



Friday 28th June 2024

Website: www.hernejunior.com

Email: admin@hernejunior.com

Twitter: [@HerneJunior](https://twitter.com/HerneJunior)

Telephone: 01730 263746

Dear Parents & Carers,

This week, I'm continuing the theme of **Internet Safety** and keeping children safe from cyber-bullying. We uncovered the most awful things that were happening due to unchecked access in and out of school hours: children as young as 7 being allowed into Yr6/7 chat rooms through siblings; children posting, 'ugliest/ fattest/ slowest' polls naming other children; children starting WhatsApp groups with an insulting name, inviting a single child and then all exiting and using the derogatory term to message the child and infer their ownership; children using multiple sign ins, some with adult photos encouraging other children to engage...the list was very long. It was truly shocking but I'm sharing with you because it was so awful...don't presume...peer pressure to engage is powerful and despite all of the information given at school, the desire to fit in and be perceived as popular outweighs sense, good teaching and good parenting.

Huge thanks to the many Year 5 and 6 parents who contacted me to say that either, they check their child's phone weekly now, or that they don't do it often enough and were shocked when they did and have taken action at home.



I found this great poster for talking to your children. I hope you find it useful. The only way to stop this is if parents deny access to age limited sites - the restrictions are there for a purpose, they are a maturity rating as much as an age rating - and, as aforementioned, regular checks are being made of children's history and use. There also needs to be more of a culture of children reporting things to adults at home if they find something they are offended by or don't want to engage in.

This incident has caused many parents to ask if their child really needs a phone at school. Many Years 5/6 bring them in because they can but are dropped off and collected so there should be no need on those days. Next year, we are going to be holding some 'no phone' events with other local schools and from September, we will be asking for parents to request permission for their child to bring a phone to school. Watch this space for the **guidance and a form** which will go out next week. Also, see the Smartphone item below!

And Finally...whatever you are up to enjoy. I've got 120 reports still to read and sign so won't be doing a great deal else. Not quite a novel but so enjoyable because our children's achievements, pastorally and academically, fill me with joy!

Take care,
Sue Sayers
Headteacher

P.S. I didn't finish "Tom Lake" as I found it really tedious but I am putting together my summer reading list. **Recommendations welcomed!**

How to combat the National Rise in Prejudicial Language – a Herne focus for the 2024/25 academic year.

Please see below a link to a Prejudicial language and behaviour guide for parents/carers

[Living Difference III - A5 leaflet \(PH approved text\) \(hampshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](http://hampshire-pcc.gov.uk)



STEM* Challenge Success (* Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

On Thursday 27th June, a team of six intrepid Herne year 5 pupils attended a one-day event entitled 'Engineers of the Future'. Held at Churcher's College, it was supported by the Royal Academy of Engineering's Connecting STEM Teachers programme & the Smallpiece Trust. With children from other primary schools in the area, our pupils had the opportunity to test their creativity & problem-solving skills in a series of practical technology & engineering challenges.

The activities included a code-breaking challenge: our team cracked all three codes. Next was a competition to design & build the most effective, crash-proof, vehicle. Built from material such as corrugated plastic, dowel and card, the car protected two eggs whilst zooming down a ramp of ever-steepening inclines. Additionally, our team built and tested an air-powered rocket. We won the practical competition where they were fired to see how high they could go! Our superb team of engineers came second overall for their work with 49 points scored, just 0.5 points off the winners!! We are very proud of the team's commitment and

how they represented Herne with their brilliant behaviour. Congratulations Team Herne!

Twilight Club – September 2025

We have received expressions of interest for places for next year from existing members of the club and from the new Year 3 intake. While we are pleased to be so popular, unfortunately, at this rate, we may not be able to fully meet demand this year. If we haven't already done so this week, we will confirm individually if your child has a place or not, as soon as possible. If you are a parent/carer of an existing Herne pupil who has not attended the club this year, and who wants to express an interest for September, please email twilight@hernejunior.com in the first instance with Twilight Enquiry in the subject field, and state your child's name, current class and which days and times (either 5pm or 6pm finish) you require. Please do so by the end of **5th July** so we can allocate any remaining places. We may not be able to help everyone immediately but session requirements change frequently in September so we will operate a waiting list, on a first come, first served basis.



Calling all Artists

PHA Homes, a local housing association, are soon turning the grand age of 50! To celebrate this, they are hosting an event on the 13th July for the community at the Petersfield Museum, which will include face painting, a buffet and drinks. They have asked if the wonderful pupils of Herne would donate some artwork to be displayed at this event under the theme of 'what they love about where they live'. What do the children love about where they live? This could be related to the beautiful nature in our local area or perhaps some of the historical buildings - they could even include quotes to explain why. If you would like to have your artwork displayed, please return it to Mrs Castle via the school office by the 11th July. Please make sure your name is displayed on your piece of work. Many thanks!

Music Tuition/Orchestra

Mr Thomas – Music teacher will be taking PPA day in the last full week of school. This means that: Weds keyboard lessons will finish on 10th July, Thurs Brass lessons/After school orchestra will finish 11th July.



Have you thought about when your child might have their first smartphone or how to make sure they use them safely?

Recent research has shown that the early introduction of smartphones in childhood can have an impact on young people's mental health and social communication skills. Smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk would like our help to understand the current use of smartphones in our school population and whether parents would be interested in more information about delaying smartphone use/safe use of technology. Please can you follow this link and complete this short questionnaire.

<https://forms.gle/GSErNpPK5KopexKu8> Your responses are very much appreciated and really matter.



Doodle Summer Challenges 2024

Doodle are running two summer challenges between the 1st of July – 31st of August. Both Challenges are designed to encourage a few minutes of daily Doodling, promoting healthy learning habits and boosting your child's maths and English skills. They can **earn FREE rewards** by taking part! Follow this link for more info.

[Summer Challenge | DoodleLearning](#)

Petersfield Twinning Association

The Petersfield Twinning Association is hosting German visitors between 7th and 13th August. They are looking for further families who are prepared to host. If you are interested in helping, please email

honsec@petersfieldtwinningassociation.org.uk for more information.

Page 2 of 2

July		September	
Mon 1 st – Fri 5 th	Ironbridge (Year 6 residential)	Mon 2 nd – Tues 3 rd	Inset Days at Herne (staff training)
Tues 2 nd	Swimming Gala (Year 5) – 1.20pm start	Wed 4 th	First day of the Autumn Term
Mon 8 th	Harmony Week	<h2>Water Bottles</h2> <p>Reminder to please send your child in to school with a water bottle.</p>	
Fri 12 th	Changeover Day (inc. TPS Transition day) Music Evening 6-8pm		
Mon 15 th	Sports Day 9.15 – 11.45 (followed by picnic with parents)		
Fri 19 th	Year 4 Camp		
Mon 22 nd	Year 6 Leavers' Performance 7-9pm		
Tues 23 rd	Final day of term (12.30pm finish)		