



Hamp Nursery & Infants' School
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Headteacher: Mrs. M Weatherburn

8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to school!

Once again, the British weather has surprised us. This time last year, we came back to a wet and gloomy week of weather, and this year, after a disappointing summer we have another heatwave! Despite the weather, the term has started well and children are settling happily into their new classes. Many of you will already know the extreme weather measures we have in place for the heat, please see the website or ask a member of staff if you are concerned. I imagine it won't last too long and we'll be back to rain and cold quite soon! I am hoping we are able to go outdoors again next week so please remember sunhats and lotion before school, if we are lucky enough to have any sun!

You probably will have noticed that over the summer we had the bamboo that grew at the front of our building (and several other unexpected places!) removed. New planting has gone in which will need some time to establish, and some rain would help. Can I please ask that you ensure the children do not run into the beds. Thank you.

I have been pleased to see that most of you remembered the new times of the school day, but just to clarify for you all...

School begins at 8.30am and the teachers will come onto the playground at 8.30 (one or two may arrive a couple of minutes earlier but that doesn't mean the others are late). I will unlock the gate at approximately 8.20 (once the driveway is closed to vehicles), so that you can come in and be ready waiting on the playground for 8.30. This helps those of you who are going to work or onto another school drop. For those of you with older children who attended here before the pandemic you may remember that this was always the process for the start of the day. For those of you who do not want to arrive early and wait, I would suggest you aim for 8.25 so that by the time you walk the long drive round to the playground the children are just in time for 8.30.

Lateness The gate will remain open until 8.40 and a staff member for each class will be available on the playground until 8.40. If you arrive after this window, you will need to sign your child into the "late register" in the main school Reception, giving a reason for the lateness. Please be sure to hand them to a member of the office staff or Mrs Newcombe. Whilst we appreciate we all have "one of those days", punctuality helps the children and lateness disadvantages them, so improving school attendance and timekeeping continues to be important to us, as it improves your child's school experience and progress.

School ends at 3.00pm. We will open the gate at 3.00pm for you to come in and collect, either from the playground or the "wet doors" – hopefully you know where they are by now but see the list on the next page if not. Any member of staff will help you if you are a little lost!

Inside the main gate then...	Class/Nursery room	Teacher/s
First gate on the left (as usual)	Humpty Dumpty	Miss Keal
Second gate on your left (as usual)	5 little ducks	Mrs Wassell
Fourth gate on your left (train garden)	Gruffalo	Mrs Eeles
Second hall door on your left	Night Pirates	Mrs Seago
	Stardust	Miss Vowles
Low gate near wigwam (as usual)	Jack and Jill	Miss Miller
High gate on left to playground then first door on your left	Snow Bears	Mrs Pople/Mrs Clements
	Very Hungry Caterpillar	Mrs Williams
High gate on left to playground then second door (at the other end)	Paddington Bears	Mrs Beresford
	Percy the Park Keeper	Mrs Burrows

Uniform Last year we started to have “outgrown uniform” sales that were very appreciated by many of our families. If you have any good quality items at all that your children have outgrown and you are able to donate them please drop them to the school office or your class teachers as soon as you are able. We sell most items for £1.00 per item, and the proceeds go into a pastoral fund to support families in need. Up to now we have only had a few items brought in but we would like to start the after-school sales next week, so if anyone has anything at all, including coats, shoes or daps, please hand them to your class teachers next week. The “uniform shop” will be in the first classroom on the right as you enter the door at the bottom of the playground. We will start next Wednesday and be open every Wednesday in September. After that, the first Wednesday after each school holiday, although we are happy to accept donations at any time of the year as your children grow!

Uniform continued Already, this week there have been a few mixed up or lost jumpers and cardigans. This is frustrating for you particularly when they are brand new. It doesn't help us to track missing items down when you tell us for example “it was a green size 30”. As you can imagine there are quite a few! We have checked this week and the majority of the children's uniform is not named. When 25 to 30 children all take the same kind of jumpers off and put them on their pegs... then they are in and out of the cloakrooms getting book bags and PE kits etc, well I am sure you can imagine! Please put your child's name or initials into every item of their clothing. We are teaching the children to be responsible for their things and we will do our best to track items down, and although we can't guarantee to find every missing item, we don't really stand a chance with unnamed clothing.

This year we will be holding our “**Harvest Celebration day**” on **Wednesday 20th September**. For a suggested donation of £1.00 the children are invited to come to school in Autumn coloured clothing eg brown, yellow, orange, red etc (think of autumn leaves). Please do not feel you have to buy something new. Even one autumn coloured item will do. This year we will donate the proceeds to the Bridgwater Foodbank, a very worthy cause that has supported many of our families over the years.

Also, we are planning to hold a Macmillan coffee morning again this year, which Mrs Bryant is kindly organising for Friday 29th September. We will write to you next week with more information.

Finally, can I please remind you to try to keep to the left as you enter and exit school at drop off and collection times. Although we are no longer worrying about Covid, this does help the flow of people in and out. Also, I have had several complaints already this week...there are quite a few children running on ahead of parents, often to get to the scooter park where they will wait and then rush on again down the drive. Please can I ask that you keep your children with you as some of them are charging straight into others causing quite a danger. I am planning to talk to them all in assembly today about this issue but we can only make it safe enough with your cooperation. Thank you.

As always, please contact us with any questions or concerns. We are happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Mary Weatherburn
Headteacher

