

Newsletter



Hermitage Primary School

Issue No: 9 – 17th March 2025



Headteacher News

Dear Parents / Carers

In my last newsletter, I mentioned that the sun had been shining that day. I find myself here again, the sun is shining and the days are getting longer. With the beautiful display of crocuses, snowdrops, and now daffodils, spring is most definitely here!

For those families who are observing Ramadan, we hope this month brings you peace, blessings and spiritual growth. It has been lovely to see children of all faiths praying in unity in classrooms during lunchtimes. Ramadan Kareem to you all!

One of the strengths of Hermitage is our relationships. Visitors notice our welcoming environment as soon as they walk through our doors - they often comment on the genuine warmth they receive from both the adults and the children. The children really are at the heart of everything we do in the school. They are the life and heartbeat of our daily lives. It is a pleasure working with them and I think that you should feel very proud of the young people that they are. They speak with passion about their learning, and their enthusiasm really is infectious. We recently had some visitors from the Trust during what we call a 'Peer Review Day'. They spent time watching lessons and talking to children about their learning. Our visitors from the Trust were effusive with their praise and they noted the children's confidence when talking about their lessons and the curriculum. We are all very proud of how your children are progressing and how delightful their behaviour is around the school. Thank you for all of your continuing support.

Reminders - Please make sure that you are on time when bringing your children into school. Lateness does disrupt learning, both for the child that is late, and for the other children in the class. If you are only 5 minutes late each day, that adds up to 25 minutes each week. This amounts to over 5 hours every term, and over 16 hours over the course of the year. We know that mornings can be hard but do try your best to be on time.

Parking - Please be careful where you park when you travel to school. Some parents have been dropping their children off on zig zags for the zebra crossing, as well as on yellow lines. Please be safe when dropping off!

Parents Evenings - Don't forget that these are taking place this week - we have a few slots still available, so please do book if you haven't already.

The countdown is on for sunny days that are here to stay!

Kind regards

Mr N S Hingley
Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

Monday 17th March

- Year 2 and Year 5 – Rocksteady Concert
- Year 5 & 6 – Brentford Football at Uxbridge High School (12.15-3.15pm)
- Boys Netball Rally at Ryefield (3.15-5.15pm)

Tuesday 18th March

- Parents Evening (3.30-6.30pm)

Wednesday 19th March

- 4C – Assembly – Parents' Welcome (2.30pm)
- Parents Evening (3.30-6.00pm)

Friday 21st March

- Year 6 – Young Citizens at Brunel

Wednesday 26th March

- Football – (3.30-5.30pm)

Thursday 3rd April

- Year 1 – Spring Play – Parents' Welcome (2pm)

Friday 4th April

- School closes at 1.15pm for Easter Holidays

Tuesday 22nd April

- School opens for the start of Summer Term.

Attendance



Currently, our whole school attendance to date is **95.90%**, which is down on last month (96%).

We have recorded **220** instances of lateness (five or more times) since the start of the Spring Term (January 2025).

Being on time for school teaches children the importance of punctuality, a skill that will benefit them throughout their lives. It helps them develop discipline, responsibility and good time management — qualities that are essential for future success in higher education and the workplace.

School News

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, and so, we hope to see as many of you as possible. Please make sure you book your time slot on School Cloud. The meetings will take place again in the hall so please head through the playground and into the hall. You will exit via the small hall door, creating a one-way system.

Author Visit

The children in Years 5 and 2 enjoyed a visit from author, Nathaniel Tomlinson, who is best known for his popular *Bike Shed Bully Hunters* series of young adult novels. Inspired by his own struggle to find engaging books as a child, he set out to create stories that blend action, adventure, and sophisticated storytelling. Despite being a relatively new writer, Nathaniel has quickly gained a strong following, praised for his entertaining style and thought-provoking themes. Passionate about nurturing young talent, he runs school workshops to inspire the next generation of writers.



World Book Day



We were absolutely delighted to see the children's enthusiasm for World Book Day on Thursday 6th March, with so many arriving at school in fantastic costumes inspired by their favourite book characters. It was wonderful to witness their excitement as they shared stories, took part in book-themed activities, and celebrated the joy of reading together. The creativity and effort that went into their outfits were truly impressive, and we'd like to thank parents and carers for their support in making the day so special.



