



Friday 22nd September 2017

Dear Parents

Thank you to everyone who came to Open Day. As usual it was a busy morning with lots of visitors.

A massive thank you to Homebase for their donations to the school garden. They gave us spades, forks, trowels, gloves, compost and bulbs! Look out for the super flowers in the spring!

Thank you again Homebase!!



Admissions to primary school September 2018

If your child is born 1st September 2013 – 31st August 2014 you need to apply for a primary school place by 15th January 2018.

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20071/school_places_and_admissions/427/primary_school_places_and_admissions/3



I would like to remind parents of the protocol when you have any concerns regarding your child/ren. In the first instance please speak to your child's teacher. Teachers are normally available at the beginning and end of the school day, if the teacher is unable to speak to you immediately they will endeavour to make an appointment with you as soon as possible.



Thursday 28th September is photo-day; the school photographer will be in to take individual and sibling photographs.



A reminder to order school lunches in plenty of time; the online system allows ordering up to 48 hours before, therefore lunches for a Monday need to have been ordered by Friday of the preceeding week.
Lunches cannot be booked on the day. Menus are on the school website up to the end of October.



Can I **PLEASE** remind parents to respect our neighbours and park and drop off sensibly? We are very lucky to have Morrisons car park at our disposal, albeit that building work is currently causing some disruption – please use it where you can.

The visitor's car park is not for general use. The few blue badge holders who have already spoken to the school are the only cars that should be entering school grounds at the start and end of the school day. This includes Breakfast Club and after school clubs.

Please make sure that your childminder or whoever collects your child from school is aware of this.

Let's Talk

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talk

What have you done that you are most proud of?

Wow, what a good question. I am proud to have become a head teacher aged 32 (many years ago!!) I am also proud that I walked 26 miles for MacMillan.



RESPECT! Respect underpins learning through behaviour and our attitudes to the people and the world around us. We have been discussing what respect means to the children and the different ways we can show respect at home and at school.



Mrs Workman, who many of you may know as a teaching assistant has been appointed as our new Pastoral Manager, replacing Mrs Bass.

Our pastoral team can offer support to children facing particular crisis or emotional issues. I must stress that this is NOT a counselling service. The team may work with individual children or groups on a range of issues such as bereavement, resilience, specific anxieties etc.

If you have concerns please always talk to your class teacher in the first instance as there is a referral and assessment procedure that is carried out before children receive pastoral support. We always respond immediately in times of specific crisis that are often communicated direct to me, for example in the case of sudden death of a close family member.



Thank you to all parents who answered our questionnaire at the end of last term. A few general comments were made and I hope the following information helps clarify a few points.

- KS1 afterschool clubs – the range of after school clubs is always weighted to the older children. We do run clubs for our younger children and these increase as the year progresses. This is due to a number of factors including the limitations of space, maturity of the children and availability of staff.
- Teaching assistants taking class responsibility – all teachers are entitled, by law to 10% of their teaching time to be taken out of the classroom – this is called PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) At our school teaching assistants have received additional training and regularly take classroom responsibility. This happens in all classes.
- Homework – we comply with current Government guidelines. Having recently consulted with a representative group of parents there are no further changes envisaged to our current practice.
- Many parents seemed to be unaware of our progress sharing facility in EYFS. We have an electronic learning diary called 2simple-to build a profile. 6 times a year parents can login to see photographs and updates of their child's first year at school.
- We strive to be a paperless school. As many letters, newsletters and reminders as possible are sent via email or text message. Parents are asked to register their email address and contact number with the office and keep us informed of any changes.

The Curious Cat's Adventures at Haydonleigh



What have the children been up to this week?

I've been strolling around the corridors this week happy that at last the children have returned to school, but it seems a little quiet upstairs in Year 6 as they have gone on a fantastic adventure to the Isle of Wight. I can't wait to hear what they all got up to!

Foundation Stage

What an exciting time in Foundation Stage, welcoming our new children to Haydonleigh and seeing them all settle into school life so well. They all look extremely smart in their uniforms and have learnt the story of how I became the Haydonleigh logo over twenty years ago! We are very excited to watch them grow and learn with us.

Year 1

This week the children came to school to discover their classrooms were a pawful mess. After listening to some interesting eye witness accounts, the children were tasked with reporting the events. Most of the children believed we'd had some extreme weather! The children are also further investigating the story of The Three Little Pigs. If you check the Year 1 website, you can encourage your child to retell you the story using the story map. In maths, the children are practising their careful counting, ordering numbers and writing their numbers smartly and correctly in their maths books.

Year 2

As I strolled past the Year 2 classrooms I saw a strange man on their board. The children told me he was Mr Twit. He had a juicy, slippery sardine in his beard which looked delicious ... but he didn't seem like the nicest man when I read through the children's character description of him!

Year 2 have also been focussing on greater than, less than and equal to symbols in their maths. The children have been mastering where these symbols need to go in a number sentence and challenging themselves throughout the week with a range of problem to solve.

Year 3

What a busy start year 3 have had!

In English, they have been enjoying learning a new story about Ignis the dragon who sadly cannot find his flame, but has a lovely adventure making lots of new friends along the way: a little bit like us on our adventure into key stage 2.

There have also been lots of new subjects including French and Recorders. The children are already sounding "pawsome!"

Class 10 have been off getting their paws wet swimming, but I didn't go there – swimming pools are not a cat's favourite place!

Year 4

Year 4 children have had a pawsitive start to the term. They've been very busy writing stories in English, have started African drumming lessons and have been classifying animals in Science, as well as exploring the globe in Geography. I've heard that they have some other animals visiting next week as part of their writing work in English. I think I'll stay away!

Year 5

The New Year 5 children have settled in paw-some! They have been finding out about the Victorian times, through the su-purr-ior story of Jim Jarvis in 'Street Child'. Their homework on Dr Barnardo was amazing; we have some very claw-ver children upstairs! In Science they have been investigating forces, using Newton meters to measure how much force is required to move a 1kg mass – they are paw-sitively purr-fect scientists!

Hope you all have a purrfect week.



Teacher training days for this year, when school will be closed to children are:

1st September 2017

2nd October 2017

2nd January 2018

25th June 2018

We have yet to decide the final date and will communicate this as soon as we can. It will be during term 5 or 6, not before.

Term 1 ends on Wednesday 18th October.

Term 2 starts on Monday 30th October and ends on Friday 15th December at 1.30pm



Reporting your child's absence, please contact the school on the first day of absence by 9.30am by way of telephone call to provide the reason for the absence and where possible on each subsequent day of absence. **Parents / Carers should provide a written explanation on their child's return to school.**



Family Holidays in term time.

A reminder that the Headteacher may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any request for leave must be made in writing. A response will be returned indicating whether leave is authorised. Any absence not authorised may be liable to a local authority penalty notice.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Billinge

Headteacher