

Newsletter

Hermitage Primary School



Issue No: 4 | 15th November 2024



Headteacher News

Dear Parents / Carers

The term is flying by and the two weeks since our last newsletter have gone in the blink of an eye. This week, we have been busy with parents' evenings. It has been great to see how many of you managed to come into school to receive feedback. The hall was a hub of activity, talking about the very most important thing - your children!

During the last few weeks, we have celebrated our trust's Environmental Sustainability Week, where we designed posters and made pledges to reduce our carbon footprint. Activities included creating exoskeletons from recycled materials, upcycling pots for pencil storage, organising litter picks, and taking on the "How Low Can You Go?" challenge to cut down on single-use plastics.

We have also been carrying out activities for Anti-Bullying Week, which have included daily lessons centered on bullying. On Monday, we marked Remembrance Day in a special assembly led by some of our school councillors, and we look forward to our celebration assemblies on Friday.

I am in the very fortunate position of being able to visit your children's classes regularly and it is fantastic to see all the very important learning going on. I have also been proud to show prospective parents around the school. Your children's behaviour is exemplary and they are so focused on their learning, which is a delight to see.

Thank you to all of you who are supporting your children's learning at home. It really does make a difference. The biggest impact you can have as a parent on your child's learning is fostering a love of books -reading to them, with them and in front of them. Even just talking with your children, so that they are exposed to high quality language on a daily basis makes a massive difference.

Thank-you everyone - wrap up warm over the next couple of weeks and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Kind regards

Mr N S Hingley
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Friday 15th November

- Carols at the Christmas Tree and Lights switch on at the Civic Centre (5.45-6.45pm)

Tuesday 19th November

- Y3 – Science Workshop

Wednesday 20th November

- Y5 & Y6 – ExpertED – Careers in the Classroom Session
- Away Football Match – Colham Manor (3.30-5.30pm)

Friday 22nd November

- Y5 & Y6 – Police Workshop (9-10am)
- Y6 – Police 'Gangs' Workshop (10.15-11.45am)
- Away Football Match – Cherry Lane (3.30-4pm)

Tuesday 26th November

- PATH – Parents' Coffee Morning – all welcome (9am)
- Away Netball Match – St Helen's (3.30-4.45pm)

Wednesday 27th November

- No Pans Day

Thursday 28th November

- School Closed for Staff Development Day

Friday 29th November

- School Closed for Staff Development Day

Wednesday 4th December

- Y1 – Church Visit (1-3pm)

Thursday 5th December

- Y3 – Compass Theatre Visit (10.30am-1pm)
- Rec & Y1 – PATH Book at Bedtime (5-6.30pm)

Friday 6th December

- PATH - Non-Uniform Day for Christmas Fayre
- R, Y1 & Y2 – Chocolate Donation
- Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 – Toy Donation

Monday 9th December

- PATH – Chat & Wrap Coffee Morning (9am)
- VLT Christmas Concert (1.30-3pm)

Tuesday 10th December

- PATH Christmas Fayre (3.30-5.00pm)

Wednesday 11th December

- Nursery Christmas Performance

Thursday 12th December

- Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Monday 16th December

- Y1 - Rocksteady Concert (10am)
- Y4 – Rocksteady Concert (2pm)

Tuesday 17th December

- Y2 & Y5– Christmas Concert (9.15-10.15am)
- Y2 & Y5 – Christmas Concert (2.15-3.15pm)

Friday 20th December

- School Closes at 1.15pm for Christmas



Wellbeing and Safeguarding News

Action for Happiness – November

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

Learn Hillingdon Digital for Life Programme

The fully funded Digital for Life courses are delivered in a supportive environment to help you improve your knowledge and skills. The course providers can then guide you to your next steps.

Use this [link](#) to assess their full programme offer.

National College Top Tips: What Parents Need to Know About ‘Fortnite’

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, it remains massively popular, with more than 650 million active players. The age restriction for the online game is 12 years of age. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as ‘chapters’ and within these sit shorter ‘seasons’.

This parental [guide](#) holds key information.

Family Lives: Online Parenting Courses

This week marks the start of anti-bullying week. The website holds a lot of resources and helpful bullying advice to help take a stand against bullying. The free online parenting courses are a great way to get advice and learn new skills in the comfort of your own home and at times to suit you. All of the courses are filled with helpful techniques and ideas that will help you become a confident and happy parent. Crucially, you can do a course whenever and wherever suits you and work through it at our own pace. Access their range of courses via the website [here](#).

