

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to what promises to be a busy Half Term with lots of Clubs and Christmas activities!

Thank you to the Reception parents for your feedback on starting School, it is much appreciated. We have had queries about Dojo as it appears that Dojo are now charging parents to access the portfolio so we will not be using that feature to share photos with you. We have also become aware that some parents are being asked to pay to use the App, naturally I wouldn't want to use things that cost parents money so I will be carefully monitoring this situation. However, I believe you can still access School and Class Stories without paying.

Next Friday we are joining in with Children in Need and the childrens' optional dress code is spotty, bears or sporty, hopefully the three choices give an option for everyone. Over the week the children will be attempting the Pudsey Bearpee Challenge to do 1000 bearpees per class. Weather permitting on Friday we will have a whole school Bearpee session on the playground to get to their 1000 targets! Parents and Carers are welcome to join us for the session for fun and a giggle at attempting the Challenge. This is a fundraising challenge for Children in Need who last year supported SAFER, Sports Commission and Autism Guernsey. Yesterday we launched our Instagram page hautes\_capelles\_primary (you need the underscores), feel free to give us a follow. We are planning to use it to post images of the children's creative work, sporting achievements and school events. In time we may also use it for short information reels if you think this would be helpful.

The rest of the newsletter focuses on 3 important items — Online Safety, as lately we have had incidents of children being unsafe, unsafe parking and Reading. Please take the time to read these. Best wishes and hopes for a drier weekend!

Mrs Coughlín Head Teacher

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## Snapchat

We have had several incidents recently where children have been added by "unknown others" on Snapchat which puts them at risk.

Attached to the Newsletter is a parent guide for Snapchat. The age limitation is 13 for Snapchat to prevent the users accessing or being presented with inappropriate material. Please do have active conversations with your children if they are using messaging Apps and reiterate messages about keeping safe and not sharing images of themselves or others. Children do need to know that they can come and talk to you or us without judgement when there is a problem online. Overleaf I have placed information about the age limits are in place for which App.

## **Unsafe parking**

This week I have acted as a 'traffic cone' to prevent people parking on the kerbs or across the zebra crossing. However, I am unable to do this all the time.

Despite several requests parents are still parking in these areas.

If users consistently park on these areas causing a danger to children's safety, prevent children using the pavements and preventing access to the school site for emergency vehicles I may have to implement bans for certain cars in the Car Park.

If you are collecting for a Junior child, do not enter the car park until 2.50pm to enable the Infants to leave and free up spaces. It really isn't a problem if you are a few

We are aspirational. We are kind. We are respectful. We work together.

## **Reading at home**

You will have noticed that I made reading at home a minimum requirement last week during the storm.

At school we teach your children to read sounds, words and sentences. We teach them how to understand the text and introduce them to a range of different texts to help build their understanding of the world, build their vocabulary and to enhance their ability to access all of their learning.

However we need your help.

Children that read regularly at home make enhanced progress across all of their learning and research shows they are more inclined for success in adult life. Having stories read to younger children not only builds their vocabulary but deepens family bonds and builds confidence and positive wellbeing. Older children can develop their imagination and understanding of the world by reading different books at home, or online articles, newspapers or even a recipe.

In order for the children to continue to make progress in school, they need to read at home. We have busy lives so some days they may only read for 10 minutes, other days it may be more. Year 5 and 6 should be aiming for 30 minutes a day. We would really encourage you to develop a reading habit with the children, whilst waiting in the car, just before bedtime instead of screen time or simply as a different activity to do at home. All of the children bring home books every day so please use them and lets gets our school reading!

