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Thursday 11 January 2024

Headteacher's Newsletter No 6

Dear Parent/Carer



Welcome back to the Spring Term and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and are ready for the Spring Term ahead – there is a lot to fit in to the slightly shorter Spring Term.

I would once again like to thank all parents and families for their support throughout 2023 and also for the many kind gifts received by all the staff at the end of last term.

### **Staffing**

This term we welcome **Georgia Rose**, a SCITT student who has joined us so she can complete her second placement in Year 2.

### **Soft Start**

This week we saw the introduction of a 'Soft Start' which has gone well, the children are coming and settling into class very quickly and the school feels very calm.

### **Curriculum Morning – Computing**

On Friday Miss Caroe organised a Computing Morning for the whole school. All the children were able to participate in a variety of coding activities. They coded Bee-bots, Scratch, LEGO and each other. Year 6 even began to learn the language of Python! You can see photos on our social media platforms and on the class pages on the school website.



## Courageous Advocacy (CA)



In the afternoon the children spent time planning and working on their CA projects. Visit the school website for more information and updates on their projects. <https://www.hwce.co.uk/courageous-advocacy-4/>

### Whole School Blessing – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Father Anthony Searle from All Saints Church will be leading a whole school blessing on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 9.00am. We would like to invite parents to attend the blessing and join us in prayer as we move around the school. Please let the office know if you will be attending.

The children's prayers will be added to the school website in: '*Key Information, Curriculum, Collective Worship*'

This half term our Christian Value is:  
'Compassion'

Our Behaviour for Learning is: 'Curious' and our  
Vision Character is: 'Curious Cat'



### Hot School Meal provider

Having reviewed our current hot school meal provider and also taking in to account parental feedback, we are pleased to inform you that the service provider will be changing with effect from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February (immediately after half term). **Please do not order from Innovate for after half term.**

Full details of the new service will be provided shortly but we are delighted that we will be working in partnership with **Fresh Start** 'to provide healthy, nutritious and exciting food using fresh ingredients that are locally sourced'

### Appointments during the Day

Please can you ensure that all appointments are made outside of the school day and in the school holidays. It is appreciated that for hospital appointments, emergency doctor and dentist appointments, this is not possible but I would not expect routine dental checkups, eye appointments etc to impact the school day. It is noticeable that a number of children are attending non – urgent appointments in school hours and this can be disruptive to their learning.



Please would you advise the office of any necessary booked appointments as early as possible and provide confirmation of the appointment.

## Forms

You will have noticed that over the last half term, following requests from parents and due to a desire to reduce time consuming administration tasks, we have started to use 'Forms'. We have had some great feedback and the system is generally working well. We are learning ways to 'tweak' the 'Forms' as we go. It would be really helpful if parents/carers could make sure that:

- The 'Form' is only completed once per child. We have had multiple replies per child, sometimes from different parent/carers but also from the same parent/carer. Some of these replies also contain different information.
- The information is completed fully – we have had several completed where we are unable to identify who it is from.
- The information given relates only to children attending this school.
- The 'form' is completed within the given timescale

## Communication

As we start a new term I would like to remind everyone where the information regarding your class and whole school communication can be found. You need to log onto the school website: [www.hwce.co.uk](http://www.hwce.co.uk) and information can be found under Parents, Children or News and Events. I would strongly encourage you to explore the website which displays a wealth of information.

## Absences

### Sickness Absence

If your child is sick please phone the School Office on that first day of absence to notify us of your child's absence.

Please make sure that you have arrangements in place if your child is ill and cannot attend school. It is unfair to other children and parents for a child to be sent into school when they are clearly unwell. In this case we will immediately request that the child is collected from school. **If your child is suffering from a sickness or diarrhoea bug then in the interests of all the children and staff, and on the advice that we have received from the local health Centre, please ensure that they remain off school for 48 hours after the last episode.**

## Lates

The school is very aware of the impact that lateness can have on a child's learning as it starts their day off badly and can result in the child missing key aspects of a lesson, as well as being very unsettling for them. We are also required to monitor lateness as well as absences. Whilst we acknowledge that sometimes circumstances mean children can occasionally be late, it is important that all lateness is monitored.

An electronic report is generated from the late sign ins and the office staff are required to ask parents why they are late. The records will be monitored and persistent lateness will be identified.

A letter will then be sent to parents of children who are persistently late and a meeting arranged with the headteacher to discuss this and to see how the situation can be resolved.

## School Uniform

Could I remind parents that children should be in their winter uniform as detailed in the school Uniform Policy.



## Forgotten Items/Additional Warm Clothing

Please ensure that your child/children have all their belongings with them at the start of the school day. The office cannot be responsible for delivering additional items in time for the correct lesson, break etc throughout the day. You should ensure that any warm clothing required is sent to school with your child. Please also make sure all items are named clearly.

## Governors

I am really pleased to welcome the following new Governor to our school and look forward to working with her:

- Ms Vitoria Evora Silva

Please visit the school website to find out a bit more about the Governors of the school and what their roles are.

## A few date reminders

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| • Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January                         | Wonderdome Visit to School Year R and Year 5 |
| • Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January                          | Cake Sale Year 1,2,4 and 6                   |
| • Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January                          | Whole School Blessing                        |
| • Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January                         | MHST Workshop 3.20pm                         |
| • Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January                           | Windsor Castle Trip Year 4                   |
| • Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January                           | Year 2 Class Assembly                        |
| • Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February                           | Young Voices at Wembley                      |
| • Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February | Year 6 Assessment Week                       |
| • Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February                           | Break up for Half Term 3.15 pm               |
| • Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February                          | Return to school 8.45am.                     |

Yours sincerely



Celine Hawkins  
Headteacher

