

Newsletter



Hermitage Primary School

Issue No: 8 – 14th February 2025



Dates for your Diary

Friday 14th February

- EYFS & Year 1 – Fairy tale Dress up day!

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

- School Closed for Half Term

Monday 24th February

- School Opens (Spring Term 2)

Monday 3rd – Friday 7th March

- VLT Equality Week

Wednesday 5th March

- Year 5 – Author Visit
- Year 2 – Author Workshop
- Football Match – Home (3.45-4.45pm)

Monday 10th March

- Empathy Week

Monday 17th March

- Year 2 – Rocksteady Concert (Time TBC)

Tuesday 18th March

- Parents Evening (3.30-6.30pm)

Wednesday 19th March

- Parents Evening (3.30-6.00pm)

Friday 21st March

- Year 6 – Young Citizens at Brunel

Headteacher News

Dear Parents / Carers

As I write my part of this newsletter, the sun is shining through my window. What a welcome relief from the never-ending drizzle and dullness that we have experienced lately. I hope that we can look forward to some more sunshine over our half term break.

In schools, our half terms naturally give a cadence to the year and although this one has been short, we have achieved much. I enjoy the fact that we can stop and look back at everything our pupils have achieved over such a short space of time. They are around half way through the academic year, with much still to look forward to. The spring term is often the one in which your children make the most progress and is exciting to see this in action across the school. Our youngest learners have become so much more independent and able to adapt to the routines of school life. Our eldest pupils look forward to their SATS and the transition into the next part of their educational journey - secondary school! In the midst of all of the hard work is fun.

Yesterday, year 1 had a fairy tale workshop and today, they, alongside EYFS, have come to school dressed as characters from fairy tales. These activities really bring their learning to life and we all know that we learn better, when we have fun along the way. Our year 4 children also had fun with their learning when they went to Ufton Court. The activities included bow making, an experience on a long boat, Roman army training and a feast in the Great Hall! This history trip was an amazing opportunity for all involved and I must thank Mrs Stephen, Mrs Colgan, Miss Jackman and Mrs Raycheva for all of their help and support on this residential. We have also had pedestrian training and Bikeability courses within school, as well as police workshops, class assemblies and a disco (thanks to PATH).

Have a fantastic break and I look forward to welcoming you all back after half term.

Kind regards

Mr N S Hingley
Headteacher



Attendance

Currently, our whole school attendance to date is **96 %**, which is down on last month. We have recorded **118** instances of lateness (five or more times) since the start of the Spring Term (January 2025).

School News



Netball

Girls Team Netball Results (Hermitage 6 - Cowley St Laurence 6)

Well done to all the girls in the netball team for their fantastic performance. They played with determination and teamwork, securing a well-earned tie. This result means the team retains joint 1st place at the top of the league table.

Football

Girls Borough Football Tournament

It was fantastic to see so many girls from across the borough braving the cold to take part in this year's Year 3 & 4 Football Tournament. The event was a great showcase of young talent and enthusiasm for the sport.

Our Hermitage girls put on a brilliant performance, winning their group stage and securing a place in the quarter-finals. Their skill, maturity and sportsmanship were truly commendable, and we could not be prouder of them.

Ufton Court



Children in Year 4 had a fantastic time on their overnight trip to Ufton Court, where they immersed themselves in hands-on history as part of their topic work. The visit brought the past to life, allowing them to explore the Grade 1 listed Tudor Manor House, step inside a Celtic

Roundhouse, and take part in interactive activities such as curing a cursed field as Saxons. Set within 40 acres of stunning woodland in Berkshire, Ufton Court offers a rich historical setting, complete with a Viking long ship, medieval ponds, and secret priest holes. The children's experiences helped deepen their understanding of the past in an exciting and engaging way. A huge thank you to the staff who volunteered their time to take the children on the trip. Although they didn't get much sleep, they reported that the children were a credit to our school, demonstrating excellent behaviour and enthusiasm throughout.



The Viking children, also known as Year 4, are dressed and ready for a Viking feast following a successful day battling!

