



Friday 14th September 2018

Dear Parents



Welcome back to school everyone!

A warm, Haydonleigh welcome to our new teachers:

Miss Griffiths – Foundation Stage

Miss Bragg – Year 5

Mr English – Year 6

Well done Foundation Stage children who have joined us; you have been so good at coming in to school with your happy smiles.

It is important that all parents remember:-

The morning routine... Children are welcome on site from 8.30am but should be supervised by parents until staff arrive on the playgrounds at 8.40am. Children should line up quickly when the whistle blows at 8.45am. All cycles and scooters must be dismounted at the gates. No cycling or scooting should take place in the grounds at any time, please. Parents should leave the playground after the first whistle. They should not still be on the playground during Wake and Shake.

We are extremely fortunate to have some amazing outdoor equipment within our school grounds for the children to use during the day.

We have noticed an increasing number of children, including siblings, climbing and playing on this equipment before and after school.

Please could we remind all parents and carers that children are not permitted to use the equipment at these times. We have repeated this message to the children in school and would appreciate your support by not allowing the children to do so.

Please could you pass this message onto any family member or child minder who may help with school drop offs and pick-ups. Many thanks.



Playtime... If your child wishes to bring a snack from home, please be reminded that we are a healthy school and only fruit or vegetables are allowed.

Children in KS2 can buy a piece of fruit each day for 20p and of course foundation stage and KS1 are given a snack.



Equipment... Between you, you and your child need to ensure that they have all that they need for the day ahead. Coats, bananas, homework, PE kits etc cannot be delivered to class by the office staff once lessons have started. Late items must not be delivered to the office. The only exception is a packed lunch which can then be collected by your child at lunchtime.



In order to keep your child safe while in Haydonleigh, there are a number of safety issues we would like to bring to your attention.

Please do not enter the school building by any other door than the main entrance unless requested by a member of staff.

We understand that parents may wish to speak with teachers in the morning; please wait until the class teacher arrives on the playground rather than enter the school.

Teachers are also happy for parents to catch them at the end of the school day.

If you are unable to catch your child's teacher, members of the Leadership team are always available on gate duty.

Alternatively, you can speak to the office who will arrange an appointment for you.

Thank you for your cooperation in safeguarding all our children.



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.



Uniform... At Haydonleigh, we believe in having a school uniform as it can support positive behaviour and discipline; it can encourage identity with, and support the ethos of the school; and helps nurture cohesion between different groups of pupils.

Our school uniform is an established feature of our culture which supports our ethos and ensures that our students are dressed for success.

Please ensure all clothing should be clearly labelled with your child's name. This is especially important, as uniform items look similar and can easily be confused for another child's. The school cannot accept responsibility for any lost items.



Our uniform policy extends to acceptable hairstyles. Please ensure that your child's hair is of a suitable style for school. Fashion trends such as tram lines, 'Peaky Blinders' shaved styles, colouring etc are not permitted. There are a number of boys who have currently chosen longer styles – please ensure that fringes are short, not impeding their ability to see their work. Many girls wear an acceptable, plain alice band in school colours or clip to keep their vision clear.

Boys with long hair will be expected to tie their hair for PE as do girls.



We welcome and value the help that parents and grandparents give to our school. If you would like to help out in class please see your teacher who will advise you on the procedure. There are often jobs in the office or around other parts of the school that parents can help us with. Please see the school office if you are interested in being a general helper.

Let's Talk

Providing your child with ample opportunities to speak to you develops good communication skills. This may sound obvious, but in an increasingly hectic digital world, opportunities do not always present themselves! Please take time to discuss with your child our fortnightly feature, 'Let's Talk'. A new question will be posed in each newsletter encouraging your child to discuss a topic which has been launched at school. Pupils will be invited to share their thoughts with their teachers and peers.



We hope you're enjoying settling into to your new classes – what are you looking forward to most this year?



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

Wednesday 24th October 2018

Monday 3rd December 2018

Friday 5th April 2019

Monday 3rd June 2019

We have yet to decide the final date and will communicate this as soon as we can.



On Saturday 6th October between 10-1pm, school will be open for parents wishing their child to start in September 2019 to have a look around. Please tell any friends and neighbours that may have prospective pupils to come along.

Existing parents are also welcome to come and see the new facilities- please do join us!

On the open morning our gardeners will be busy at work and would be delighted if you could stop by and lend a hand. A variety of tasks need doing!



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.

In order to try and reduce the number of families who take holiday in term time and being very aware of high costs, the Governors and I have decided to extend the holiday in academic year **October 2019 only.**

School will be closed to children from Monday 21st October 2019 for two weeks; children would return to school on Monday 4th November 2019.

Three Teacher Training Days will be allocated, making the holiday period a full 2 weeks.

I hope that the advance notice will enable many of you to find a holiday at a reasonable price and keep your children in school throughout all term times.



We aim to send newsletters every other week. We no longer send a paper copy preferring to use email. New parents are invited to sign up via our website where there is a simple link. We do need your child's name and class when you email please.

A paper copy is always available from the school office should you require.



Haydonleigh understands that raising money for charity is important and we take pride in all the great things we do for a variety of different organisations.

We believe these charity events are important in so many ways – they nurture important values and morals such as empathy, selflessness and team work within our children and contribute to the supportive community within our school.

