



Harewood Junior School
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FRIDAY 22nd SEPT 2023

Mrs. A. Mills | Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

For the last three weeks, I've been out and about around school doing classroom observations. I have been very impressed by how well the children have settled into their new classes and new routines; and by their, resilience, perseverance and determination to learn we definitely have a school full of Purple Learners! This was also the feedback from one of our visitors this week who came in on Monday to look at how we teach phonics and reading and who was so impressed with the children's learning behaviours. School is so much more though than just English, Maths, Science History and Geography etc and we spend a lot of time and effort teaching the children about how to behave with respect, care and consideration for themselves, for others and for the world around them. I am sure that your child will be able to tell you that we have five golden rules that help direct the way we are in school:

- Be honest.
- Always try your best.
- Do as you are asked first time.
- Treat others as you want to be treated.
- Keep our school a clean, tidy and safe place.

We all know that children don't always make the right choice, but we are keen that they take responsibility for their actions or words, put the situation right and accept any consequence that is necessary before everyone moves on. In this way, we are equipping them for life and not just getting them to behave well in school.

Last week I told you about our new school council reps from each class who will be helping us make school an even better place alongside the staff and governors; and this week, I'd like to say thank you to two of our long-standing parent governors who have stepped down now from their role supporting school improvement as their children have moved onto secondary education: Jackie Rowe and Jon Pearson have done a brilliant job. We are now looking for new parent governors. If you are interested and would like to know more, please ring the school office to speak to me.

Amongst lots of other jobs, I've done this week, I undertook the first of this year's attendance reviews. Rather worryingly, we have already got 87 children who have been away from school at some point this term: 31 of them who have missed more than 10% of school. I do understand that holidays in the summer are expensive and this may be why you've chosen to go away in term-time, but please can I ask you to remember that every day of school that your child misses does really impact negatively on their learning and their achievement and they have to work even harder to catch up. We understand that children get poorly but wherever possible, please get your child into school every day so that they can really succeed. That being said, we have also got an amazing 270 children with 100% attendance! Well done and keep it up!

Please remember school now starts at 8.40am, lots of children are arriving late. The year group doors will be closed at 8.40am so children will need to come through the office entrance so we can mark them in the register.

I want to also say a huge thank you for your support for our Macmillan cake and squash afternoon today. We raised a fantastic £121 which will be put to great use, I am sure. So many families are touched by cancer that the support that Macmillan provide is essential and it has actually made a big difference to families who are part of our own Harewood community.

Next Thursday morning, we are relaunching our joint coffee mornings with the infants for parents. See the attached flyer for more details.... Mrs Fogg and Mrs Law would love to see you there!

I really like the fact that we are able to support charities that have a local impact as well as a national one and this is why I would like to ask you to support the Gloucester Foodbank through our Harvest collections once again this year. We launch our harvest focus on Monday with an assembly by Rev Rachel Beck from St George's and we would be very grateful for any tins or packets of food or essential items that you can spare to donate to the foodbank. If your children can bring a donation in over the next ten days and place them on the harvest display tables by the door to the library, that would be very helpful, please.

The photographer was with us this morning taking individual and sibling photos. Your child will bring home a QR code today which you can use to set up an account on their ordering website. You can then register for a notification email for when the photos become available. Don't worry if you lose the QR code as a proof card will be sent to the school in a few weeks' time and you can access your photos with these.

And finally,..... please can I ask that, if you are dropping off and collecting your children on the Harewood Close side of school, you do not block the footpath for other pedestrians. Thank you. Have a lovely weekend and let's hope for a return to a little warm Autumn sunshine next week.

Andrea Mills



School News...

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| Year 3 | We have had a good week in Year 3. The children have now been introduced to their Numeracy teachers, and have begun to explore <i>The Jungle Book</i> in Literacy. All the children seem to be enjoying our class reader, <i>I Believe in Unicorns</i> , and they have certainly enjoyed using paint during their E.H.Shepard-inspired Art lessons. The children are also becoming quite adept and bouncing and moving with the basketball in PE! With the current unpredictability of the English weather, please ensure all children attend school with a waterproof coat, as we still may go outside despite a light shower. Have a fabulous weekend! |
| Year 4 | What a week we have had in Year 4! It has been thoroughly pleasing to see the children continue to settle, improve and work hard as they get used to the routines and expectations of Year 4. In English, we have continued to review and consolidate our key skills such as using conjunctions, commas for lists and apostrophes. In maths, the children have learnt how to order numbers on a number line as they become increasingly proficient in their place value understanding. A reminder that swimming starts on Monday 9th October, Monday-Thursday, for a two week period. Please ensure that permission slips and payments are returned asap. Have a lovely weekend, Y4 team. |
| Year 5 | What a windy week we have had! In our reading lessons this week, we have been on the edge of our seats as the story of Clockwork by Philip Pullman unfolds and we discover the mysterious story of Prince Otto and Dr Kalmenius, with twists and turns along the way! Despite the rain and blustery conditions, Year 5 have started their invasion game unit in PE and next week the children will start their fortnight of swimming. Just a gentle reminder that pupils need their swimming kit in school Monday - Thursday with a dry towel each day. |
| Year 6 | We have continued writing our own biographies on Edward Jenner this week. In history, we have started researching everyday life in Baghdad during the Golden Age of Wisdom. Ask your child to tell you about the food, homes and clothes of that time. In science, we have continued investigating light. This week we focussed on how light travels. We finished our last swimming session on Thursday. It has been amazing to watch the children grow in confidence and make such rapid progress over the last two weeks. From next week, we will be returning to our usual PE lessons - 6SK and 6D will have PE on Thursday afternoon and 6C will have Mr Montague on Friday afternoon. We ended the week with a delicious Afternoon Tea in classes for the charity Macmillan Cancer Support. Homework is set on Seesaw. Finally, a reminder that with the ever changing British weather, it is really important that every child should have a waterproof coat in school. Have a great weekend! |

NASAL FLU IMMUNISATION

Please return the Nasal Flu form to school ASAP if you would like your child to have the nasal immunisation in school?

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographer was in school today and your child has brought home a QR code which you can use to set up an account on their website. If you are unable to do this, don't worry as proof cards will also be sent home in a few weeks.

HEADLICE

Our visitors are back so please check your child's hair.

THANK YOU

ABM Catering – Lunch Menu w.c 25th September 2023 – Week 1 - £2.25 per day

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| Monday | Spaghetti Bolognese | Macaroni Cheese | Jacket Potato | Cheese/Tuna Sandwich |
| Tuesday | Pork Sausage & Mash Potato | Quorn Sausage & Mash Potato | Jacket Potato | Tuna/Egg Baguette |
| Wednesday | Roast Chicken | Veggie Enchilada | Jacket Potato | Egg/Cheese Baguette |
| Thursday | Chicken with a Creamy Sauce & Rice | Cheese & Tomato Pizza | Jacket Potato | Tuna/Cheese Wrap |
| Friday | Fish Fingers | Vegetable Frittata | Jacket Potato | Ham/Cheese Sandwich |