

Newsletter

Hermitage Primary School



Issue No: 7 | 21st January 2025



Nursery are learning about Fairytales and made porridge for Goldilocks and the three Bears!

Headteacher News

Dear Parents/Carers,

Safe travelling!

Before Christmas, we held a lovely assembly with the children on 'Be Bright, Be Seen' (<https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/be-bright-be-seen-game/>). We discussed the importance of wearing bright and reflective clothing, especially during winter when it is often dark during school arrival and departure times. We also explored the use of reflective tags that can be clipped onto bags for extra safety.

You may have noticed that our uniform policy has changed. We no longer ask children to wear blue or black coats, instead encouraging them to choose bright and colourful options.

Please remember to be careful when dropping off your children at school. Parking safely is crucial to keeping everyone safe. Unfortunately, I have noticed some parents dropping off children on the zig-zags of the zebra crossing outside the school. Please do not do this, as it is extremely unsafe. Your child could unknowingly step into the path of a cyclist or motorbike. Please park safely and escort your children into school, waiting with them until staff open the doors.

The Start of Term

I often find myself repeating how quickly the term is whizzing by, and this one is no exception—it seems to zoom past in a flash! I sometimes wish we could slow time down to enjoy the precious moments we have.

This past week, I have had the privilege of spending time with your children in their classes. I visited Nursery, where the children were so polite and welcoming. I didn't know Nursery had a 'Costa Coffee shop,' but I found myself drinking coffee and tea all afternoon! Some children even made me cakes and cookies. It was a joy to see them learning through play.

I also had the opportunity to teach in Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5. I was humbled by the warm welcome I received and impressed with your children's determination to succeed.

Year 1 students also visited me to showcase their English work. There is a strong focus on key skills, which our pupils take great pride in mastering. Skills such as making sentences make sense, using capital letters and full stops, and writing to the margin can be challenging to remember, but I am delighted to see Year 1 working incredibly hard to achieve their very highest standards.

You should be proud of your children—they are polite, caring, inquisitive, and working incredibly hard.

Have a lovely rest of your week.

Kind regards

Mr N S Hingley
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary January

Tuesday 21st January

- Bikeability 9.30-11am / 1-3pm

Wednesday 22nd January

- Bikeability 9.30-11am / 1-3pm
- Year 6 – VLT Spelling Bee

Thursday 23rd January

- Rec & Y1 - Pedestrian Training (9.30am-11.40am)
- Bikeability 9.30-11am / 1-3pm
- Y2 & Y3 - PATH – School Disco (3.30 – 5.00pm)
- Y4, Y5 & Y6 - PATH – School Disco (5.15 – 6.45pm)

Tuesday 28th January

- Years 3,4,5 & 6 Police Workshop

Wednesday 29th January

- 5F – Class Assembly

Thursday 30th January

- Year 4 – Ufton Court Trip

Friday 31st January

- Year 4 – Return from Ufton Court Trip

February

Monday 3rd – Friday 7th February

- Scholastic Book Fayre – Small Hall (3.15pm)

Friday 7th

- NSPCC Number (look out for the letter)

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

- School Closed for Half Term

Monday 24th February

- School Opens (Spring Term 2)

Attendance News

Attendance at the school currently stands at an impressive **96.16%** from September to date, slightly exceeding the national expected percentage of 96%. This is a fantastic achievement, especially considering the challenges posed by seasonal illnesses at this time of year. It reflects the commitment of students, families, and staff in maintaining high attendance despite these obstacles.

Wellbeing Wednesday and Safeguarding News

Action for Happiness – Wellbeing Calendar

The *Happier January* calendar is now available! You can find it [here](#) and on our Wellbeing and Safeguarding Padlet, accessible [here](#). This calendar offers small, practical tips to support self-regulation and encourage calm. Please explore these tips with your children – they are a great way to promote wellbeing together!

Online Safety

In today's digital age, children are spending more time online, which comes with both opportunities and risks. We encourage parents to familiarise yourself with apps and platforms your children use, such as TikTok, Snapchat and Roblox. Set clear boundaries for screen time and online activities. Use parental controls on devices and talk openly about the importance of staying safe online. The [NSPCC's Online Safety Hub](#) is an excellent resource with guides for parents.

Mental Health Awareness

The start of a new year can bring mixed emotions for children, so it is important to support positive mental health. Encourage open conversations at home about feelings and stress, ensure your child gets plenty of rest and has a routine that balances schoolwork and relaxation.

Road Safety

As the darker mornings and evenings approach, it is crucial to remind children of road safety. Ensure your child(ren) wear reflective clothing if walking or cycling to school; discuss the importance of using designated crossings and staying alert near roads.

Other News

School Disco

We are thrilled to announce our first PATH event of the year — a school disco for Years 2 to 6 on Thursday 23rd January! We felt that a disco may be a bit overwhelming for our EYFS children and so they had a wonderful time at their own special event, "Book at Bedtime."

Please note that the Years 2 and 3 disco runs from 3.30 to 5.00pm. Children should come to school with their disco clothes, as they will change in their classrooms before being escorted to the hall by their class teachers. The disco for Years 4 to 6 will be at 5.15 to 6.45pm. Please bring your children to the small hall via the front playground.

Children attending the disco from After-school Club should also bring a change of clothes, so that they can get ready and head to the event. We look forward to seeing everyone there for an evening of fun and dancing!

