

Honey Harbour Public School

BOX 218, HONEY HARBOUR, ONTARIO P0E 1E0
TELEPHONE: (705) 756-2433 • FAX: (705) 756-1071



Friday, September 4, 2020

Dear Families,

We are excited to welcome our students and families back to school this September and we would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new students and families who will be joining us for the first time this year.

This has certainly been a year full of changes. We want you to feel assured that we have been carefully implementing the recommendations from our Board, the Ministry of Education, and our Public Health Units, in order to create a safe learning environment for our students and our staff as we move forward in our Return to School plan.

There are a number of information items that you will want to know in order to prepare your child for school this September. I have purposefully waited patiently for school to approach to share with you our school plans. Information items are continually evolving and I wanted you to have the most up-to-date thinking prior to school opening that I am able to provide. I know this might have caused some anxiety but I will assure you that we want you to have

Return to School Plan For TLDSB Families

I request that you take the time to read carefully through this plan. It is most comprehensive. This letter from our school will advise you on our particular implementation protocols that are reflective of the information in this plan.

<https://www.tlgsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Return-to-School-Plan-for-TLGSB-Families-v6August31.pdf>

Most Important Action Item for Parents

Please ensure that you read our Director's message that is found on our board website: <https://www.tlgsb.ca/>



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There is a form that **MUST** be completed by all families with students returning to school prior to the first day of attendance.

What to bring to school!

Boomerang!

In order to ensure our custodians are able to implement the many cleaning protocols, students will be expected to bring home all items that they bring to school. Please ensure that your child does not bring toys or personal items from home. This is not a new policy but is ever so more important at this time.

Clothing

We know that for our little ones, a change of clothes is always a good idea and necessary.

All students should dress for the outdoors because we hope to implement outdoor learning as much as possible. It offers numerous health benefits, and in today's context, allows students the opportunity to remove their masks.

Masks

Students will be expected to wear a cloth mask to school. They will need to have the mask on when they ride the bus. It is recommended that you send at least one more mask in their backpacks in case the one they are wearing gets wet or soiled. At school, they will be provided with a paper bag, as needed daily, to put their masks in when they go out for outdoor learning or play. Please visit the following link referenced in the 'Return to School Plan for TLDSB families', for more information on masks. <https://www.tldsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Mask-info-sheet.pdf>

Shoes

Students will need to bring indoor shoes back and forth to school.

Writing Materials

Historically, parents have supported student learning by purchasing writing materials, pencil cases, etc.

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Given our small context, our staff has decided to begin the year by allocating our resources individually to each student.

As a result, we are working to build not only a 'tool kit' of writing materials that will be individualized, but incorporating this activity into building organizational skills. Each child will have a 'Materials Kit' and a 'Math Manipulatives' kit that they will be responsible for maintaining throughout the year. Given our wealth of space in our school, each child will have a place to store their kits in a place that they can individually access their belongings while adhering to physical distancing, If you have purchased markers, pencil crayons, etc., it is not necessary to send them into the school at this time. They will certainly be put to use for at-home learning/homework. We can always have homework completed and recorded through technology.

Water bottles

Students will have the opportunity to fill water bottles up at scheduled times throughout the day. Please send your child with a full water bottle. Water fountains are not being used at this time. Presently we have a water dispenser that will be supervised as students fill water bottles. Our school is scheduled to receive a water hydration station in the near future.

Drop off and Pick up

The school day will begin at 8:40 a.m. The day is over at 3:00 p.m. Students will be met by a school staff member between 8:30 a.m. and 8:40 a.m. Hand sanitizer will be given to each student as they enter the playground.

Students will enter the school at 8:40 a.m.

Buses arrive and park along the edge of the fence that stretches from the Church to the school. Parents are asked to park before or after the bus area.

School is dismissed at 3:00 p.m.

If your family happens to be late, please call the school and bring your child to the front door. Please call the school for student admittance.

Construction in the playground

If you have driven by our school lately you will have noticed that our playground is still undergoing construction. The great news is that we will have a brand new septic system. The drawbacks are that we will have to negotiate some construction issues for the first few weeks of school. We have ensured that there

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will be safe spaces for our students to play and learn outdoors fenced apart from the construction site.

Staffing

Ms. J. Fell is returning to our school two days a week. She will be teaching in the JK – 3 room. We are currently in a hiring position for the remainder of three days of the week.

Mrs. Shelly will be teaching in the grade 4 – 8 classroom and will continue to be our Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT). She is currently on a leave. We are in a hiring position for her position as well.

We have also posted for a 0.4 teacher to provide prep time and to work in the grades 4 – 8 classroom while Mrs. Shelly is providing support in her role as SERT.

We plan to have all of these roles filled by Friday, September 11, at the latest.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me either by phone or email, and I will be happy to get back to you.

We are all looking forward to getting back to our building with our great students from Honey Harbour Public School.

Sincerely,

Deb Wines
Principal
Honey Harbour Public School