

Newsletter



Hermitage Primary School

Spring Term Newsletter

Headteacher News

Dear all,

What a busy and successful term we have had at Hermitage! I hope you enjoy reading about the learning and the many exciting opportunities your children have experienced throughout the Spring term.

It was a pleasure to present our significant achievement awards today, such a lovely celebration and a meaningful way for us to come together as a school community. I was also thoroughly entertained yesterday by our Year 1 performance based on *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Oliver Jeffers. It was a fantastic show that brought together children, families and staff. Thank you to the Year 1 team for their hard work, and to you as parents for supporting your children with learning their lines, practising their dances and organising costumes. It truly was a wonderful performance.

Opportunities to come together as a community continue throughout the year in many forms. This term, we have enjoyed Stay and Play sessions for our youngest learners and Look and Learn sessions in maths across the school. We have also welcomed many of you to class assemblies and Parents' Evenings, which are such an important part of sharing your children's progress. In addition, it is always a pleasure to showcase our school to prospective families through open days and tours.

I would like to extend our sincere thanks to PATH, our parent teacher association, for their ongoing support. Through events such as Mothers Day shopping, discos and cake sales, they have raised an incredible amount of money, which is already helping to enrich our school, for example by replenishing books in our library. If you would like to get involved, please do contact Sally via the school office.

Our School Council and school journalists have also been very active this term. I was delighted to receive the latest edition of the Hermitage Herald this morning. Thank you to Mrs Colgan for her continued dedication to these initiatives.

Attendance News

A gentle reminder that our aspirational target for each child is 96% attendance each academic year. The below percentages and days will help you correlate what each day off equates to:

98% = 4 days off

96% = 7 days off

95% = 9 days off

94% = 11 days off

90% = 1 month off

80% = 2 months off

This term, collectively the classes showcasing strong attendance are as follows:

- 1 Simmonds – 97.0%
- 5 Franklin – 96.4%
- 3 Pankhurst – 96.3%
- 4 Hawking – 96.0%

Please also check out the information on the medical page below regarding attendance.



We have also welcomed important opportunities to support pupils' safety and independence, including pedestrian training for several year groups and Bikeability for Year 6. These are vital life skills, and we greatly appreciate your support in keeping our community safe, particularly by parking considerately and avoiding the double yellow lines around the school.

Sport continues to thrive at Hermitage, thanks to Mrs Parrett, who works tirelessly to organise a wide range of fixtures and events. Alongside more traditional sports, pupils have enjoyed opportunities in activities such as pentathlon, basketball, boccia, curling and multisports. We are very grateful for her dedication in providing such a rich sporting offer.

This term has also been enriched by a range of trips and experiences, including visits to the Tower of London, the Year 6 residential at Ufton Court, preparation for adulthood courses and environmental work with Chiltern Rangers. We also celebrated World Book Day with engaging assemblies and workshops led by Jennifer Killick.

It has also been a fantastic term for Hermitage across the wide range of Vanguard Learning Trust opportunities. Our pupils have demonstrated excellence in both academic and sporting events, including the Science Challenge, Spelling Bee and Netball Rally. We are incredibly proud to share that Hermitage achieved the highest overall success across Trust events this term, an outstanding accomplishment that reflects the hard work, talent and dedication of both pupils and staff. These experiences highlight not only achievement, but also resilience, teamwork and a willingness to embrace challenge.

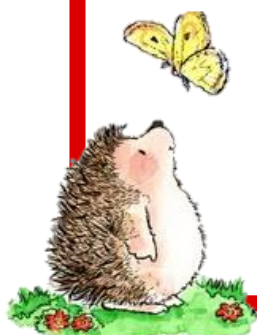
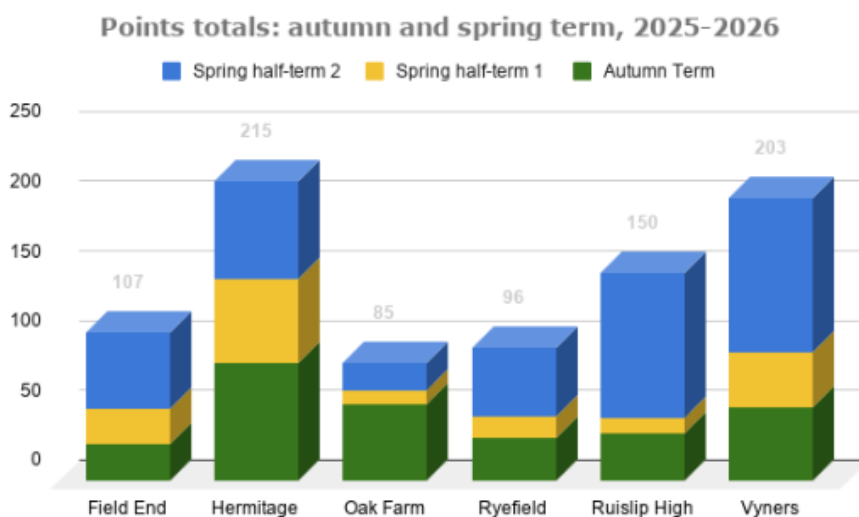
As we look ahead to the summer term, we hope for warmer weather and another exciting period of learning. Our Year 6 pupils will be preparing for their SATs and their transition to secondary school, an important and exciting time. Across the school, there are many wonderful opportunities planned for all year groups.

