



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Dear Parents and Children



### Dates for your Diary

Class Photos Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
PTA Disco Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
Teacher Training Day Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Classes 10-21 Sports Day Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June starting at 1.30pm.  
Classes 1-9 Sports Day Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June starting at 9am.  
PTA non uniform day Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June.  
PTA Summer Fayre Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July  
Year 6 Leavers Assembly Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July starting at 9am.  
Teacher Training Day Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July.



Leukaemia is an illness that can sadly affect anyone and at any time in their lives. Indeed, at Haydonleigh Primary School we have families who are both historically and currently affected by this illness. For many people with a blood cancer or blood disorder a donation from a matching blood stem cell donor is their best chance of survival. **For this reason, on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June we are hosting a stem cell registration event for adults at varying times throughout the day.**

We have included some further information for parents who may wish to consider being donors and would also advise parents to visit [www.dkms.org.uk](http://www.dkms.org.uk) for further information. The frequently asked questions resource may be particularly useful:  
<https://www.dkms.org.uk/en/frequently-asked-questions>.

More information will follow nearer the date; meantime please put the date in your diary. We will need volunteers on the day for all sorts of administrative tasks; if you are able to help for all or part of the day – please give your name to the office as soon as possible.



On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, we will be taking part in a sponsored jog around the school. Children can come to school in suitable 'jogging' clothes for a suggested donation of £1. All money raised will go to the Alzheimer's Society.



### Your PTA needs you!

Being part of the PTA is a fun and rewarding experience.

Most schools are dependent on the PTA for funds and Haydonleigh is no different.

PTA fundraising has provided extras for our school such as subsidised residential trips, the library bus and iPads all of which have enhanced the learning experiences of all our children.

The PTA have organised many fun school events such as discos, Race Nights, Easter Hunt and, everyone's favourite, the Summer Fayre.

We constantly need new volunteers to ensure the PTA stays up and running – without parent support, there is no PTA.

If you would like to join our PTA team we would love to hear from you.

Please email [PTA@haydonleighschool.co.uk](mailto:PTA@haydonleighschool.co.uk), or contact the PTA through their Facebook group (PTA group for Parents of Haydonleigh) or write some details down, drop it into the School Office and it will be passed to a member of the PTA.



If you wish to move your child to a different Swindon school, the system for doing so has recently changed to an online system. This means that the school does not know of the names of children possibly leaving until a much later date.

Could I please ask that if you do make an online transfer application that you inform the school office either before or as you do so?



### Family Holidays in term time.

Schools have a very full curriculum to follow within the term time given and any absence has a negative effect on a child's learning. Whilst we acknowledge that illness cannot be helped, holidays should be taken during school closure periods. Following Government expectations on attendance, no leave of absence/holiday will be authorised for any child, irrespective of their attendance, except for exceptional circumstances. Any request for leave must be made in writing, addressed to the Headteacher. 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 **October 2019 only**.

**School will be closed to children from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 for two weeks; children will return to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



All children need to bring a water bottle into school each day. If your child brings a packed lunch from home they also need a suitable drink please.



### Year 1

This week the children have been learning all about my second favourite snack – birds! On Monday when I went past the classrooms, I thought there'd been some kind of disaster but it turned out the children were trying to make nests. They found it rather stick-y! So they have learnt how birds actually make them and used this to write some instructions. In Maths, the children have been practising sharing fairly by halving in lots of different ways. Hopefully they can start showing off their learning at home by reciting some of the halves to 20! In Science and Topic, the children have been getting closer to nature, by sketching some plants and by planting their very own bean. What a purrfect week!

### Year 2

This term I heard the children in Year 2 talking about rats! As you can imagine my ears pricked up at the thought of a delicious dinner but, as I was listening to the children talk about the horrible plague these rats were spreading, I'm not sure I'd want to eat one! They went on to talk about the Great Fire of London, which apparently started in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane...yum!

In Science, the children have been learning about carnivores, omnivores and herbivores and what they eat. They now know I'm a carnivore with sharp, pointy teeth. They are still enjoying their work on Baboon on the Moon but have now learnt about the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong. What an exciting adventure he had!

### Year 3

Another busy week down in the Year 3 corridor. Children have been writing a quest story about a pirate adventure to a mysterious island, filled with dangers and excitement. The children have been really getting to grips with their "author's voice" and making a conscious choice of vocabulary to affect the reader. In Maths, they are continuing their work on fractions by looking at equivalent fractions and using number lines and pictures to help solve addition and subtraction problems involving fractions.

### Year 4

After a great few days away, those Year 4 children have been working hard. In Maths, they have been busy solving a variety of problems involving money and it is clear the previous work on decimals is helping their understanding. Pirates has been the theme in English and Topic. I've enjoyed listening to the classic story of Treasure Island. I forgot how formidable Long John Silver was. I've been purr-ing over some of the pirate terminology I've heard too. Why not ask them? Science has been rather interesting although I was left feline a little iffy when they were exploring the different body parts involved in the process of digestion.

### Year 5

I have seen many of the Year 5 children outside this week. They have been purr-fecting their orienteering skills, using maths skills to help them solve the clues. I have a feline they enjoyed their pond dipping, discovering monsters that lurk in the depths of the school pond (newts and diving beetle larva to name but two). I'm definitely not going for a dip in that pond to wash my whiskers! This claw-ver group have been dissecting plants to identify the main parts of a flowering plant. I have enjoyed reading their won-fur-ful diary entries based on 'The Island', that paw castaway; the locals treated him badly. Oh before I fur-get, I am amazed by the speed of the Year 5 runners when they sprint – pawsome! Not only that, their long distance running is paw-sibly some of the best I have seen, they'll be amazing in the dementia run next week!

### Year 6

It was oh so quiet along the Year 6 corridor this week. The Year 6 children had their heads down and were busy doing their SATS tests. Their teachers call it 'show off' week and I can see why. During the tests, our amazing children were able to demonstrate superb SPAG knowledge, first-rate reading skills and magnificent maths know-how. What impressed me most though was their approach to the tests. An array of learning powers were plain to see: resilience, reciprocity, resourcefulness and reflectiveness in action. Whilst SATS don't test the things that make our children special, their completion should be commended because they are the culmination of lots of hard work, demonstrating a growth mind-set to perfection. Well done Year 6. You are a 'paw-some' year group. The teachers would like me to thank parents for their continued support as they prepare the children for transition to secondary school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Billinge".

Frances Billinge  
Headteacher