National College Top Tips: Encouraging Children to Choose Respect

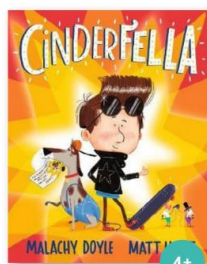
Sometimes differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it is natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect and kindness is essential – especially in difficult situations. This [guide](#) provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for all.

PIXL Reading for Pleasure Home Newsletter – Autumn 2nd half term

We hope you all enjoyed a restful break and are ready for the exciting term ahead! As we dive into this half term, PIXL have a host of enriching events and celebrations planned to inspire and engage your children. From World Nursery Rhyme Week, which nurtures early language skills, to Non-fiction November, where they explore fascinating facts and stories, there’s something for everyone to enjoy.

Please access the newsletter [here!](#)

There are a host of great new reads within this newsletter.



PATH News

Exciting Christmas Events at Hermitage!

As the festive season approaches, we are thrilled to announce a line up of exciting events to bring joy and cheer to our school community.

Mark your calendars, gather your family and friends, and join us in celebrating the most wonderful time of the year!

Upcoming Christmas Events:

Thursday 5th December (5-6.30pm)

Book at Bedtime with Milk and Cookies!

Children in Reception and Year 1 come dressed in their PJs, bring in a cuddly toy, blanket and a lidded cup, and join teachers and friends for an evening of stories and games. Milk and cookies.

Friday 6th December

Non-Uniform Day

We ask children to come to school in their own clothes in exchange for a donation to our Christmas Fayre:

Reception, Year 1 & 2 – we would like you to donate a chocolate prize. Years, 3, 4, 5 & 6 – we would like you to donate a toy prize.

Monday 9th December (9am)

Chat & Wrap Coffee Morning

We ask that parents join us for coffee, a chat, and help wrap and ticket our prizes for the Christmas Fayre. All help gratefully received!

Tuesday 10th December (3.30-5pm)

Christmas Fayre

Join us for our Christmas Fayre, A festive time beyond compare! Santa's coming, the choir will sing, With crafts and raffles — joy we'll bring. Stalls, food and treats, a feast divine, Come share the magic at Christmastime!

In addition to the upcoming festivities, we are excited to invite all parents to a coffee morning on Tuesday 26th November at 9am in the school hall. This will be a great opportunity to catch up with other parents and have a chat with Mr Hingley, who will be joining us.

As you can see, PATH has an action-packed agenda for the upcoming term. If you are interested in getting involved, we'd love to have new members join us! You do not need to make a full-time commitment; just helping with specific events would be greatly appreciated. We will be at the coffee morning, so feel free to stop by for a chat. Alternatively, you can contact us via email at path@hermitageprimary.org.uk – we would love to hear from you. Alternatively, if you work for a company that might be interested in sponsoring or donating to one of our events, we would also love to hear from you.

Kind regards

The PATH Team

Attendance Update

The overall school attendance is currently 97.02%, which is above the national average of 96%. This is a great achievement and we appreciate the commitment of both the children and parents in maintaining high attendance.

However, there have been 203 instances of students arriving late (3 times or more). While we understand that mornings can sometimes be busy, we cannot stress enough the importance of ensuring your child arrives on time. Every minute in the classroom is valuable and late arrivals can disrupt the start of the school day for both your child and their classmates.

It's important that children are in school by 8.30am, ready to begin their day when the class doors open at 8.35am. This will allow them to settle in, engage in the morning activities and be prepared for a productive day of learning.

We ask that you make every effort to ensure your child arrives on time, as **EVERY DAY MATTERS**.

Thank you for your continued support.

VLT – Current Vacancies

Please access the links by clicking on the job title for each of the current vacancies within Vanguard Learning Trust schools.

Ruislip High School

[Premises Assistant](#)

(36 hours per week / 52 weeks per year / Mon – Thu from 11.30am – 7.45pm and Friday 11.45am – 7.45pm)

Closing date: 20.11.24 at 10am

[Science Technician](#)

(36 hours per week / Term Time + 5 training days / Mon – Friday)

Closing date: 26.11.24 at 10am

Welfare / Medical News

As the season of coughs, colds and winter bugs is upon us, please see this [poster](#) from the NHS, which directs you to the 'Healthier Together' app. We hope you will find it useful.

If you are worried about your child's health, this is an excellent Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, NHS page that you can [link](#) to for a variety of advice concerning a range of health matters.

Finally, our school asthma nursing team are holding free asthma workshops, which includes what to do, inhaler techniques, common triggers etc. Use this [link](#) to take you to their poster, which gives details of dates and how to contact them to reserve a place.