

# Newsletter



Hermitage Primary School

Issue No: 13 | 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024



## Headteacher News

Dear Parents and Carers.

This week, I was invited to attend a very important event. It was, of course, Brunel's class assembly!

I am not often lost for words, but their messages really did make me reflect. Their assembly was called 'We are Imagineers' and was all about bringing our imagination to life. They have given us permission to daydream and to be bored, because, away from the distractions of every day life, allowing ourselves to become bored and daydream enables us to be creative, to dream, invent and be curious.

They also gave us permission to 'get lost in stories' and to get carried away with the writing process. I sometimes forget that I love reading. Sometimes, our lives become so busy we forget to stop and take a break. That is very true for our children too. Giving them the time and space, and sharing reading with them, can be magical. It will also be the single most influential thing you do to improve the life chances of your children.

The following is taken from 'The Reading Agency'.

- *Reading for pleasure is more important for children's cognitive development than their parents' level of education and is a more powerful factor in life achievement than socio-economic background.*
- *16-year-olds who choose to read books for pleasure outside of school are more likely to secure managerial or professional jobs in later life.*

1. [\[Sullivan and Brown \(2013\) Social inequalities in cognitive scores at age 16: The role of reading\]](#)
2. [\[Taylor \(2011\) Reading at 16 linked to better job prospects\]](#)

Sometimes we all forget the things that we hold dear. Year 5 have inspired me, and I am sure many of the children in the audience, to read, to daydream and to be creative.

These are very powerful messages: even more powerful when we consider that this was written and created entirely by our year 5s. I would expect our pupils to be able to deliver lines well and sing with confidence, as they did this morning, but doing so in front of an audience is a different experience altogether. They performed magnificently well and really captured their audience's imagination.

Thank you to Miss Goodwin and her team, and thank you to all of class 5 Brunel for your inspirational assembly.

Kind regards

Mr N S Hingley  
Headteacher

## Dates for your Diary

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May  
Half Term holiday  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
School opens for Summer Term (2nd Half)  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 12-3pm  
PATH Summer Fayre  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July  
Pupil Transition Day  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July  
Sports Day  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July  
School closes at 1.15pm for the Summer  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
Staff Training Day

## Attendance News

Attendance for the start of the term is below average at 95.58% (down from 95.62% last month). 96% is considered satisfactory for schools.

Lateness continues to be an area of concern with 849 incidents of lateness since the start of January! Children who arrive after 8.45 will be marked as late in the register and so we remind parents of the importance of being to school on time.

Parents with children in Year 5 and below should remain with their children until they are in school each morning. Please do not leave your child/children unsupervised on the school premises.

## Teaching & Learning 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.

[Please see the schedule below:](#)

Week 13.5.24 –  
Bullying and Bystanders with Mr. Hingley

Week 20.5.24 –  
Reading & Vocabulary enrichment  
with Mrs. Varaitch

# Wellbeing Wednesday and Safeguarding News

## Action for Happiness

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

## Measles Information

The below information was shared by the DfE last week:

The number of measles cases in England has increased significantly since October 2023.

With exams starting shortly, please remind students, staff and parents to protect themselves by ensuring they have had 2 doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. It's never too late to catch up. If they are unsure of their vaccination status, encourage them to check their Red Book or speak to their GP.

Vaccination is the best way to ensure measles does not prevent students from completing their exams.

If a measles case is confirmed in your school or college, your local Health Protection Team will work with you to agree options for reducing transmission, helping to minimise exam disruption.

For further information, see guidance at this [link](#), as well as a webinar to watch [here](#).

## Safeguarding Briefing from the LADO at Hillingdon

This briefing was shared by LADO Hannah Ives on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The briefing has been prepared in collaboration with health colleagues. Hannah shared:

The purpose is to raise awareness about a concerning 'cure' for ASD. This links to a BBC News article from April 2024, see at this [link](#). We are aware of families that have been approached in the Hillingdon borough.

Please can we encourage this is shared amongst staff and most importantly shared with all parents (especially in specialist provisions)- offering a chance for them to come and speak with you should they have any concerns so you can support them in understanding the risks identified by health.

The full briefing can be read at this [link](#).

## QR Codes - National Cyber Security Centre

QR Codes, what are they? We've all seen them whether it's at your local or on the bus stop you use to get to work.

For most they're simply a faster way to share links with a vast number of people, without having to communicate with every single person in turn. Or at least that was the original intention, increasingly they're being used in official communications and office affairs. But how safe is it to use them, after all it's an image with no text attached save from that which comes from the writer of the advertisement or administrative communique. The reality is anybody could embed anything into any one of them.

The National Cyber Security Centre has sought to address this question with a new post over on their site. If interested, please click on this [link](#).