

FIXED TERM UNTIL 31st AUGUST 2021

NJC Level 2b Points 3 - 5 - £18562.00 - £19312.00 Pro Rata, pay award pending

30 hours per week – Term Time Only + extra hours for Homework & after school clubs

We are looking to appoint 2 Learning Support TAs to start in January 2021. Both positions will be a fixed term until 31st August 2021 as part of our Covid Catch up intervention plan for the Spring and Summer 2021 terms. The person appointed will work with the SENDCo, the Learning Support Department and class teachers to plan and deliver support for pupils at Key Stages 2 and 3 including small group Maths and English intervention. This includes the opportunity to work with pupils who attend homework and after school clubs.

The successful candidate should be a hardworking, energetic and motivated individual who is willing to develop their expertise, take on new challenges, embrace change and is keen to join our developing team of committed professionals who support the learning and teaching of our pupils. Full training will be given.

This is an exciting opportunity to join a friendly and supportive staff in a very successful school.

Visit our website for more information

Closing date for applications: 8th January 2021

HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM

Pupil Equipment



All pencil cases will have been sent home to be restocked over Christmas (pupils who were unable to take their pencil cases home due to self isolating should ensure their pencils cases are restocked in the first week of term). **Please can you ensure your child(ren) has all the right equipment they need for school everyday.** We are seeing an increasing number of pupils that are turning up to lessons without even a pen and pencil. As part of The Henlow Home School Partnership, pupils should attend school properly equipped. Please note that pupils are not able to share equipment and the school are not able to provide pupils with missing equipment.

All pupils need a pencil case which contains ALL of the following:

- Cartridge pen, handwriting pen or a friction pen (blue)
- 30cm ruler
- HB pencil and a spare
- 2 Dry wipe board marker pen and a wiper/cloth
- Coloured pencils (not felt tips)
- Ink eraser pen (if using a cartridge pen)
- Green pen (friction pen preferred)
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener (which can collect shavings)
- Glue Stick
- Scissors
- Highlighters
- Scientific calculator
- Protractor

Wrap Around Care



At Henlow Academy we offer a range of wrap around care to help with childcare. If you would like anymore information about what we have on offer, please contact Mrs Marshall on 01462 813733 or email jmarshall@henlowacademy.org.uk. Due to current restrictions booking is essential for all wrap around care.



Breakfast Club

8:00am - 8:30am

£2.50 per day

Booking required

Pay through ParentMail or pay by cash

Homework Club

3:35pm - 4:45pm

Free

Booking Essential



4:45

4:45 Club

4:45pm - 5:45pm

£6 per day

Booking essential

Pay through ParentMail or pay by cash

Reminders



Please ensure all money sent into school is in a sealed envelope and has your child's name, class, what the money is for and the amount of money on the front.

Please make sure that all your child's clothes and property is clearly named. If your child has lost any items, please make sure they check lost property ASAP.

The school office aren't able to call home if your child forgets something they need that day at school. Please ensure your child checks their timetable and brings all they need each day.

ALL children are required to bring in a named water bottle daily. The school do not have cups to provide to children who do not bring a water bottle and the canteen no longer sells bottles of drinks.

We are not accepting cash at the moment. Please make payments and donations through the ParentMail app. Go to payments and then click 'shop'.

Please can all parents and carers check their child/ren's ParentMail accounts and ensure they are in credit.

Please be aware that Breakfast Club runs from 8:00am until 8:30am and must be booked in advance. Staff are not available to supervise children before 8:00am and therefore children are not authorised to be on site before this due to safeguarding and health & safety.

Attendance Matters



The Attendance Team

Kelly Jando

Attendance Officer

kjando@henlowacademy.org.uk

Caroline Northover

Education Welfare Officer

School Office

01462 813733

Don't be late!

If your child(ren) arrive after 9:20am they will be marked in late.

Let us know!

You can report your child(ren) absence from school by phone the school office on 01462 813733 or through the ParentMail app.

Things to remember!

You can be prosecuted if your child has unauthorised absences from school.

~

IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL YOU MUST CONTACT THE SCHOOL TO LET US KNOW WHY YOUR CHILD WON'T BE IN SCHOOL OTHERWISE THE ABSENCE WILL BE UNAUTHORISED.

~

Looking after other children, going shopping and waiting in for deliveries are not valid reasons to keep your child off school and will be marked as unauthorised absences.

~

Parents can request to take children out of school during term time by writing to the Attendance Officer. However, holidays are only granted in exceptional circumstances. Absences taken without permission will be recorded as unauthorised and a fine will be issued.

Attendance Matters



Did you know?

- ⇒ You can report your child absence from school through the ParentMail app.
- ⇒ 97% attendance means your child will have missed 6 days of school throughout the year.
- ⇒ 90% attendance means that your child will have been absent for the equivalent of one half day every week.
- ⇒ If you take a two week holiday during term time your child's attendance will automatically be reduced to less than 95%. A two week holiday each year in school means a total of 14 weeks teaching time missed. This is the equivalent of a whole term and can have a real impact on your child's literacy and numeracy skills.
- ⇒ If your child does not attend school regularly and you fail to work with the school and The Education Welfare Service, you may be fined up to £2500 and in extreme cases sent to prison.

Frequently asked questions

Q. My child has a tummy bug and isn't well enough for school. What do I need to do?

A. Call the school office on 01462 813733 before 9:00am to let us know. Children should not return to school after a sickness bug for 48 hours after their last episode of sickness/diarrhoea.

Q. I need to take my child to the dentist next week, do I need to let school know?

A. Yes please! Please inform the school office. Where possible please try to make appointments outside school hours/during school holidays. If that is not possible please make them for the start or end of the school day.

Q. I sometimes struggle to get all of my 3 children to school before the school gates close, being 5-10 minutes late doesn't really make that much difference does it?

A. It is important for all children to be in school on time as it can be upsetting for the child and disruptive for the rest of the class when children are late. Children who are late need to arrive via the school office and will get a late mark.