

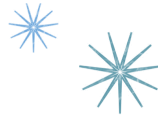


Hermitage Primary School
Focused on Excellence; Surrounded by Care

NEWSLETTER 7

Wednesday 24th January 2024

News from Head of School



Dear Parent / Guardian

We are well into the start of the new year and spring term, and we have lots of learning packed into the shortest term of the school year!

I would like to thank you for your continued support with daily school attendance. I am so proud that as a school we are achieving 95%+ for whole school attendance. This is a brilliant effort and echoes the government's current strategy, *'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts'*.

Please see headlines below for other news that I would like to share with you:

Christmas books purchased by PATH

At the end of the autumn term, PATH funded a Christmas book gift for all of our children. I am passionate about reading, and the positive impact it has on our children's academic and emotional well-being. Please continue to hear your children read daily, as well as reading to them, modelling fluency and prosody.

Rubbish and littering outside of our school

Please continue to place rubbish into the bins, over the last couple of weeks there has been a lot of littering immediately outside of the school gates.

Parent Drop-In Surgeries

We have provided many workshops to date and have decided that we would like to see how an open surgery, linked to an aspect within school, will support our parents further. The 'Reading' and 'Emotional Regulation' surgery will take place on the dates and times detailed below. Please contact the school if you are interested in attending and let us know what you would like to discuss.

Thursday 1st February 9-9.30: Emotional Regulation (Mrs Langford)

Thursday 8th February 9-9.30: Reading (Mrs Varaitch)

Parent Survey (Spring 1st)

Within this half term, we will be sending out a parent survey on clubs, as well as school communication. Please look out for it and complete it, as we value your feedback and aim to action any improvements.

Look and Learn sessions

The next session will take place in the final week (w/c 5.2.24), from 2.45pm-3.15pm, when we would love to have you onsite and in class for a 'Look and Learn' session on Maths! Further information to follow soon.

Kind regards

PK Varaitch

Mrs Parmjit Kaur Varaitch
Head of School



Dates for your Diary



Monday 12th—16th February

School closed at normal time for Half Term

Monday 19th February

School opens for Spring Term (2nd Half)

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 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



Attendance & Lateness

Attendance for the start of the year is below average at 95.74%, mainly due to illness.

Lateness continues to be an area of concern, with 173 incidents of lateness since the start of January! This figure includes 27 children who have been late to school on at least 5 occasions.

Children who arrive late to school often feel embarrassed and unsettled when walking in to a class of children who are all ready to begin their first lesson.

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





Wednesday Wellbeing and Safeguarding News

Action for Happiness

The calendar for January can be accessed [HERE](#). It is also uploaded to the wellbeing section of our website.

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

School's Wellbeing and Safeguarding Padlet

Our school padlet continues to hold a wealth of wellbeing and safeguarding information. The padlet is updated periodically, and it can be accessed via the school website as well as at this [LINK](#)

New Online Parent/Carer Drop-In Support Group

The centre for ADHD & Autism Support are delighted to be offering a new NWL parent/carers drop-in support group.

Group sessions will be held on Zoom on Wednesday evenings and Monday mornings and are aimed at parents/guardians whose children/young people are or are suspected to be ADHD/autistic.

Please access further information at this [LINK](#)

Time to Talk Day - Rethink Mental Illness

On Thursday 1st of February 2024 it will be 'Time to Talk Day'. The initiative seeks to give us all a chance to be more open about our mental health, and talk about how we really feel.

The celebration is given in partnership with the Co-Op and follows two subsequent years of successful 'Time to Talk' days.

The organisation's site currently hosts resources, ways to get involved and stories about how opening up about mental health has aided people up and down the country.

Please access further information at this [LINK](#).

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 6th February 2024

It's now less than a month until Safer Internet Day, with its theme of "Inspiring Change? Making a Difference, Managing Influence, and Navigating Change Online,"

To support parents too, the UK Safer Internet Centre has recently released an exclusive collection of short films, designed to captivate and educate children and young people aged 3 to 18 years old.

These films serve as starters for meaningful conversations as well as extending our children's knowledge about online safety.

The short films can be accessed via this [LINK](#).



Extra Curricular Clubs

We are pleased to be offering a whole host of After School activities this term, including:

Kiddy Cook
Rocksteady Music
Netball
Football
Lunchtime Club
Street Dance
Writing Club
French
Performing Arts
Illustration Club
Chess
Choir

Please access further information about our clubs at this [LINK](#)

Welfare News

There have been a few cases of Step A and Chicken Pox in school since we returned from the Christmas break. If you suspect your child has either of these infections, please seek advice from a Pharmacist, GP or call NHS 111. Please inform the school.

Further information and guidance, can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/strep-a/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>

Lost Property

We have accumulated a large amount of lost property again!

In order to return these items to their rightful owners, we will be displaying everything in the playground on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th February at the end of the school day.

Please note that all lost property remaining at school will be disposed of at half term.