

Hawkinge Primary School

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Friday 5th October

Dear Parents,

This week I have been visiting classrooms to see how children are getting on in their Guided Reading lessons. At school we teach reading every day, for 25-30 minutes as a discrete lesson. We know that teaching reading is more than just listening to children read (although that is obviously part of it) but also helping children to read new works and asking children questions about what they have just read. In the Guided Reading lessons the teacher works with a key group of 6 children (a different group each day) and the Teaching Assistant also works with a group of children. The other children are either completing Reading journal activities (which could be a book review / answering questions about the text etc) listening to a story on a CD, or reading a book of their own choice (often linked to their theme or the author their class is named after. I am pleased to be able to report back that all the sessions I have visited this week and last have been super! I thought some parents may like to have a list of questions that they can ask their son / daughter when they listen to them read at home. Each week on the back of the newsletter I will include some that you can use as a bank of helpful questions.

We really believe that we want children to love reading, and love books. Yesterday we had a 'story swap' in school. This means that there is a whole school story-time, but the class are read a story by another teacher in the school. The teacher will share one of their favourite books with another class. The children enjoy a story from someone different, and the teachers like to go and visit previous classes they have taught. Ask your son / daughter this weekend who came to read to them!

Mr Rogers is busy updating the school website, and it will be ready to 'go live' towards the end of next week. I am really pleased with the previews I have seen! I will update you further next week.

Thank you to all the people who participated in Jeans for Genes day today. It is a charity the school has supported for years. I am very proud to say that this year we have raised £315.70 for such a worthy charity. I know that the children love coming into school in their own clothes for a change (and teachers like to wear their jeans!)

Have a lovely weekend



Diary dates

5th October - Jeans for Genes day
24th October - Y5/ 6 Landing Pad assembly (2:15pm)
25th October - Year 3/ 4 Landing Pad assembly (2:15pm)
26th October - Year 1/ 2 Landing pad assembly (2:15pm)
26th October - last day of term!
5th November - Development day

School Lunches!

Don't forget school meals have increased in price to £2:20 a day / £11 a week.

Next week we will be on the week 2 menu

Calling all budding

Scientists!!



Miss Dawe and Miss Sotirou would like you to have a go at some exciting science experiments that you can do at home. Follow the link below to find instructions (or if you do not have internet access come and see one of us and we will print them for you).

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments/floatingeggs.html>

Bring in evidence of your experiment next week (this could be a photograph, your results or the experiment itself). We will be developing a display in the school to show what you have done.

Look out for next week's fun experiment!

Development Day - 5th November

As I mentioned in last weeks newsletter Monday 5th of November will be a staff training day. If you would like to use the After School Club for child care, it will be open from 8:30am - 6pm on that day.

Places will get booked up quickly so please do call Di on 079 09 935 821

Useful questions to ask your child when you listen to them read at home

Remember it is important that children enjoy reading so don't make this a chore, but getting children to answer these questions will enhance their reading ability.

Use these questions before starting to read the book....

- What is the title?
- Why do you think the author has chosen this title?
- What are the names of the main characters?
.....and these ones afterwards / at the end of a chapter
- What is the main event in the story?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What sort of person is.....?

Let me know how these go when you see me in the mornings, and whether they are useful. More questions next week!



Class photographs!

As I am sure you are aware there were 'complications' with the class photographs that were due to be taken on Monday of this week. The company we usually use have been very apologetic, and have re scheduled the 'Class Photo' day to Tuesday 16th October.

Mrs Hughes Money saving tip of the week

Free St Johns First Aid App for your iphone

The app is now free to download from [iTunes](#).

The app gives advice through illustrated guides and voiced instructions on how to treat a wide range of major and minor injuries, such as choking, drowning, heart attacks, hypothermia, frostbite, diabetes, colds, bites and stings, allergic reactions, fainting and more. You never know when you might need it!

Every week - take a peek!

Please check your child's hair for head lice this weekend!



These are the actual size of head lice in different stages of growth

Please do check your son / daughters hair. At this time of year we do find we have several outbreaks of head lice. The most successful way of treating them is with a Nitty Gritty comb that you can buy from Sainsburys and low cost hair conditioner.