'The whole experience was great fun. The leaders were outstanding and remained in role throughout but made the children feel very safe when doing the exciting activities such as marauding to new lands and learning how to fight with (wooden) axes and shields.'

Mrs Colgan, Year 4 teacher

'I enjoyed making bows and learning all about punishments in Viking times.'

Sam, Year 4

'I was chosen to be a guard in our courtroom activity. I was there to protect the judge and to choose who needed to have a punishment. It was great fun!'

Lincoln, Year 4

NSPCC - Number Day

NSPCC Number Day was a great success this year, with children enthusiastically using maths in everyday situations while raising funds for charity. The children looked fantastic in their costumes, and we extend our thanks to parents and teachers for their efforts in making the day enjoyable and memorable. The total amount raised will be announced soon.



Lost Property

In the lead-up to half-term, all lost property has been out in playground after school for collection. Please note that at the end of today any unclaimed items will be donated to a charity shop. To help ensure belongings can be returned easily, please take the half-term break as an opportunity to clearly name all your child's school items. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping lost property to a minimum!

Years 3-6 Police Workshops

This term, children in Years 3-6 took part in police-led workshops focused on important topics that help them navigate the world safely and responsibly. These sessions covered current issues relevant to young people, encouraging discussions about making positive choices, staying safe and understanding the consequences of their actions. Educating children at a primary school level is key to building confidence and awareness, and we are grateful to our local police for delivering such engaging and informative workshops.

Year 1 & 3 - Pedestrian Training

Our Year 3 children recently took part in Pedestrian Training, an important session designed to teach them essential road safety skills. The training focused on helping children identify dangers, cross roads safely and develop awareness of traffic in real-life situations. Ensuring our pupils understand how to stay safe near roads is vital, and we are proud to support their learning with this valuable experience. Thank you to everyone who helped make this session possible!

Scholastic Book Fayre

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Scholastic Book Fair! It was fantastic to see so many children excited about books and to witness just how many avid readers we have at Hermitage. We are thrilled to announce that the school has received reward vouchers worth an incredible £670.70! These vouchers will be used to purchase books for both the main library and classroom libraries, ensuring our children have access to even more fantastic reads. Your support has made this event a great success—thank you!

Exciting News from Our School Kitchen!

We are thrilled to share that our catering provider, IFG, has been awarded a 5-star rating by the Food Standards Agency for food hygiene and safety! This top rating reflects their commitment to providing high quality, nutritious meals in a clean and safe environment for our children. We are incredibly grateful to the kitchen team for their hard work and dedication to maintaining the highest standards in our school kitchen. Well done to everyone involved!

Children Struggling with Sleep? Support for Families this February!

Did you know that up to 50% of children experience sleep difficulties at some point—and for children with SEND, this number rises to 80%. Poor sleep doesn't just mean tired mornings; it can lead to difficulty concentrating in school, emotional ups and downs and even long-term health concerns - and of course, exhausted children often mean exhausted parents! Whether you're dealing with bedtime battles, night time wake-ups or trying to convince your teen to put down their screens, The Sleep Charity is offering expert tips, resources and practical advice to help families get better rest. This February, take the first step towards happier mornings and healthier sleep—download the [Supporter's Pack](#) for helpful guidance.

Parents Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to our upcoming Parents' Evenings on Tuesday 18th March from 3:30pm to 6:30pm and Wednesday 19th March from 3:30pm to 6:00pm. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and achievements with their teachers. We appreciate your support and hope to see as many of you as possible. Please make sure you book your slot on School Cloud.



Nursery - Morning Session

Soft Start	8.30 - 8.40 am
Morning Registration	8.45 am
Nursery Finishes	11.30 am
Total Hours	15

Nursery - Afternoon Session

Soft Start	12.15 - 12.25 pm
Afternoon Registration	12.30 pm
Nursery Finishes	3.15 pm
Total Hours	15

Reception and Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

School Gates Open	8.25 am
Soft Start	8.35 - 8.45 am
Morning Registration	8.50 am
School Finishes	3.15 pm
School Gates Close	3.30 pm

If your child arrives once the doors are closed, you must take them to the office where they will be marked as late.

Office Opening Times

School Office	8.35 am - 3.30 pm
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