

# Newsletter



Hermitage Primary School

Issue No: 10 – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025



## Dates for your Diary

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

- School opens to pupils for the start of Summer Term (1).

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

- 1P – Class Assembly to Parent in the small hall

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

- Reception – School Trip – Hounslow Urban Farm

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

- **SCHOOL CLOSED – Bank Holiday**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

- Reception – Hearing and Vision Screening

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

- Year 6 – SATS Week (all Y 6 children must be in school)
- Rec Bell – Class Assembly to Parent in the small hall

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

- Reception– School Trip – Library

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

- Year 6 – Crime Workshop

## Headteacher News

Dear Parent/Carer

We have now arrived at the end of our spring term, and the time has just flown by. I hope you enjoy this special edition of our newsletter. I have been reflecting recently on all that we have achieved over the last term, and I hope that this newsletter gives you some sense of all the great things that are going on at Hermitage Primary School at the moment.

I have been blown away by our recent performances. We have seen some very high quality class assemblies, a performance from our 'Little Voices' extra-curricular club, a wonderful 10-year anniversary celebration of the VLT, and the pinnacle for me was our Year 1 spring production. I am truly humbled by the children's talents and their teachers' commitment to putting on such a high-quality production. Well done to everyone involved — what a wonderful way to finish off our term!

This term has been very busy. We've seemed to have packed lots of fun activities into the 10 weeks or so. We hosted a science challenge for schools in our trust. Thank you very much to Mrs Harling and Mrs Gill for all of their hard work behind the scenes to make this event a success. Our Year 5 pupils were amazing, coming second overall. Well done, everyone!

Our chess club seems to go from strength to strength — please see the sports section for news about the National Chess Championships! Thank you to Dr Prasad for running our weekly chess club. Congratulations to Phoenix, Denis and Ethan, who came 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3rd, respectively, in the lower school competition (with Emily being rated as the top girl!) and to Lucas, Yuchen and Karina, who were 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the upper school competition.

Apart from our performances, we have taken part in a variety of sporting events (with thanks to Mrs Madison, Mr Doyle, Miss Jackman and Miss Deanus). We have had some wonderful trips and events in school (it is not often you walk into the school hall to find a tarantula, a frog and a snake waiting for you!) and had the opportunity to talk to you all about your child's progress throughout our parents' evenings.

Our core purpose is, of course, learning, and this has been happening too! I am very lucky to be able to visit different classes throughout the week and see some of this learning first-hand — from the very earliest stages of learning in our wonderful Nursery and Reception provision, all the way through to Year 6, where our pupils are getting ready to sit their SATs and are looking forward to their transition into Year 7.

Our school council is doing important work across the school, ensuring that our pupils' voices are heard. Projects include recycling (with the exciting arrival of new bins for the classrooms) and bins to recycle things like whiteboard pens, biro, and batteries. Other projects have included suggestion boxes and charity events. Thank you to Mrs Colgan for running the school council and to all of the children involved.

Have a wonderful Easter break everyone!

Kind regards

Mr N S Hingley  
Headteacher



## Attendance

Currently, our whole school attendance to date is **95.4%**, which is down on last month (95.90%). This is mainly due to seasonal illnesses. However, we would like to remind parents that children should not be taken out of school for holidays during term time.

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.

Tips for getting to school on time (and not forgetting anything!)

1. Prepare packed lunches the night before.
2. Lay out clothes, shoes, socks and PE kit (if needed) the night before.
3. Place backpacks, water bottles and items needed for the school day near the front door ready for the morning.
4. Set a reminder alarm 10 minutes before it is time to leave. Your children then know that it is nearly time to leave!

# Other News

## Spring Term 2

### Staff News

Congratulations to Mrs Miyamoto, who has recently welcomed baby Mei into the world. We all wish her well during her maternity leave.

Many congratulations also go to Mrs Miyamoto, Mrs Gill, and Mrs Alam on their recent appointments as phase leaders. Mrs Miyamoto will be leading EYFS upon her return, Mrs Gill will be leading KS1, and Mrs Alam will be leading Lower KS2. They join Mrs Stephen, who has been leading KS2 for a number of years.

In the meantime, if you need to share information or request a meeting with the phase leaders, please continue to contact your child's class teacher. Our phase leaders will not only be able to share their expertise and provide guidance and support to staff within their phases, but they also look forward to working in partnership with you as parents to ensure the very best education for your children.

Procedure for concerns – teacher – phase leader – assistant head – head.

