

Newsletter



Hermitage Primary School

Issue No: 15 | 13th June 2024



Headteacher News

Dear Parents and Carers

We are all most definitely back into the swing of the school term. I hope you all had a restful break and, like me, are looking forward to some finer weather over the next few weeks.

The second half of the summer term is busy. Not only do we have assessments but we are also looking forward to the next academic year, and ensuring that the transitions into new year groups are as smooth as possible. At Hermitage, we are proud of how mature our pupils are when dealing with change. The nursery children who enjoyed an Odds Farm trip certainly look ready for Reception and some of our year 6 pupils this week have had some transition meetings with staff from their new school.

Mrs Langford spoke to the staff about our own upcoming transitions. Some of our teachers will be changing year groups, or even moving on to new schools, very much like our children. She used the phrase 'end well and celebrate success', which I think sums it up perfectly.

I mentioned earlier about our Nursery trip to Odds Farm. Year 6 also went to ASC International School in Cobham for a STEM day. Please see Ms. Colgan's Class Dojo post – it sounded very exciting!

In addition to these events, we have several other activities planned to enrich the children's school experience, including our upcoming PATH Summer Fayre, which we hope you will be able to support. Without our PATH events, we would not have the additional funds we need in order to upgrade curriculum based items in our school. At present, we are working towards upgrading our library books and purchasing a new stage for the hall.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community.

Kind regards

Mr N S Hingley
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Summer Term 2

Friday 21st June

Class Photos

Saturday 29th June

PATH Summer Fayre (12-3pm)

Tuesday 2nd July

Pupil Transition Day

Wednesday 3rd July

Sports Day for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & 2

Thursday 4th July

Sports Day for Years 3,4,5 & 6

Friday 19th July

School closes at 1.15pm for the Summer

Monday 22nd July

School closed - Staff Training Day

Autumn Term

Monday 2nd – Tuesday 3rd September

School closed - Staff Training Days

Wednesday 4th September

School opens - New Academic Year (Autumn 1)

W/C 9th September

School opens for Reception Children

Friday 25th October

School closes at normal time for Half Term

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November

School closed - Half Term

Monday 4th November

School opens (Autumn 2)

Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November

School closed - Staff Training Day

Friday 20th December

School closes at 1.15pm for Christmas

Spring Term

Monday 6th - Tuesday 7th January 2025

School closed - Staff Training Days

Wednesday 8th January

School opens (Spring 1)

Attendance News

Attendance for this academic year is currently 95.56%

Thank you to all parents who have supported the school with raising our whole school attendance to above 95%. Last year, we finished the year on 94.8%.

This year, we have also reduced our persistent absenteeism percentage. In July 2023, our PA was 14.9%, currently we are 3% lower.

This half term, Mrs Varaitch is meeting with all parents whose child's attendance is below 90%. The aim is to continue to work as a partnership to support our children to be in school each day.

Wellbeing and Safeguarding News

Learn Hillingdon

Please see details of new fully funded adult education courses for parents / carers:

- Introduction to Understanding ADHD
- Career Pathways Workshop NHS

Further details can be accessed [here](#).

Household Support Fund – Hillingdon Council

The Free School Meal holiday programme is funded by the Household Support Grant. Recently the grant was extended from April 2024 - September 2024. This means that they can continue to support those families with children attending a Hillingdon School, who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals, during the six weeks' school summer holiday 2024 with food vouchers.

Further details can be accessed via the Hillingdon website at this [link](#).

Managing Anxiety in Children and Young People – Young Minds

As we come towards the end of the academic year, many children will be moving on, some within the school and others to new places. Almost all young people will feel anxious to some extent and for some this anxiety can become overwhelming. Young Minds has really helpful information and advice for understanding and supporting a young person with anxiety, including resources to signpost them to.

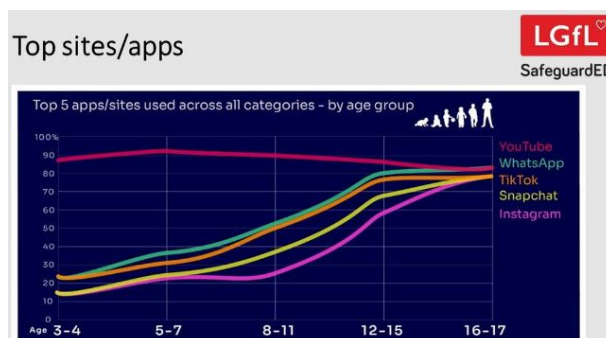
Please access further information [here](#).

Online Safety in EYFS

Recent data from Ofcom suggests the below:

- 84% of 3-4 year olds go online
- 25% of 3-4 year olds own a Smartphone
- 88% of 3-4 year olds who go online, use YouTube
- 25% of 3-4 year olds who go online, use TikTok

Please continue to ensure your child's safety online.



Talk Pants



Are you familiar with the book Pantosaurus? Pantosaurus has helped 1.5 million parents Talk PANTS and help keep their children safe from sexual abuse.

Developed in consultation with children, parents, carers and teachers, Talk PANTS is here to help children understand their body belongs to them, and they should tell a safe adult they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

There are parent/carer workshops that will explain Talk PANTS and support for Talking PANTS at home. Please access further information via this [letter](#) from Hillingdon Social Care.

Met Police Webinar for Parents/Carers – Re: Gangs, Grooming, Exploitation.

The MET Police Central Youth Team, are currently running a project, offering a FREE and online, parent/carer engagement webinar on Tuesday 25th June, 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

The session will give advice to parents/carers, on how to spot signs of County Lines, gang affiliation, grooming and exploitation. The input will include a lived experience speaker who will explain how they themselves or their children, became involved with gangs and exploitation.

The poster at this [link](#), details further information about the free webinar and how to register.