

Newsletter



Hermitage Primary School

Issue No: 12 | 24th April 2024



Headteacher News

Dear Parents and Carers

I mentioned in my message via Dojo last week that I was humbled by the welcome I have received over the course of my first week as Headteacher of Hermitage Primary School. This has continued into my second week, and I am sure that I will be able to continue to forge positive relationships with the whole school community over the weeks ahead.

As a team, we want to ensure that your children continue to receive a high quality education, and as such we will be spending time in the classrooms and with your children over the course of the term. Mrs Varaitch, Mrs Harling, Mrs Stephen, Mrs Langford and I will be working closely with the staff team and you, as parents, to continue to develop the curriculum offer for your children. I truly believe that Hermitage can become an outstanding school, and the education that we offer to all in the Hermitage community will be of the highest quality.

I also said, in my initial welcome letter, that I am acutely aware of the responsibility which is placed upon me to ensure that the highest standards are achieved. I will relish this opportunity, and look forward to a long and happy relationship with the school and the Vanguard Learning Trust.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to go into classrooms over the last 7 days or so. Your children are happy and rise to the challenges that are presented to them in lessons. They are proud to be a part of Hermitage school, as are the staff. I am excited to contribute to the school's legacy, and to be given the opportunity to lead it toward a future of continued success.

Kind regards

Mr N S Hingley
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 30th April and Wednesday 1st May
Parents' Evening
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)
Saturday 29th June
PATH Summer Fayre
Tuesday 2nd July
Pupil Transition Day
Wednesday 3rd July
Sports Day
Friday 19th July
School closes at 1.15pm for the Summer
Monday 22nd July
Staff Training Day

Attendance News

Attendance for the start of the year is below average at 95.62% (down from **95.73% last month**).

Lateness continues to be an area of concern, with **703** incidents of lateness since the start of January! Children who arrive after 8.45 will be marked as late in the register.

Parents with children in year 5 should remain with their children until they are in school each morning. Please do not leave your child unsupervised.



When you conjure the image of St. George, it's often of a gallant knight vanquishing a fearsome dragon. Yet, like many saints, the tale of St. George is shrouded in mystery.

Though we commemorate St. George's Day today on April 23rd, he was born in the 3rd century AD, over 2,000 miles away in what is now Turkey. Remarkably, he never stepped foot in England.

George, renowned for his piety and valour, found favour with early English monarchs, and his feast day became a fixture in England from the 9th century onward. During Henry VIII's reign, the George Cross symbolized England and has persisted as such. In 1552, St. George was designated as England's sole patron saint.

The legend of St. George slaying a dragon emerged in the 12th century, brought back from Asia by Crusaders long after his time. It is said that George happened upon a village plagued by a dragon's tyranny.

Numerous renditions exist of the tale, but most converge on a town besieged by a dragon and a maiden offered as sacrifice. Upon learning of this, George charged into the village, vanquished the dragon and rescued the princess.



Wellbeing Wednesday and Safeguarding News

Action for Happiness

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

Staying mentally healthy during exam time (Young Minds)

As we head towards the main exam time it's worth reviewing how we can support young people at what can be a very stressful time.

Young Minds have a series of support pages aimed to help with exam stress and anxiety. Their advice is available to parents and carers and, of course, young people themselves.

You can find this helpful advice at the through the following links: [Parents](#) [Young People](#)

Trauma - The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Trauma in children and young people is a major driver of reduced educational outcomes, and poor adaption to social settings. The result can be the search for conflict among their peer groups, absenteeism due to not wishing to be in a populated environment, and detachment from their school work: something that inevitably leans into reducing their ability to forge better life chances for themselves. The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health has written a guide to dealing with trauma and the consequences of it within pupils. The guide has been written by Professor of Psychiatry at KCL, Andrea Danese, and Dr Patrick Smith of the same institute. To find out more please click the [Link](#).

NSPCC: Child Mental Health

The NSPCC has published a news story about contacts to Childline and mental health. New data shows Childline delivered 14,253 counselling sessions about low mood, or unhappiness, with children who contacted the service over the past year.

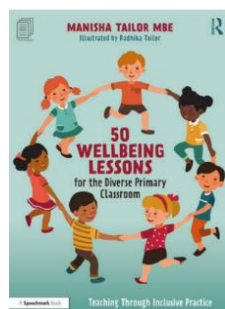
This comes as Childline launches its new campaign 'Find Your Calm' encouraging children to learn different ways of coping with frequent low mood.

Read the news story at this [Link](#).

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	Learning through Life with Mrs Langford Week commencing —6.5.24
Maths Strategies to solve the same question with Mrs Harling Week commencing — 22.4.24	Bullying and Bystanders with Mr Hingley Week commencing —13.5.24
Writing with Mrs Stephen Week commencing — 29.4.24	Reading and vocabulary with Mrs Varaitch Week commencing —20.5.24



Book News

The author Manisha Tailor has been involved for some time with the "Show Racism the Red Card" campaign in football and therefore has excellent credentials in helping people overcome prejudice and bias.