Your children have worked incredibly hard this term, and I hope you all enjoy a well deserved rest and valuable family time over the Easter break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 13th April.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards

N.S. Higley



Vanguard Learning Trust opportunities

Languages Week

We were delighted to take part in the VLT Languages Week, celebrating language learning and cultural diversity across our schools. A group of our children attended a special Languages Day at Ruislip High School, where they participated in a lively Spanish salsa lesson and engaged in a range of interactive activities designed to bring language learning to life. In addition, children from across the school embraced the VLT Bake Off challenge, creating beautifully designed entries inspired by different countries and cultures. The week provided a fantastic opportunity for our children across the whole school to develop their curiosity about the world, build confidence in using new languages, and celebrate the richness of global traditions.

Science Challenge

Hermitage pupils recently took part in the Vanguard Learning Trust Science Challenge, where they joined students from across the Trust for an exciting and engaging day of scientific thinking. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to apply their knowledge, tackle a range of challenging questions, and work collaboratively with others. We were incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, teamwork, and resilience throughout the competition, they represented Hermitage brilliantly and earned third place across the trust and first place across the trust primary schools!

Netball Rally

On Wednesday 4th March 2026, Hermitage pupils took part in the annual Vanguard Learning Trust Netball Rally, hosted by Oak Farm. The event included both a mixed team and a girls' team competition, with matches played in a round-robin format. The afternoon was filled with competitive yet friendly games, showcasing excellent teamwork and sportsmanship from all involved.

We are incredibly proud to share that Hermitage were crowned winners of the mixed-team competition, and also achieved an impressive second place in the girls' tournament. This is a fantastic achievement, and a testament to the pupils' skill, determination, and positive attitude. Well done to all who took part, you represented Hermitage brilliantly!

Spelling Bee

We are incredibly proud to share that our Year 6 pupils recently competed in a Vanguard Learning Trust Spelling Bee, and were crowned overall winners, an outstanding achievement! The competition brought together pupils from across the Trust, and our children demonstrated exceptional spelling knowledge, confidence, and composure throughout.

A special congratulations goes to Sophie Winter, who achieved an incredible first place across the entire competition. We are so proud of all the pupils involved, they represented Hermitage brilliantly!

The term's updated scores mean that, Hermitage remain in the lead across all of the Trust school's!

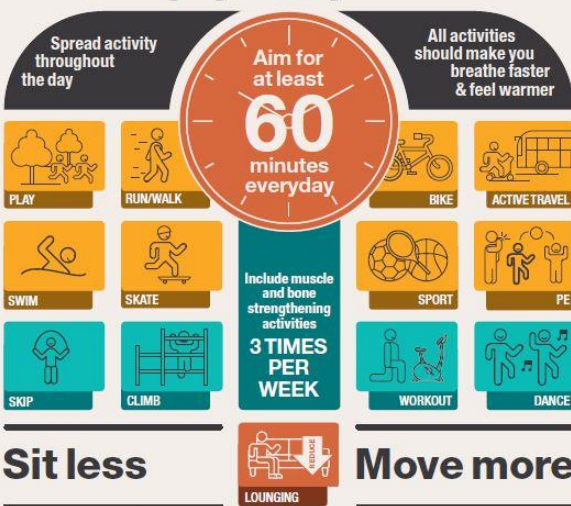


Welfare & Medical

Physical activity for children and young people (5–18 Years)



Be physically active



Find ways to help all children and young people accumulate at least 60 minutes of physical activity everyday

As we move through the spring term, we would like to remind families of the importance of supporting children's health, wellbeing, and attendance.

Regular physical activity plays a vital role in children's development. We encourage all children to stay active each day, aiming for at least 60 minutes of movement through play, sport, or outdoor activities.

We have also shared updated guidance from the UK Health Security Agency to help families decide when children should be kept off school due to illness. This includes clear timelines for common conditions such as chicken pox, flu, and conjunctivitis, helping to keep our school community safe and well.

Do I need to keep my child off school?



Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		



Developing Independence and Life Skills

A key role of both parents and school staff is to prepare children for the next stage of their lives and, ultimately, for adulthood. Over the past year at Hermitage, we have been focusing on developing these important life skills across the school.

