



*'Learning together, loving others, guided by God'*

**Heene Church of England (Aided) Primary School**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a really busy, but thoroughly enjoyable week at Heene. It has been a complete joy to really begin to get to know the children, know more about the school, meet some parents and begin to make plans for an exciting future together. It was wonderful to meet all of the children on Monday for our phase Collective Worship and as the week has gone on we have had the absolute privilege of getting to know the children in classes, looking at their work, talking to them about their learning and welcoming visits to the office on a daily basis; it is a delight to be here.

Mrs. Walton and I are fully aware of some concerns which have emerged regarding the change of leadership at Heene and the unsettled year for the children which has resulted. Please be assured and reassured that we are both working hard, with Miss Beer, to quickly get to know the school and make plans for a much more positive year for children, parents and staff as the coming weeks unfold. As experienced leaders we both want to be as visible and as available as we can be and we want to be able to directly address your concerns and anxieties as we go forward, as well as receive your encouragement when things go well! To that end we are offering you the direct email address of us both, for you to use in order to contact us directly regarding any issues at all that you would like to raise with us; we both want to be available to you. Please direct any concerns or questions you may have to the following email address: [head@heenepriamry.co.uk](mailto:head@heenepriamry.co.uk). The email address will be checked regularly and we will aim to get back to you as soon as we are able, although this may not be until the end of the school day on which the email arrives. We genuinely have the ability to resolve most issues so please do be in touch if you are at all concerned, unhappy or have a question you would like to ask of us.

We will shortly be sending you a Parent / Carer Questionnaire which we would be so grateful if you could complete and return to us at school. We want to ask you a number of questions about aspects of the school, in the same manner in which Ofsted will when they return to inspect our school, and would be so grateful for your honest response to each of the questions we ask you. This questionnaire will come out to you with one of our Friday newsletters and we would ask that you take time to complete it when it comes to you. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

**Staffing Updates:**

We are sorry to make you aware that following a period of ill -health, Mrs. Hill (our SENDCo) will be leaving Heene at the end of the summer term. We are grateful for the contribution Mrs. Hill has made to Heene over many years and wish her well as she leaves us in July.

In addition to Mrs. Hill, we will also be saying farewell to Mr. Brown, who is re-locating with his family, Mrs. Clift, who is retiring as is Mrs. Toni. We wish all our colleagues, warmest thanks and every happiness and they move on from Heene.

We are looking to appoint a new SENCO to Heene and whilst we go through that important process we are very grateful to Mrs. Gemma Irvine (Headteacher at St Mary's) for supporting us in the interim situation, ensuring our SEN provision is a real strength at Heene.



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**Covid-19 Update:**

You will be aware that on Tuesday we again heard from our Prime Minister about the decision to delay the full re-opening of restrictions until July 19<sup>th</sup>. This has clearly had an impact on some of the things we had planned for the children and we will aim to keep you fully informed of these as we journey the coming few weeks together. As a result of this new change we will unfortunately not be able to hold Summer Parent Consultations in school this term. These will be held instead through our Google Classroom / Google Meet provision. Your child's end of year report will come to you on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July with the Parent Consultations being held following this on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July (3.30pm – 7pm) and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July (3.30pm – 5.30pm). You will be invited to book a 10 minute 'virtual' appointment with your child's class teacher to discuss the report and this can be done 'on e-schools' from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Full details of how to join the Google Meet will be sent to you in a separate communication to ensure you can all set up an appointment of these time.

**INSET Days next year:**

I am aware that a number of parents have been asking for confirmation about INSET days for the coming academic year. Please be advised that these are now as follows:

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Monday November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

Tuesday January 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

I trust that you will be able now to make plans around those dates.

**Just a note about Attendance:**

Mrs. Walton and I both completely understand that this year at Heene has been a challenge for us all in many different ways and as a result, for some, attendance at school has been difficult. Now that things are slowly getting back to normal, it is very important for us to ensure that attendance at school for all children, once again becomes a high priority. We are keen to support all families in securing the highest possible attendance at Heene and we will be seeking to meet with the parents who are finding this more of a challenge. We would ask that you do all you can to ensure your child attends school regularly and please do let us know if you would value any immediate support from the team at Heene with this.

Many thanks for your support in all we are trying quickly to achieve at Heene and we look forward to getting to know you all as the day's progress.

Warmest regards

Joy Waelend and Ann Walton

Co-Headteachers.