Year 1 – Safari Pete Visit

Last week, our students had the incredible opportunity to participate in a [Safari Pete](#) assembly, a truly unique and engaging experience that brought the world of conservation to life. Throughout the event, children learned about the importance of protecting wildlife, gaining valuable insights into the challenges faced by animals, particularly those that were illegally taken from the wild or abandoned as pets. This event was a fantastic opportunity to ignite passion for wildlife preservation and directly support Safari Pete's global conservation projects.



Scholastic Book Fayre

Scholastic has informed us that, thanks to the sales from the Book Fair, we have earned a fantastic £670.70 in commission! This will go towards updating books in our classrooms. A huge thank you to all our parents for their support!



Safeguarding and Wellbeing News

Mindfulness March

Each month, Action for Happiness issues a new calendar with mindfulness and wellbeing ideas linked to the focus for each month. This is a great way of getting your whole family involved in wellbeing strategies and ideas. See all the calendars [here](#).



British Red Cross First Aid App

Miss Mahoney has discovered a highly useful first aid app that could be invaluable for parents during uncertain moments when administering first aid. The app provides comprehensive guidance on all aspects of first aid, including CPR. It also features a built-in timer to assist with time-sensitive treatments, such as burns and nosebleeds.

Download it here: [Red Cross First Aid App](#)

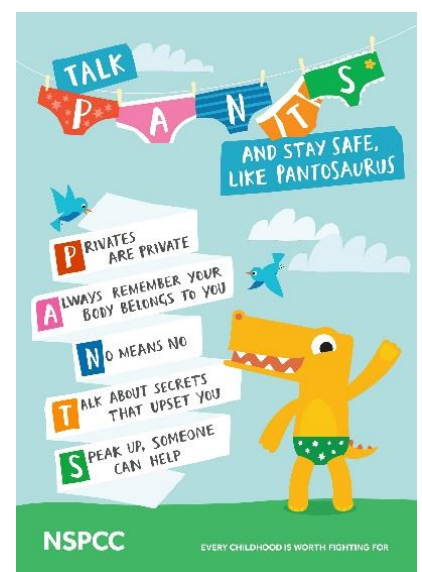
NSPCC 'PANTS' Rule

You have probably already talked to your child about things like crossing the road safely. But have you spoken to them about how to stay safe from sexual abuse? We know it's a conversation no parent wants to have, but we believe it can feel just as natural, and be just as easy, as the road safety chat.

Try 'PANTS'. From P through to S, each letter gives an important message for children as young as four to help them stay safe.

[Click here to download the parent information guide](#)

For resources, videos, guides and more, [click here to visit the NSPCC PANTS website](#)



Hillingdon Stronger Families Hub

Hillingdon Stronger Families Hub works together to support families with the help they need, when they need it most, and protects children and young people from abuse and neglect. [Visit this website](#) for support.



I need help and support for my family
Our Stronger Families Hub is here to help and support you with information, advice and support any time of the day or night.



I'm a professional working with families
Referral forms and information about the hub for professionals working with families in Hillingdon.



I'm concerned about a child's safety
If you're concerned that a child or young person is being (or is at risk of being) abused or neglected, report it appropriately.



PATH News

School Disco Update

Our recent school disco was a great success, with a good turnout from both pupils and staff! We are thrilled to share that the event raised an impressive £665.

Some parents asked why the disco wasn't open to younger year groups. This is because many younger children find the noise and crowd overwhelming, which can lead to parents being called to collect them early. Additionally, space in the hall is limited, making it difficult to accommodate parents staying.

For our younger pupils, we find that our Book at Bedtime event is a much better fit, offering a more relaxed and enjoyable experience.



Mothers' Day Gift Event

Mothers' Day falls on 30th March this year, so in preparation, we will be hosting our annual Mother's Day Gift Event, giving children the opportunity to choose a special gift for their mum / mother figure.

If you have completed and returned the form, your child will be able to visit the event and pick out a special gift to give on Mothering Sunday.

Summer Fayre – Saturday 28th June (12–3pm) – Save the Date!

Our much-loved Summer Fayre will be held on Saturday 28th June from 12–3pm this year.

Join us for an afternoon of family fun, including exciting games, stalls, delicious treats and fantastic prizes. Further details will be shared nearer the time.

How our Fundraising is helping the school

We are thrilled to share that all funds raised so far are being put towards two exciting projects that will benefit our entire school. First, we are planning a complete overhaul of the school library, creating an inspiring and engaging space to foster a love of reading for all pupils.