We regularly explore the concept of elections, giving children opportunities to vote and have their voices heard—for example, choosing a class reading book in Reception or electing School Council members. We also encourage responsibility through pupil leadership roles, such as Year 6 Play Leaders, where children complete application letters as part of the process.

Across all year groups, we support children in taking responsibility for their belongings, their words, and their actions. Through our restorative approach to behaviour, pupils are encouraged to reflect on their role in relationships and to make positive choices.

In Nursery, we have enjoyed hosting parent and carer workshops focused on developing independence skills, including using zips, toileting, walking to school, and using cutlery.

We are also delighted to have provided some children with opportunities to build their independence in the wider community. These have included shopping for ingredients and baking biscuits; using their World Book Day tokens at Waterstones; and preparing fruit and vegetables for food tasting. It has been wonderful to see children modelling how to cross the road safely, taking turns, and encouraging one another as they develop their cooking skills.

Over the school holidays, we encourage you to support your child in building their independence at home. Simple activities such as tying shoelaces, washing dishes, preparing breakfast, and other age-appropriate tasks can make a big difference. Watching children grow in confidence and capability is truly a privilege. Do send in any photos



Nursery



Our Nursery children have had a wonderfully busy and enriching term, full of creativity, exploration and fun. They have enjoyed painting beautiful flowers, creating pictures with stickers and building with Lego, all while developing their fine motor skills and strengthening their control and coordination. Alongside this, their gross motor skills have flourished through activities such as completing the daily mile, climbing on the climbing frame and engaging in active play both indoors and outdoors, building both confidence and physical resilience.

The children have particularly loved exploring a range of role play areas, with the hairdressers proving to be a firm favourite – especially when Mr Hingley came to visit! These opportunities have supported their communication, imagination and social skills, as they take on different roles and interact with their peers.

Throughout the term, they have also taken part in a number of exciting whole school events, including Number Day, World Book Day, Science Week and Safer Internet Week, embracing each experience with enthusiasm and curiosity.

It has been a joy to see the children growing in independence and confidence.

They are becoming more capable in managing their own routines, making choices in their learning and expressing themselves clearly. Their personalities are really beginning to shine through, and they continue to approach each day with curiosity, enthusiasm and a genuine love of learning.



Reception



Reception have had a fantastic term filled with creativity, exploration and growing confidence in their learning. The children have particularly loved spending time in the junk modelling area, using their imagination to design and create a range of wonderful models. We hope you will continue to encourage this at home over the Easter break, giving children the opportunity to get creative with any recycling you may have.

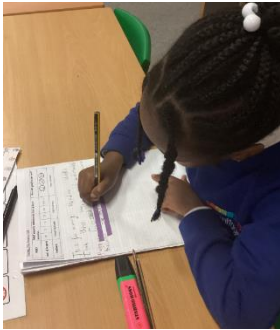
The children have also thoroughly enjoyed learning about lifecycles, bringing this to life through hands-on, tactile experiences such as making slime and creating their own frogspawn. They have embraced learning both indoors and outdoors, showing curiosity and enthusiasm in all areas of provision.

In phonics, the progress has been fantastic. The children's knowledge has gone from strength to strength, and many are now beginning to read with increasing fluency and confidence. Over the Easter break, please continue to support this by encouraging your child to read regularly and by pointing out signs, labels and words in the environment for them to decode.

It has been wonderful to see the children grow in independence this term, becoming more confident, capable learners whose personalities continue to shine.



Year 1



Year 1 have had a fantastic and productive term, embracing their learning with enthusiasm and determination. Through continuous consolidation, particularly through engaging carousel activities, the children have been able to revisit and embed their knowledge securely across the curriculum. They were proud to showcase this in their first official PiXL assessment just a few weeks ago. Their skills and understanding are going from strength to strength, and there is a real love of learning evident in everything they do. There is always a genuine buzz in the Year 1 classrooms, with children eager to share what they have been learning.

In phonics, the children continue to make excellent progress and are becoming increasingly confident readers. We are excited for them to showcase all they have learned next term in the official Phonics Screening Check taking place in June.

A real highlight of the term was their wonderful performance, which truly brought the community together. The children showed incredible confidence, overcoming their nerves to deliver such a fantastic show. We could not be prouder of their hard work, enthusiasm and teamwork in making it such a success.



Year 2



Year 2 have had a fantastic term, full of rich learning experiences and growing confidence. A real highlight was their visit to the Tower of London as part of their history topic on the Great Fire of London. It was an amazing trip that brought their learning to life and created lasting memories for all.

