



Friday 22nd November 2019

Dear Parents

Haydonleigh School takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of the children and young people in its care and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Mrs Frances Billinge

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs Sharon Peapell & Miss Debbie Peart

The Governing Body takes seriously its responsibility under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements are in place within our school to safeguard pupils in our care. We recognise that all adults, including temporary staff, volunteers, governors and extended service providers, have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm, and that the child's welfare is our paramount concern. All staff believe that our school should provide a caring, positive, safe & stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.

Our Aims

- To ensure that all staff working within our school who have access to children have been checked as to their suitability, including verification of their identity, qualifications and a satisfactory Children's Barred List or DSB check according to guidance, and that a central record is kept for audit.
- To ensure that all volunteers and contractors working within our school who have access to children and are present on a frequent or intensive basis, have been checked as to their suitability, including verification of their identity and a satisfactory Children's Barred List or DSB check according to guidance, and that a central record is kept for audit.
- To raise awareness of all staff of Safeguarding procedures and of Safeguarding areas of responsibility

All safeguarding concerns will be investigated, recorded and reported as necessary.

Our recently updated policy and other documents are available on our website.



Morning routines – can I please remind parents that school starts at 8:45 prompt. Children need to be in their appropriate playground waiting for the whistle in plenty of time.

Play equipment should not be used by any child, pre-schoolers or siblings waiting to be taken to their playground. Please work with us to ensure that children enter the classroom on time and ready to learn.

The remaining two Teacher Training Days for this academic year are:

- Monday 6th January 2020
- Friday 10th July 2020

Analysis of attendance figures showed that taking this extended holiday reduced the percentage of holiday taken in term time around this period by a third.

With this in mind I have decided to repeat this for the academic year 2020/21.

School will be closed to children from Monday 19th October 2020 for two weeks; children will return to school on Monday 2nd November 2020.

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

Family holidays should be taken during the school holiday periods only.



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.

Nasal flu vaccination – Electronic consent

As last year, the Immunisation Team will be offering the Flu vaccination to **all Primary aged children**. This will take place between October - December 2019 across Wiltshire/BaNES/Swindon and as last year, the consent will need to be completed electronically by 26th November.

Haydonleigh vaccination day is Tuesday 3rd December.

In order to provide electronic consent for your child's Flu vaccination, please access the consent portal via the following link:

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2019/swindon>



Christmas Lunches

Tuesday 17th December

Classes 10-21 – Christmas Dinner, please order on Scopay.

Classes 1-9 – **Packed lunches only** - Order Grab & Go or bring in own packed lunch.

Wednesday 18th December

Classes 1-9 – Christmas Dinner, please order on Scopay.

Classes 10-21- **Packed lunches only** – Order Grab & Go or bring in own packed lunch.



Well done to Mrs Brown and the School Choir for their glittering performance at the Wyvern theatre Swindon schools' Christmas Concert.

Everyone who attended left feeling festive!

They will be performing again at Morrisons on Tuesday 26th November at 2.30pm.

Come and join us – it's sure to get you in the Christmas mood.



Foundation Stage

What an amazing time we have been having in Foundation Stage this week. We have been looking at poppies and Remembrance Day and have studied beautiful paintings by the artist Monet – even creating our own masterpieces! The children had a wonderful time with their parents who joined us for 'Pop in for a poppy' and created beautiful poppies together. It was so lovely watching the children and grown-ups working together and to see how proud the children were of their school.

Year 1

This week the children have been finding out about 2D and 3D shapes. They could even show you their detective skills with a shape hunt around the house! In English the children have been thinking back to the local walk they went on and writing a recount in the correct order. I stopped by during science hoping they were trying some foods again but unfortunately they were exploring the sense of touch. I wasn't in the mood to be stroked so I quickly scarpered off. In topic the children have been learning more about the United Kingdom and trying to learn the names for each of the capital cities. It can be a bit tricky so lots of practise would help!

Year 2

The children in Year 2 have been finding out about one of the World's most famous female pilots Amelia Earhart. What a paw-some opportunity for the children to learn about a successful woman in history. They learnt about her final flight and the unsolved mystery of her disappearance. They even wrote a diary using their empathy skills as if they were Amelia on that fateful morning.

I heard a chinking of metal and my ears pricked up, thinking someone was getting my dinner ready! However, they were just counting money and using it to solve problems.

Year 3

Year 3 have been very busy this week. As I prowled down the corridor, I could hear some heated discussions taking place. Children were reasoning about whether a dragon would make a good pet or not - I am sure not as good as a little, black cat such as myself - they don't have any whiskers for a start! I am looking forward to reading their final outcomes though!!! #

Year 4

Our budding scientists in Year 4 were feline fine as they created clay sculptures last week. But these weren't just any old sculptures, these were the cat's whiskers! Having researched different teeth from the natural world, the children made a set of dentures suitable for an omnivore, herbivore or carnivore, thinking carefully about which teeth would best suit each animal. There were colossal canines for our carnivores, marvellous molars for our herbivores and impeccable incisors for our omnivores. Having studied the children's work, I'm glad I'm a domestic cat and not a sabre-toothed tiger... can you imagine carrying those fangs around? You must be kitt-en-ing me!

Year 5

Lots of work with levers going on in Year 5 this week, trying to discover which length of lever is the most effective to lift a load – paw-some investigating going on and fabulous teamwork too! There seems to be some unkind behaviour towards children going on around but luckily it is just the Year 5's finding out about working children in the Victorian times. Un-fur-tunately these children didn't go to school but had to do purr-fectly horrible jobs like climbing chimneys, clambering around machinery in factories and working down the mines – litter-ally working their whiskers off!

On a more paw-sitive note, the lucky Year 5's had the fantastic opportunity to meet a real author last week – Ali Sparkes – at Nova Academy. She entertained the children with how she became a writer and why she enjoys writing for children. Many of the children have become inspired to read more of her books, which is amazing.

Year 6

This week, whilst prowling along the upper Key Stage 2 corridor, I took a trip back in time. The children imagined they were at a public meeting, debating whether the arrival of the railway would benefit old Swindonians. Across the week, time marched on and they later

took the role of advertisers working on behalf of Brunel: their task to write an advert designed to persuade workers to come and join the GWR team. The children had so many purr-suasive devices at their fingertips, I couldn't help but be impressed. With the offer of a fair wage, world-class apprenticeships and the opportunity to rent a home in the railways village, workers were sure to be drawn to it. Once again, they have been using Excel –this time, to track the population explosion that happened with the arrival of the railway.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, the year six children have been using and applying their knowledge of equivalence to compare and order fractions and they continue to learn about the human body in science. This week, they have been measuring and aiming to prove or disprove intriguing hypotheses such as children with longer arm spans are the tallest. The hard work continues

Yours sincerely



Frances Billinge
Headteacher