



Hermitage Primary School
Focused on Excellence; Surrounded by Care

NEWSLETTER 10

Wednesday 13th March 2024



News from Head of School

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We are quickly approaching the end of the Spring term 2024. The final newsletter will be shared on Wednesday 27th March, where a dedicated page from each year group will list highlights from Spring 2nd half term. It will also be my last newsletter to parents ahead of our new Headteacher, Nicholas Hingley's, start on 15th April 2024.

World Book Day 2024 'Read Your Way' theme

We hope that you have been able to collect a free book from bookshops using the World Book Day vouchers handed out to all pupils last week.

The 'Reading in Unusual Places' competition closes on Friday 15th March. We have had some great entries submitted to date. The entries have been highly creative and fun! The senior leadership team will hand out book prizes to pupils on Monday 18th March.

Parent Survey (Spring 1st)

Thank you to the forty parents who shared their feedback. Please see below for some key headlines from the feedback. We asked our parents to comment on our new 'Look and Learn' parent sessions, comment on the school newsletter as well as clubs for our children. Forty parents participated in the survey. 97% of our parents shared that the newsletter had improved communication at our school. 88% of our parents shared that the 'Look and Learn' sessions have been helpful. Suggestions from our parents have been:

- A weekly email, rather than several in a week (we are looking into this)
- Short blog about the staff at our school (we will commence this in the summer term)
- Offer a range of subjects for 'Look and Learn' (this is already planned)
- The session for 'Look and Learn' to be a whole lesson, rather than 25 minutes (we will continue with the 25-minute sessions, but instead will offer weekly Zooms on key teaching and learning aspects)
- Low take-up on clubs linked to expense as well as the range of clubs offered
- Parents would like to see these clubs in school: art, foreign languages, drama, various dance, computing

Kind regards

PK Varaitch

Mrs Parmjit Kaur Varaitch
Head of School



Dates for your Diary



- Monday 18th March
Reception King—Stay and Read (8.35-9am)
- Tuesday 19th / Wednesday 20th March
Parents Evening
- Wednesday 20th—Friday 22nd March
Writing Look and Learn sessions (8.35-9am):
Wednesday 20th March—EYFS
Thursday 21st March—Years 1,2,3
Friday 22nd March—Years 4,5,6
- Monday 25th March
Reception Bell—Stay and Read (8.35-9am)
- Monday 25th—Tuesday 26th March
Year 4 Residential School Trip — Ufton Court
- Thursday 28th March
School closes at 1.15pm for Easter
- Monday 15th April
School closed for Staff Training
- Tuesday 16th April
School opens for Summer Term (1st Half)
- Monday 6th May
School closed for Bank Holiday
- Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May
School closed at the normal time for Half Term
- Monday 3rd June
School opens for Summer Term (2nd Half)
- Friday 19th July
School closes at 1.15pm for the Summer
- Monday 22nd July
Staff Training Day

Parents' Evening

You will be able to meet your child's class teacher on either Tuesday 19th or Wednesday 20th March. We still do not have all parents booked for a meeting. Please access the School Cloud platform and make a booking. PIXL reports will also be shared at this meeting for all children from Year 1 - 6.

Parent Look and Learn sessions — Writing (20th-22nd March)

Details are listed in 'Dates for your Diary'. Another opportunity for parents to visit classrooms to take part in aspects of Writing from across the school. Please join us.

Wednesday Wellbeing and Safeguarding News



Action for Happiness

The calendar for March can be accessed [HERE](#). It is also uploaded to the wellbeing section of our website. It is entitled 'Mindful March'. Please consider the small tips of support with your children too. The tips help with self-regulation and promote increased calm.

Hermitage Wellbeing and Safeguarding Padlet

The padlet has been live for many years now and holds a wealth of information for our families. Please access at this [LINK](#).

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces. Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience.

Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident.

Most of the DSLs at school are trained. This allows us to use the information that has been confidentially shared with us by the police, to understand how a child may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then offer support to the child/ren in our care.

Further information about Operation Encompass can be found at the website, [LINK](#).

Cybersecurity

What is the meaning of phishing, smishing, vishing and quishing?

Phishing - a malicious email encouraging you to click on a link with the aim of collecting your details or downloading malicious code.

Smishing - a text message (SMS) to encouraging you to click on a link with the aim of collecting your details or transferring you to a fake website.

Vishing - an unsolicited telephone call to collect your details or defraud you.

Quishing - a fake QR code diverting you to a fake website or some other fraudulent link.

Information about quishing can be found [HERE](#).



Family Zooms led by Hermitage leadership

We are delighted to announce that we have launched the Family Zooms (short, instructional videos) created by our SLT. They will be on subjects that will allow adults to engage with and support the learning that their children are undertaking in school.

Reading and Fluency

with Mrs Varaitch
Week commencing — 26.2.24

Maths Strategies to solve the same question

with Mrs Harling
Week commencing — 11.3.24

Writing

with Mrs Stephen
Week commencing — 11.3.24

Learning through Life

with Mrs Langford
Week commencing — 18.3.24



Welfare News

Is your child well enough to be at school?

We are still experiencing high levels of illness at school, such as coughs, colds, sore throats and fever to name a few. This is very normal for this time of year, but if you are unsure whether your child should be at school, to help you decide, please use this [LINK](#)

Oral Hygiene

Tooth decay is largely preventable, but it's still a serious problem among young children. The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities oral health survey of 5 year old children 2022 and Public Health England oral health survey of 3 year old children 2020 found that:

- nearly a quarter of 5 year olds in England have tooth decay, affecting 3 to 4 teeth on average
- children from more deprived backgrounds are more likely to have tooth decay
- 11% of 3 year olds in England have visible tooth decay, affecting 3 teeth on average

Having decayed teeth removed is also the most common reason for surgery under a general anaesthetic for children aged 6 to 10.



For further information about taking care of your children's teeth, click this [LINK](#)