In the classroom, the children have truly flourished. In maths, they are becoming increasingly confident at explaining their reasoning and representing their understanding through concrete, pictorial and abstract approaches. This has strengthened both their depth of understanding and their ability to articulate their thinking.

Their oracy skills have also developed significantly this term. The children have been speaking in front of the class individually, growing in confidence and becoming more comfortable sharing their voice. Over the holidays, we encourage parents to continue supporting this by inviting children to perform a poem or read a page from their book aloud to family members.

In DT, the children thoroughly enjoyed making their own vegetable salads. They learned important skills such as washing and cutting vegetables safely, while also showing great curiosity in trying new foods.

It has been wonderful to see how much the children have grown this term, both academically and personally, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.



Year 3



Year 3 have had a highly productive and focused term, embracing the challenges and opportunities of Key Stage 2 with enthusiasm. A key focus has been on developing reading comprehension, and staff are already seeing the positive impact of this through VIPERS questioning. The most recent PiXL assessments reflect just how hard the children have been working and the progress they are making. We encourage parents to continue supporting this at home by asking questions about books your child is reading, or has read previously, to help develop their ability to analyse and justify their answers.

The children have also fully embraced the new approach to handwriting. It has been fantastic to see their fine motor skills continuing to strengthen, leading to clear improvements in joined handwriting and overall presentation.

In computing, the children enjoyed exploring Safer Internet Week, engaging in important discussions about how to keep themselves safe online. They also had lots of fun celebrating Number Day, where their enthusiasm for maths really shone. The use of manipulatives in lessons has supported a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts, allowing children to build confidence and explain their thinking more clearly.

Overall, Year 3 are working incredibly hard and have made a brilliant start to this new key stage. They have embraced all aspects of their learning, and it is wonderful to see their confidence, independence and curiosity continuing to grow.



Year 4



Year 4 have had a fantastic term, full of memorable experiences and rich learning opportunities. The children thoroughly enjoyed their learning about the Vikings and, whether they attended the residential at Ufton Court or took part in activities back at school, they all had an immersive experience that truly brought their learning to life.

They have also fully embraced the Kindness Challenge, making a real effort to spread kindness in thoughtful and subtle ways throughout the day. It has been lovely to see how this has positively impacted the classroom environment and relationships between pupils.

On Number Day, the children particularly enjoyed learning new card games and applying their mathematical thinking in a fun and engaging way. We would love for parents to continue supporting this at home over the Easter holidays by playing card games together.

In English, Year 4 have been writing haikus, and their creativity has truly shone through in their final pieces. It has been wonderful to see their imagination and confidence in writing continue to develop.

Their participation in Languages Week was also excellent. The children learned lots of interesting facts about France and developed their French speaking skills with enthusiasm and confidence.

Overall, Year 4 have worked incredibly hard this term and have embraced every opportunity with positivity and curiosity.



Year 5



Year 5 have had a fantastic term, filled with creativity, enthusiasm and a real commitment to their learning. In PSHE, the children have been learning about first aid, including how to place someone in the recovery position. This has been a valuable and practical life skill, and the children approached it with maturity and focus.

In art, Year 5 have produced some truly impressive pieces. They have created amazing artwork inspired by animals, as well as beautiful still life drawings using donated daffodils. Their attention to detail and creativity have really shone through in their final pieces.

In PE, the children have been learning dance and have fully embraced the experience – they have definitely got the moves! It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they perform and work collaboratively.

World Book Day was another highlight of the term, with children thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to dress up and celebrate their love of reading. The effort that went into their costumes was fantastic, and it was a joy to see them proudly sharing their favourite characters and books.

We are incredibly proud of the resilience Year 5 have shown this term. They have worked hard, supported one another and demonstrated a growing maturity in their approach to learning. As they continue to develop, it is clear that they are almost ready for the next step into Year 6.



Year 6



Year 6 have had an exceptional term, and they have truly blown us away with their resilience and determination, particularly during their mock SATs. They approached this challenge with maturity, focus and a positive attitude, and it is clear that they are ready. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

Alongside their academic preparation, we continue to ensure that Year 6 experience a broad and balanced curriculum. The children have enjoyed weekly lessons across subjects such as art, PE, history and music, enriching their learning beyond the core subjects. We are also very fortunate to welcome the wonderful music team from Vyners each week, who inspire and develop the children's musical skills.

This term, their personal development has been especially notable. The children are growing in confidence, independence and maturity, and are increasingly demonstrating the qualities needed for secondary school. It has been fantastic to see how much they have developed both academically and personally.

As we look ahead to their final term at Hermitage, it will be a very special and memorable time. With SATs, productions, leavers' assemblies and PGL on the horizon, there is much to look forward to. It will also be a time to reflect on just how far they have come since joining our school. Next term promises to be an emotional one, and we are excited to celebrate every moment with them.