### The Great Cable Challenge - Update

Hermitage Primary School took part in the recent Cable Challenge, a borough-wide initiative to recycle unwanted cables. A total of 36 schools participated, collecting an impressive 802.76 kilograms (0.8 tonnes) of cables—equivalent to the weight of a large bison or a grand piano! These cables will be recycled by ASM Metal, helping to reduce waste and promote sustainability.

Congratulations to Newnham Junior School for winning the challenge with 88.1kg collected, followed closely by Frithwood Primary School (86.66kg) and one of our VLT schools, Field End Junior School (76.67kg). Whilst we didn't make the top three, every effort counts in protecting our environment! Thank you to all those who participated in the challenge.

A reminder that Hillingdon has 16 collection points for small electricals, including cables, inside local libraries. Families are encouraged to use these bins to continue recycling responsibly.

### Playground Equipment Use (Before and After School) – Polite Reminder

For the safety of all our children, we kindly remind parents and carers that children should not use the playground equipment before or after school.

Staff supervision is not available during these times, and we want to ensure that all children stay safe. We would appreciate your support in reinforcing this rule and helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

All children should be accompanied by a responsible adult until 8.35am when the doors open.



## Parking

We would like to remind you that the school car parks, both the main and overflow areas, are reserved exclusively for school staff. Parents are not permitted to park in these areas unless prior permission has been granted by a member of our school's leadership team. We kindly ask all parents to be considerate when parking during drop-off and pick-up times. Please refrain from parking on pavements, zig-zag lines, and at road corners, as these actions are not only dangerous, but also illegal. Before exiting your vehicle, take a moment to consider if you are endangering pedestrians or obstructing other cars trying to navigate the area. We thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

## School Crossing

We were recently visited by a member of Hillingdon Bid to discuss issues impacting our school community. One of the topics raised was the speed at which some cars are driving on Belmont Road. Although there is a 20 mph speed limit in place, it is not always adhered to, and this has been reported to the council.

In the meantime, we urge you to talk to your children about safety when crossing the road. Younger children should always be holding an adult's hand when using the zebra crossing. Please remind them to exercise caution before stepping onto the crossing, as some drivers become impatient and may attempt to drive across before you've stepped onto the crossing.

We have also spoken to our Year 6 pupils about the dangers of using mobile phones while crossing roads or walking home. Please remind them that they should not be on their phones when crossing roads.

If you would like to volunteer as a crossing supervisor, or if you know someone who would, you are encouraged to contact the local council for guidance on how to apply for this role.

## Keeping your Children Safe in the Virtual World

I'm sure many parents have watched the series *Adolescence* on Netflix. Whilst the series covers a range of themes, one that stands out as particularly concerning is the impact of social media, and how children are influenced and shaped by a world that is neither controlled nor filtered.

Social media, along with the internet more broadly, offers many wonderful benefits, particularly in education, research, and connecting people – provided it is used safely and responsibly. It is the responsibility of parents to safeguard their children in this digital age, ensuring their online experiences are positive. This includes managing access to the wide array of apps available, ensuring they are age-appropriate for children's mental health and well-being.

As a school, we ask all parents to commit to four simple rules:

1. No screen use in private spaces, such as bedrooms.
2. No screens an hour before bedtime – make this a regular time, for example, 7pm.
3. Regular parental monitoring of your child's devices – parents should have access to passwords and check phones each evening.
4. All electronics should be left in a communal location overnight, such as the kitchen.

By following these guidelines, we can help ensure that our children are engaging with technology in a safe and healthy way.



# Welfare & Medical

## Spring Term 2

Dear Parents and Carers

As the school's Welfare & Medical Officer, I would like to share a few simple tips to support your child's health and well-being.

### Healthy Packed Lunches

A balanced lunch keeps your child energised throughout the day. Include a mix of protein (like lean meats, eggs or beans), whole grains (such as bread or wraps), fruits, and vegetables for vitamins and fibre. Don't forget a healthy snack such as a yogurt, and a refillable water bottle to keep your child hydrated. Try to limit sugary drinks and snacks as they can cause energy crashes and affect your child's focus in the afternoons.

### Clean Lunch Boxes and Bottles

Did you know that lunch boxes can harbour harmful bacteria like E. coli and salmonella if not cleaned daily? Research shows that a child's lunch box can have up to **10 times more bacteria than the average toilet seat** if not washed properly. Water bottles, too, can develop mould and bacteria, particularly in lids and spouts. To keep your child safe, clean lunch boxes and water bottles with hot, soapy water daily and let them dry thoroughly before reuse.

### Dental Hygiene

Developing regular tooth brushing and healthy eating habits is very important from an early age, as children will start to build their choices on what they like and want to eat.

