

# NEWSLETTER 1

September 2023

## News from Head of School

Dear Parent / Guardian

Welcome to the first of our new format newsletters and to the first few weeks of the new academic year!



I hope that you all had a lovely break — it's so nice to see you all back at school. The children have settled well in to their new classes and are starting to get comfortable with their new routines.

On behalf of all the staff at school, I would like to thank you for all the generous end of year gifts we received when we finished for summer.

Many of us enjoyed the Summer Fayre at the end of term - with thanks to all those involved. PATH (Parents and Teachers at Hermitage) have organised a Reception Coffee Morning on Tuesday 26th September at 8.50am. This is an excellent opportunity for new to reception parents to meet with senior leaders and to get to know each other. Please do come and join us. They will also be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at school on Tuesday 10th October at 6pm — all parents are welcome, and a Christmas Fayre on Tuesday 19th December at 3.15pm. PATH are always looking for parents to join them, so if you are interesting in assisting with fundraising events, please ask for more information at the school office.

Lots of work took place in the school whilst it was closed, including our outside toilets refurbishment, which is due to be completed over the next fortnight. We also had new LED lighting installed in the Early Years and office area, with plans to roll this out across the school before the end of the year. The Hall and the Rainbow Room has a fresh coat of paint and the Local Authority have been in to carry out maintenance of the building—and have assured us that there is no RAAC or asbestos in our school.

As we continue through this school year, I am encouraged to see how invested the children are in their education and how our school curriculum inspires and challenges them. We have lots of fun activities and learning adventures ahead of us and we thank our parents and guardians for your continued support of the children and of our school.

Kind regards

**Mrs Parmjit Kaur Varaitch**  
Head of School



## Dates for your Diary

### Tuesday 19th September

Parent Meetings (School Hall)  
3.20pm - 3.50pm or 4pm - 4.30pm.



### Wednesday 20th September

School Photos—Individual & Siblings

### Tuesday 26th September

PATH—Reception Coffee Morning, School Hall, 8.45am

### Monday 25th-Friday 29th September

Cycle to School Week

### Tuesday 10th October

PATH—AGM, School Hall, 6.45pm

### Mon 23rd —Fri 27th October

School closed for Half Term

### Monday 30th October

School Opens for Autumn Term 2

### Thu 23rd—Fri 24th November

School closed for VLT Trust Staff Training

### Thursday 21st December

School closed at 1.15pm for Christmas

### Thursday 4th—Friday 5th January

School Closed for Staff Training

### Monday 8th January

School Opens for Spring Term 1



## Extra Curricular Clubs

Club	Times	Years
<b>Mondays</b>		
Kiddy Cook	3.30 - 4.30pm	3-6
Rock Steady Music		
<b>Tuesdays</b>		
Football	3.20 - 4.20pm	1-3
Street Dance	3.30 - 4.30pm	3-4
<b>Thursdays</b>		
Multi Sports	3.30 - 4.30pm	1-3
<b>Fridays</b>		
Chess	12 - 12.30pm	1-3
Chess	12.30 - 1pm	4-6
Multi-sports	3.30 - 4.30pm	R-1



## Free School Meals — All primary school pupils



As you may be aware, all primary pupils are entitled to a free lunchtime meal for this academic year, as part of the Mayor of London's election campaign. Taylor Shaw provide healthy and nutritional hot and cold meals daily, as well as sandwiches, pasta and jacket potatoes. If you would like to order your child a school meal each day, please log on to Lunch Hound.

## Parent Meetings

On Tuesday 19th September, we will run two identical information sessions in the classrooms for parents from Reception through to Year 6 . The first session will be at 3.20pm - 3.50pm. The second will be 4pm - 4.30pm. Please be prompt to ensure we are able to get through all the information. These sessions are a really important opportunity to meet the class teachers and ask questions about the year group. It is preferable that children do not attend the session due to capacity, however, we understand that finding childcare may not be easy, so if this is the case, then please bring them along. If you are unable to make the session, please do not worry as we will share the slides on Dojo after the meeting.

## School Photos

The school photographer will be in on Wednesday 20th September to take individual pupil and sibling photos. Please remember to send your children into school in full school uniform that day.

## World Car Free Day (Friday 22nd September) and Cycle to School Week (Monday 25th—Friday 29th Sept)

On 22nd September it is World Car Free Day, when all around the world, towns and cities allow people to experience streets free of motor traffic. We would like to encourage our parents to leave the car at home and walk (if possible) to and from school that day. Also, organised by the Bikeability Trust and supported by Sustrans, Cycle to School Week is a week-long event where families are encouraged to try cycling and scooting to school.

Both events are a great way to celebrate the huge benefits an active school run brings including the positive impact it has on children's health and wellbeing, on local air quality, and on carbon emissions. Please try to take part in both if you can.

## Nut Aware School and Packed Lunches

We have a number of children at school with nut allergies. We have been a 'nut aware' school for many years. Please do not pack nuts in your child's packed lunches. Please also continue to ensure packed lunches consist of healthy food items: sandwich, wraps, fruit, yogurt, cheese etc. No crisps, chocolates, fizzy drinks.

## Parents and Teacher of Hermitage (PATH) - AGM

PATH will be holding their Annual General Meeting in the school hall on Tuesday 10th October at 6.45pm.

If you would like to join our Parents and Teacher Association, as they are always looking for members, please come along, or give your details to a member of the office staff who will pass it on.

## Vapes / Cigarettes

Smoking and vaping is not permitted in or around the school premises. We thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

## Dojo - Photos

If you do not want your child's photo to appear on our Dojo thread, please message the office and the class teacher to let them



## Attendance Update

**It is vital that pupils attend school, on time, every day, in order to gain the greatest benefit from their education.**

96.7% is the national average for school attendance

95-100% (less than 10 days absence in a year) is good attendance and anything

97% or above is excellent - although 100% is what you should be aiming for.

**Schools aim for a total attendance figure of 96% and above.**

**Our attendance figure is currently:**

**95.21%**



**There has been a total of 26 lates since school started in September.**

Please make sure your child is in school ready and prepared to start the school day on time. Lateness can cause embarrassment to your child, make it harder for them to settle and cause interrupted learning to your child and the rest of their class.

The school has a responsibility to record all absences and lates. This information is shared with the Local Authority on a monthly basis. Persistent lateness can result in Local Authority intervention.

## School Times

All children are expected to arrive and to be collected punctually each day.

**School Times are:**



**Gates Open:** 8.25 am

**School Starts** 8.35—8.45 (soft start)

Children who arrive after 8.45 will be marked as late in the register

**School Closes:** 3.15pm

## Welfare News



The peak season for Head Lice is **August through October and again in**

**January.** Lice come in three forms: nits (eggs), nymphs (baby lice), and adults. Nits are white or yellowish-brown and about the size of a poppy seed.

Treat head lice as soon as you spot them. You can treat head lice without seeing a GP. You should check everyone in the house and **start treating anyone who has head lice** on the same day.

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.

**Do not send your child to school without treatment.**