



Hermitage Primary School

NEWSLETTER 5

6th December 2023

News from the Head of School

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you are all well and are enjoying the festive season. I have a number of things to share with you, please see headlines below:

New Parent 'Look and Learn' sessions

If I can extend my thanks to all parents who have joined us over the last couple of mornings. We would appreciate your feedback via Class Dojo. We aim to host these termly, with a set focus for each session. Reading and Phonics was our focus this time, and I will keep you posted on our future sessions.

Term Dates 2024/25

Small edits have been made to our term dates, please see the updated version via our website [LINK](#). A Trust letter was shared via email with all parents recently regarding Hillingdon Borough's change to the October half term in 2024. Please see the letter for full details.

Whole School Attendance

I am very proud to say that our whole school attendance throughout this term has been good, and we are above the national government expectation of 95%. Your continued support and dedication in ensuring your children are in school and on time is very important to us. Any absences from school not only results in lost learning opportunities, but also missed opportunities to develop their social and emotional skills, and peer friendships.

PATH Events and Support (Parents and Teachers at Hermitage)

I cannot give enough thanks for what our PATH team do for our children and our school. I have recently been spending their accrued funds from previous events and am delighted to say that we have:

- Set up a new STEAM Book Bus (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths). The approach is identical to our Equality and Diversity Book Bus, where the Book Bus visits each classroom for three weeks, offering our children a themed variety of books to read during the Drop Everything and Read Sessions.
- Additional resources to play with at lunchtimes.
- A brand new outdoor table tennis table. Once assembled, it will become a set feature on our playground, and an activity that our children can begin to enjoy!

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs Parmjit Kaur Varaitch
Head of School



Dates for your Diary



Thursday 7th December

- * Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day (Wear normal uniform with Christmas jumper)
- * Year 3 trip to the pantomime

Friday 8th December

- * PATH—Non-Uniform Day for donations to Christmas Fayre Tombola
- * 4H class assembly at 9:30am

Tuesday 12th December

- * PATH—Chat & Wrap items for the Christmas Tombola (8.50am)

Wednesday 13th December

- * VLT Christmas Concert at Scared Heart in Ruislip—By invitation only

Thursday 14th December

- * Nursery & Reception Nativity at St Margaret's Church, Uxbridge (AM)
- * New to Reception Open Day (4.30pm)

Monday 18th December

- * Rocksteady concert at 9:00am
- * Class Christmas parties (PM)
- * Jingle Jog in support of Harlington Hospice

Tuesday 19th December

- * PATH Christmas Fayre (3.15pm)

Wednesday 20th December

- * Year 2 & 5 Christmas Concert—9:00am and 2:30pm

Thursday 21st December

- * VLT Significant Achievement Assembly Invitation only

- * School closes at 1.15pm for Christmas

Thursday 4th – Friday 5th January

- * School Closed for Staff Training

Monday 8th January

- * School Opens for Spring Term 1

Tuesday 9th January

- * Reception Open Day (5pm)

Monday 15th January

- * Deadline for Reception applications

Wednesday Wellbeing and Safeguarding News



Action for Happiness

The calendar for December can be accessed [HERE](#).

It is titled 'December Kindness'. I always find the small nuggets of information really helpful: small things that we can also encourage our children to get involved with.

Thrive 365

I haven't shared a Thrive poster for some time. The poster can be found at this [LINK](#). Please consider ways that you can support children who might be feeling anxious as a result of things they've seen or heard.

Cyber Security

We can all be susceptible to the promise and excitement of online shopping, especially when there are bargains up for grabs, and young people are no different. However, it's important to teach and remind young people about the risks of scams and malicious online activity.

Parent Zone has teamed up with the **National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)** to create a resource to help young people and parents think about cyber security.

There are 2 quizzes for ages 11-12 and 13-14 that can test their understanding of cyber security and show how they can improve it. Please access at this [LINK](#).

What's on at Uxbridge Library

Christmas Animal Workshop

Join them to make some fantastic festive decorations on Thursday 7th December from 3.45-4.45pm (for ages 4-7 years).

To book a free place, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk or call 01895 250714

Create a Light-up Christmas Card

Join them to learn new science skills to create a festive light up card on Thursday 14th December from 4.00-5.30pm (for ages 7-11 years).

To book this free event, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk and search 'Reading Sparks'. Only book for children within the age range of (7-11).

PSD — Winter Multi-Sports Camp

PSD are running a multisports camp from Tuesday 2nd-Friday 5th January from 9am—3pm (extended hours 8am - 4pm) for children in years 1-7.

The camp will be held at Hillingdon Leisure Centre, the cost is £25 per day and bookings should be made online at www.thepsdgroup.org.uk



Attendance Update

It is vital that our children 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:

96.18 %

(compared to 96.45% at beginning of Nov)

There has been a total of **534** lates since school started in September.

As you can see, our school attendance is good, however, we need to make improvements with the number of lates each day, so please make sure your child is in school ready and prepared to start the school day on time at 8.35am for the soft start. Lateness can cause embarrassment to your child and make it harder for them to settle once in. This can then interrupt 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

Lost Property Alert!

We have an alarming amount of clothing and lost items in school that need reuniting with their owners! Please come into school to collect any of your child's missing things. Anything not collected by the Christmas break will be bagged up and disposed of.

