

Hawkinge Primary School

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Friday 6th January

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

I hope you have had a peaceful Christmas break. However wonderful the Christmas holidays are it is always nice to get back to some 'normality' in January and get back to school, I am sure you will agree.

On Tuesday we had a staff training day to review how we teach reading in school. We have made a couple of small tweaks to further improve the outcomes for our children. On the reverse of this newsletter is a summary of how we teach reading in KS1 and Foundation stage – next week there will be a summary about Y3, 4, 5 and 6! If you have any questions please do catch me or Mr O'Brien in the mornings, or the class teacher.

This week has seen the start of many launch pad events. The children in Tower Bridge Class and Buckingham Palace Class all come to school this morning in their favourite coloured clothes to launch their theme 'What colour shall I wear?'

Pupils in years 1 & 2 were lucky enough to have Belly Dancing Lessons this week to launch their new theme – How is India different to the UK? The lessons looked like great fun!

Pupils in Years 3 & 4 launched their theme of 'Who were the Egyptians?' by attending 4 different workshops spending time decoding secret messages written in hieroglyphics, learning traditional Egyptian dances, finding more out about mummification and making Egyptian jewellery.

Finally Year 5 & 6 pupils have had one out of their two launch pad events this week. On Wednesday morning they had to investigate a crime scene in the school and work out what had happened. Next week they will be getting a visit from a police dog handler and her dog!

There has been a lot in the news this week about the responsibility schools have to educate children about staying safe on the internet. Please rest assured these lessons are high priority at Hawkinge Primary School where we regularly have internet safety lessons. We do speak to the older children in particularly about keeping safe on the internet. This term The Lights, Camera, Action Group will be leading workshops with Y5/6 pupils - the children will be acting as the cast and crew to create an interactive quiz about keeping safe on line. Next month the school will participate in Safer Internet Day. You can find out more about this at your child's landing pad assembly. The aspect of social media is a worrying one for children of primary school age – to understand that whatever they post on line is always there and will always be there is something so difficult to understand (their digital tattoo). This week the Children's Commissioner for England has made the point that 'the internet was not designed for children even though they are now the biggest users'. It is all our responsibility to make sure they are safe on line.

Aly



Diary Dates – Term 3

12th Jan – E safety Workshops Y56 pupils
- Shepway Girls Football tournament
16th Jan – Governing Body Meeting
18th Jan – Road Safety Show
19th Jan – Free lunch for everyone today!
20th Jan – ‘Helping Anxious Children Cope’ course
for parents AM – lead by Niki Contented Child
2nd Feb – Pupil Voice
3rd Feb – Story Swap
7th Feb – EYFS landing pad – 2:15pm
8th Feb – Year 1 / 2 landing pad – 2:15pm
9th Feb - Year 3 / 4 landing pad – 2:15pm
10th Feb – Year 5 / 6 landing pad – 2:15pm
10th Feb- last day of term

School Lunches!

Don't forget school meals cost £2:30 a day if your child is in Years 3, 4, 5 &6.
School meals will be served from week 2 next week.
*The new menu is available on the school website
Go to About Us – Documents*

Attendance / holidays

Please do remember that we are not in a position to be able to authorise holidays for children during school time. If there is a reason your son / daughter needs time out of school for an **exceptional circumstance** please complete the exceptional circumstance form that can be found in the school office or on the school website – About Us / Policy link / Attendance Policy.

Science Club report from term 2

This week, in Science Club, we did one of the most popular experiments in the world-the Diet Coke and Mint Mentos explosion! The world record is an unbeatable 9 metres and we managed to reach just under two metres! If you were to try this at home, please don't do it indoors or you'll have lots of tidying to do! Science Club couldn't manage to break the world record, could you? You'll have to try and find out!

Head lice

We seem to have had an outbreak of head lice at school over the last few weeks. Please can I ask you to have a regular check of your son / daughters hair? There is nothing more frustrating if you treat your child's hair for head lice and they reappear within days because they have caught them again.

‘Every week- take a peek’

Guided reading in EYFS / KS1

In term 2 Miss Milborrow led a couple of workshops for parents – reading in EYFS & KS1 / phonics in EYFS / KS1. I thought as we enter a new term you may like a reminder of the key points from each session – this week guided reading.....

Guided Reading in FS & KS1

- * Children are organised into small groups of similar reading and comprehension ability
- * Guided Reading is a carefully planned for lesson that happens every day for half an hour
- * The lesson works as a carousel activity so each day, each group is at a different ‘station’
- * These stations vary from year group to year group but will always include reading with the Class Teacher, reading with the Teaching Assistant and completing a reading journal task about their book
- * The Class Teacher hears half the group read each week and the Teaching Assistant hears the other half of the group, before swapping for the next week
- * The focus is very much on the children's understanding of the book, not just being able to read the words
- * Adults ask questions about the book from 3 different categories: simple recall from the text, inference & deduction and authorial viewpoint
- * We encourage you to read with your child at home and record this in their white reading record book
- * You can record any book you read together – not just their Guided Reading book
- * We will count a maximum of 1 read at home per day and award the child this many stickers for the reading at home chart

Have you had a new mobile over Christmas? With a new number?

If so please complete this slip and return to Miss Ward / Mr O'Brien in the mornings / the school office. Thank you!

Child's name:

Class name:

Your new phone number:

Relationship to child: