



Hermitage Primary School
Focused on Excellence; Surrounded by Care

NEWSLETTER 9

Wednesday 28th February 2024



News from Head of School

Dear Parent / Guardian

The announcement of the new Headteacher, Mr Nicholas Hingley, was made last week, and Mr Hingley met parents and staff at school yesterday. We look forward to welcoming further visits to our school ahead of his official start on 15th April 2024.

World Book Day/Week 2024 is almost here!

Each year our celebrations run throughout the whole week. The theme 'Read Your Way' is very much about our children enjoying their reading, and reading for pleasure.

We have a number of activities planned from:

- Creating Reading door displays
- Creating Top 8 Class Reads
- Author Visits and much more!

We would particularly like you to get involved with the year group competition 'Reading for Pleasure - Unusual Places'. Please send through via email, or Class Dojo, photos (to your child's class teacher) of your child / children getting involved in the competition. Winners from each year group will receive a book!

You can access the official World Book Day website [HERE](#). Have a look through the £1 voucher books with your children, as well explore the section 'dressing up resources'.

Parent Survey (Spring 1st)

Thank you to the forty parents who shared their feedback. In the next newsletter I will share key findings.

Parents' Evening

You will be able to meet your child's class teacher on either Tuesday 19th or Wednesday 20th March. Emails will be sent out shortly for booking. We will also be holding personalised target setting meetings with Mrs Langford in March.

Kind regards

Mrs Parmjit Kaur Varaitch
Head of School



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 29th February

Year 2 School Trip — Tower of London

Monday 4th March

Reception King — Stay and Read (8.35-9am)

Thursday 7th March

World Book Day

Monday 11th March

Reception Bell—Stay and Read (8.35-9am)

Monday 18th March

Reception King —Stay and Read (8.35-9am)

Monday 25th March

Reception Bell—Stay and Read (8.35-9am)

Tuesday 19th / Wednesday 20th March

Parents Evening

Monday 25th—Tuesday 26th March

Year 4 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



Attendance & Lateness

Attendance for the start of the year is below average at **95.73%**, mainly due to illness.

Lateness continues to be an area of concern, with **405** incidents of lateness since the start of January!

Children are expected to arrive, 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 February can be accessed [HERE](#). It is also uploaded to the wellbeing section of our website. It is entitled 'Friendly February'. I will forward the calendar via email for March!

Parent Carer Support

New parent/carer drop-in sessions, run by 'Stronger Families Key Working and Brilliant Parents', are available for parents.

These sessions are an informal general advice drop in session. The first session commences in March 2024, and there are 3 hubs covering the borough - so hopefully access is available for many.

Brilliant Parents Parent Carer Support

Raising children doesn't come with a handbook, and sometimes knowing who to reach out to for support or advice is tricky. Brilliant Parents and the Stronger Families Key Working team are offering a friendly and informed drop-in for parents/carers of 0-25 year olds and 0-25 year olds for those with SEND.

We'll be there for a chat, to share advice, support and a range of information in relation to parenting and mental and emotional wellbeing for all the family.

2024	Parent Carer Hub	Parent Carer Hub	Parent Carer Hub
	Walsingham & Spax	Princes & Spax	Princes & Spax
March	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm
April	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm
May	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm
June	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm
July	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm
August	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm
September	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm	10am - 12pm

For more information contact Sarah on: 01480 624 440 or sarah_rust@brilliantparents.org

Our goal is to empower parents to feel safe, strong and healthy, whilst building resilience and confidence in your parenting practices, with the support of a community network.

Bereavement and Pupils with SEND — London Grid for Learning

The death of a loved one is difficult for every pupil. Whether the deceased was somebody close to the pupil in question, or only an acquaintance, its occurrence can often be the first encounter with death. For children and young people at the start of their lives, bereavement can bring up questions they've never had to deal with. This can have a profound effect on their educational and personal lives. This can be particularly hard for pupils with SEND, and their particular requirements will often need a different approach. To find out more about how to approach this issue, the London Grid for Learning (LGfL) has published a package of resources. If interested, please follow this [LINK](#).

Instagram Checklist - Southwest Grid for Learning

Instagram is one of the most used platforms among young people and adults alike. Over the past decade, the platform has become ubiquitous and is an excellent source of entertainment and information for people globally. The global reach of the platform though, can be a cause for concern for those who have children or work with under-18s. The programme is principally a digestion source focused on images and videos, with a private chat function which for many is the sole reason for its use. In today's image focused society, it can be an outlet for how people wish to be perceived physically or in regards to their personality. As a result it actively encourages people to post about their personal life, in a way that would be detrimental should everyone have access to it. Privacy is optional on Instagram, and there is a wide spectrum of privacy options. To understand these options better the Southwest Grid for Learning has published resources aimed at achieving this goal. Please click on this [LINK](#) to find out more.



Family Looms led by Hermitage leadership

We are delighted to announce that we will shortly be launching Family Looms (short, instructional videos) created by our SLT team. 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 —4.3.24

Writing

with Mrs Stephen

Week commencing — 11.3.24

Learning through Life

with Mrs Langford

Week commencing —18.3.24



Welfare News

Norovirus, also called the "winter vomiting bug", is a stomach bug that causes vomiting and diarrhoea. It can be very unpleasant, but usually goes away in about 2 days.

The main symptoms of norovirus are:

- feeling sick (nausea)
- diarrhoea
- being sick (vomiting)
- You may also have:
- a high temperature
- a headache
- aching arms and legs

The symptoms start suddenly within 1 to 2 days of being infected.

You can usually treat yourself or your child at home.

The most important thing is to rest and have lots of fluids to avoid dehydration.

You will usually start to feel better in 2 to 3 days.

[Find out how to treat diarrhoea and vomiting in children and adults](#)