Including tooth brushing into their daily routine is the best way to encourage your child to brush their teeth. Starting at an early age will help build behaviours that will last them a lifetime. This [link](#) will take you to a useful video on how to brush your teeth. How to brush your child's teeth can be viewed [here](#).

### Action for Happiness

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](#).

I would like to wish you all a lovely Easter break - take care of yourselves.

Kind regards



**Sarah Mahoney**

Medical / Welfare Officer



# Sports at Hermitage

## Girls Football

Congratulations to our girls football squad who made it all the way to the semi-finals and came joint third in the Hillingdon schools tournament this month.

They were unbeaten in their group stage and won an exciting penalty shootout in the quarter finals. They eventually lost in a close game to the eventual winners, despite hitting the post twice and having a lot of chances. All the girls were outstanding, but special mention must go to Vyshu for her brave defending and battling through injury to keep on playing.



## Year 3 Chess Masters!

Massive congratulations to Phoenix, Vlad, Denis, and Kieran for their outstanding performance at the National Primary School Chess Championships in the under-9s category!

These talented students represented Hermitage Primary School brilliantly and have advanced to the semi-finals taking place in June.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the skill they demonstrated. Stay tuned for updates on their progress in the semi-finals.



## Netball (Years 5 & 6)

Huge congratulations to our Year 5 and 6 netball team for their fantastic performance in the recent tournament! The team displayed great determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the matches.

Their hard work and dedication paid off as they secured an impressive third place, competing against some tough opponents.

Players gave 100% effort, and we could not be prouder of their dedication and enthusiasm on the court. Well done on this brilliant achievement!



## Cross Country

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 children who took part in the cross country event yesterday!

With a big turnout from lots of schools across the borough, the competition was tough — but our pupils showed incredible effort, perseverance, and determination to cross the finish line.

A special shout-out to Dragos, who came an amazing 13th out of hundreds of children!

We are so proud of all of you!



# School Council Update

**As School Council representatives, we met regularly to discuss current topics and subjects that we think could enhance our school, our environment, our learning and our experience of being at primary school.**

We have been meeting regularly to discuss various topics that we believe can make our school an even better place. Our main focus has been on improving communication within our school and promoting recycling efforts to help our environment.



One of the highlights of our term was a special invitation from our catering company to meet with the head chef, Lucas.

During this meeting, we had the opportunity to provide feedback on the food served at school. We tested different dishes and filled out feedback papers to share what we liked and what we think could be improved.

Chef Lucas was very interested in our opinions and asked us questions about the meals. He also taught us about the importance of eating fruits and vegetables, as many of us do not eat enough of



them every day. Chef Lucas laid out some ingredients to see if we could recognise them. It was fun to learn about different ingredients, like fresh basil, leeks and cinnamon powder.



We had a great time during the food testing session and even asked Chef Lucas if he could arrange another one for us in the summer term when there will be some changes to the menu.

We are looking forward to more delicious food and learning how to make healthier choices.

**Please click on this [link](#) for our Feedback Report.**

We would like to thank Mrs Colgan and Chef Lucas for arranging this fun activity for us.

We cannot wait to share more updates with you soon!



# Nursery Spring Term 2

What a busy spring we have had! In Nursery, we have explored many wonderful new stories, bringing them to life through exciting hands-on activities. We had the chance to make porridge for Goldilocks, bake our very own Gingerbread Man, and even enjoy delicious pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. It has been a fantastic term of learning, creativity and fun!



We baked and decorated our own  
Gingerbread Man!



We made porridge for Goldilocks. It wasn't too hot and it wasn't too cold – it was just right!



We had lots of dressing up both for our fairy-tale day and World Book Day.



Thank you to everyone who  
attended parents evening – we  
loved sharing with you all the  
progress your children are making.

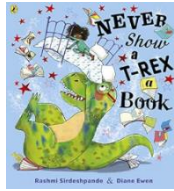
We continue to enjoy developing our maths skills  
with games on the Interactive White Board.



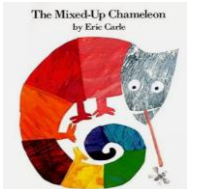
# Reception

## Spring Term 2

We have been delving into some really fun and engaging texts in Literacy this half term!



*Never show a T-Rex a Book*, where we started the half term learning about dinosaurs, and were especially excited when our giant egg 'hatched'.



### *The Mixed Up Chameleon by Eric Carle*

The children created and described their own mixed up creatures. The children had the opportunity to get really creative with this one!



*Oi Frog!* by Kes Gray and Jim Field. It is a great story about rhyming.