We are proud to say that last year we raised **£5,816.01** for charities including the NSPCC, CALM, Marine Conservation and Macmillan to name a few.

This year we plan again to support range of local, personal, National and International charities and really appreciate your support and donations.

We know how much help you give your children in raising these funds.

Our first charity event this year will be a cake sale for Macmillan on Friday 28th September. At break / snack time children can buy for 50p an Iced Sprinkle Cake (Allergens 2,4) or a Chocolate Chip Cookie (Allergens 2,7,13). For children in classes 1 to 9, please send the 50p in an envelope, with your child's name and class number the morning of the 28th. Children in classes 10 to 21 can bring their 50p to the snack trolley in the same way as they buy their fruit at break time.

To keep updated with our events, look out for our charity calendar on the school website and newsletters.

Meantime can we please say a BIG thank you to staff members; Amelia Parsons and Sarah Lacey as well as parents; Patt McLaughlin, Claire Carter and Lisa Smith for all taking up our charity places at the Swindon Half Marathon and raising money for the PTA.

Also a special thanks to Michelle Smith who signed up independently and raised funds for the PTA; collectively they raised just over £900!!



The Curious Cat's Adventures at Haydonleigh

Foundation Stage

We have been so excited to welcome our new Foundation Stage children into school and we are amazed at how beautifully they have settled into school life already. We have seen lots of smiling faces each day and are having lots of fun getting to know each other. It has also been great to hear all the children learn the story of 'The Little Black Cat' – I feel like a super star! Ask your child to share the story with you at home, it's a classic!

Year 1

I've paid a visit to the Year 1 class rooms and can no longer hear the tweeting, chirruping or quacking of ducklings, puffins and robins as the children have settled beautifully into their new roles as big Year 1s! The children have already been intrigued by strange goings on, finding footprints, straw, sticks and bricks on the playground. They have learnt about how naughty the big bad wolf has been and have written a sorry letter for him to send to the Three Little Pigs. The classrooms looked a bit messy last week as the children were sorting out different objects and thinking about what materials they were made from. Next week the children will be starting to plan for building their own house to see if it can withstand being huffed and puffed, so hang on to your recycling.

Year 2

Something strange was in the Theatre on Wednesday. It wasn't something I see every time I am prowling through. Luckily, the Year 2 children had spotted it too and went to investigate. They spotted a small UFO, 4 orange carrots, small pieces of yellow fur, a red hoop, three eyed glasses and a note with some peculiar shapes on it. The children investigated the area and thought it may have been a yellow alien rabbit that had accidentally crash landed in Haydonleigh School. With a bit of further investigation they realised it was Beegu. The children wrote a newspaper report to inform the rest of the school what it was. I also spotted the children walking around the school. It appears that they were trying to look for things that are living and non-living. The children were really good at spotting different things around the school. It also brought up some good discussions about whether a bench was ever alive because it was made of wood from a tree.

Year 3

What a busy start to the term in Year 3!

Children have been busy getting their paws into all sorts of new, exciting things now that they are in Key Stage 2.

It all started with a bit of a mystery as the children learned of the portal to another world and are getting inspired to create their own fantasy stories. I hope the portal leads to the fish counter! Mmmm! We seemed to be down a class on Thursday afternoon, and I soon realised class 10 had already begun their swimming lessons - Thankfully there was no room for me on the coach, as I much prefer keeping my tail dry!

Science was very interesting, as we learned all about vertebrates and invertebrates - Who knew that cats had backbones?

A "Purrrrr-fect" start to a new year!

Year 4

Since the beginning of term, the children have been exploring the topic of the Stone Age. They've read 'The Stone age Boy' and are discovering about how life was in the Stone Age. In Science, we're learning about 'Sound,' and have created some questions which we want to explore! They've had a 'paw-some' time in Music drumming and are enjoying the experience.

Year 5

Welcome to our New Year 5 children, they have managed the transition up the stairs brilliantly. The new team of teachers and TA's have settled in well too, I notice! There seems to be a cat-astrophy being discussed upstairs, apparently we are at war with Germany or is it just their new topic they are talking about? So far, they have thought about evacuation and its impact on the children and their parents, as well as the host families. There are some tail-ented artists in Year 5 too, I have seen some paw-some sketching skills being developed, and I look forward to seeing what they sketch next!

Year 6

In Year 6, the blare of an air raid siren and the roar of a steam engine heralded the beginning of the first topic of the year, 'Life in World War 2'. At first, my hair stood on end and I wanted to run for cover but I was instantly hooked by the array of wonderful historical sources that the children were using. I left a trail of paw prints over some original photographs of evacuees as I tried to imagine how they felt and what they were thinking. The children took this one step further when they wrote some fascinating memoirs in the role of an evacuee. Their recounts demonstrated that our amazing children were able to empathise with the challenges faced by these city-dwellers as they settled into unfamiliar surroundings. By week two, we were all ready to be introduced to William Beech, an eight-year-old evacuee, whose fascinating story unfolds in the historical novel, *Good night Mr Tom*. If you want to find me, I might just be curled up in a Year six book corner catching up with the story. It's a great read. I, along with the year six team, am proud of the manner in which the children have stepped up to challenges of being at the top of the school. It looks like we are set up for a 'pawsome' time in Year 6. Well done everyone, you've made a fantastic new beginning

Hope you all have a wonderful week.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Billinge



Headteacher