The children had lots of fun making up their own rhyming sentences using this book as inspiration.



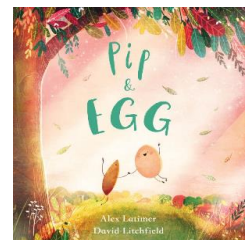
*Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers. It is a story about being lost and lonely, but finding somewhere to belong in the end. We had great weather so decided to create our story map using the children to help, outside with chalk.

The children wrote lists of things which they would need to pack if they were going to the South Pole (Antarctica).



*Pip and Egg*, Pip is a seed from a glorious tree, and Egg is a bird's egg from a nearby nest. When Pip and Egg first meet, they are almost the same size and shape but as their friendship grows, so do they!

The children really loved the illustrations, sequencing this story and writing sentences about their favourite parts.



## Maths

We have been consolidating and deepening our understanding of the number 10, making learning fun by playing games using 10 frames. The children have hardly realised they have been strengthening their numeracy skills because of all of the fun they have been having whilst doing so!



We have been learning to double numbers to 10 also, and learned this song to help us.

## Doubles to Ten

Double, double, one makes two,  
Double, double, two makes four,  
Double, double, three is six,  
Double, double, four is eight,  
Double, double, five, it's ten,  
Now we've learned our doubles, then!

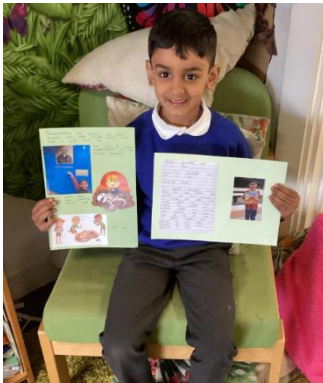
Original song: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"





# Year 1

## Spring Term 2



Using cotton buds to make our spring pictures was so relaxing!



Learning about hand-eye co-ordination in PE was fun!

I love the topics we have for super curriculum homework!



How many cubes heavy is the glue?



I spy with my big eye... a noun beginning with 'P'



Safari Pete was the best experience ever!

Learning about 'Empathy' was important.



We are all one!



We loved our 'Fairytale' topic this term.

We loved sharing our books on 'World Book Day'



# Year 2

## Spring Term 2

This term year 2 have planned out their own investigation to plant seeds and bulbs ready for the investigation to take place next term.



We have learnt cutting and peeling skills in DT and created our own fruit salad.

We have also looked at features of newspapers and planned out their own Pokémon newspaper report.



We all had a great time dressing up for World Book Day!



# Year 3

## Spring Term 2

As the weather started to make a turn for the better, it allowed us to spend more time enjoying our learning outside of the classroom!

Highlights have included using the different surfaces that the playground offers to help us understand friction in our Science lessons.

The children also developed their tennis skills in the MUGA during PE lessons.



Inside the classroom, the children have been developing their practical skills! They loved designing and creating their 'Moving Monsters' this term. The class learned about pneumatics, understanding how air pressure can help to move and control levers.



During Music lessons, the children have been using glockenspiels to create and perform their own tunes, incorporating pentatonic scales, to celebrate Chinese New Year!



This term Pankhurst held a class assembly on 'Uniting people through music.' We learnt that music has the power to join communities, no matter where they come from or what language they speak.

In English we studied the book 'Tin Forest.' To support our descriptive writing we created a 'Class Tin Forest' using tin foil.



# Year 4

## Spring Term 2



Year 4 had great fun on World Book Day creating their own world. They designed their world on a giant map then charted the route their character would take through the story before writing their own short stories based on the world.



Year 4 also investigated 'The case of the empty grave' as an introduction to their new history module on Settlers.



# Year 5

## Spring Term 2

In history, we learned what it was like to be a Tudor by playing popular games like Tudor football and 'fox and geese'.



In DT, we taste tested biscuits in preparation to make our own.



In science, we were learning about the life cycle of a plant and plant reproduction. We acted out different roles: 'flower' and 'bee'.



# Year 6

## Spring Term 2



### Year 6 Safety Awareness Day at Brunel University

Our Year 6 students had a fantastic and informative morning at Brunel University, where they took part in a series of safety sessions led by key community services. They engaged with the Police, RNLI, London Fire Brigade, Road Safety Team, Bike Safety Team, London Transport Police and the School Nursing Team.

The sessions covered important aspects of safety, equipping our children with valuable knowledge as they prepare for the transition to Year 7. From learning about road and bike safety to understanding emergency services and personal well-being, the experience was both educational and engaging.

A big thank you to all the teams involved for providing such an enriching day for our students.

