



Hamp Nursery & Infants' School
Rhode Lane
Bridgwater
TA6 6JB

Tel: 01278 422012
Email: office@hnschool.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. M. Weatherburn

6 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a lovely summer. Sadly, our return appears to have signalled the end of the good weather, and we're already having to negotiate rainy days and "wet doors". For those of you new to school, please see the list of drop off and collection points at the end of this letter. Hopefully, the giant-sized puddles that we used to get on the driveway will be gone, following some remedial work undertaken in the summer, but until the next torrential downpour, we won't know! We also had some resurfacing done to even out some pathways elsewhere in the school, and our next project, which will hopefully begin in the next week or two, is to resurface the Five Little Ducks garden into an all-weather area. The contractors have assured us this will have no impact on your safe access into school.

Despite the weather, the term has started well and children are settling happily into their new classes. Please speak to your class teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

This week, we are sending our Friday letter, plus the flu immunisation letter (see below) out in paper form, due to an IT issue with our system failing to send to gmail accounts. Our usual process, for those of you new to us, is to email a Friday letter weekly, combining information and notices into one communication, so that you know when to look out for this. We will send paper letters when we need you to sign something, and if any information is emailed on a different day, we will put a notice on our whiteboard outside Reception, to let you know to look out for it. We also put all letters onto our school website, which is currently being updated for the new school year.

Usually, our letters are not quite this long! Please bear with it! There's quite a lot to tell you.

Important things to remember

School begins at 8.30am - Gates open at 8.20am so you can be on the playground on time. Gates close by 8.40am. 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 - Please be sure to inform us if someone else is collecting your child, as a one-off or routinely. We will not release children to anyone if we have not been informed. If your plans change during the day, please telephone the school office so they can let the class teacher know. It can be very worrying for the children and if we know of a change or that you are stuck in traffic, for example, we can reassure and prepare the children.

Uniform – Please name all items of clothing, especially coats and jumpers. Imagine a PE lesson, when they all take off new t-shirts, trousers, shoes etc. No-one knows what belongs to anyone, and some children can become quite upset if they lose their things. It takes up valuable learning time to try to find and relocate all items, which could be avoided if everything was named. Sharpie pens written onto the label are the most effective, but a normal Biro pen will do the job for several washes.

Please ensure all PE kits and Forest school kits are here by Monday. They will stay in school until the next holiday week. Book bags should come in and go home daily.

Uniform sale

We sell “outgrown uniform” that has been donated to us, once every half-term for £1.00 per item. This sale will be after school on the first Thursday of each half-term, in the hut at the back of the school. Once you have collected your child from the playground, you will be able to access this by coming back around the side hall doors and cutting through the Hall and Hobbit garden. Our first sale this term will be during our open afternoon – see next item.

Important events coming up

Open afternoon – Thursday 12th September - Unfortunately, last term we had to cancel the open evening due to multiple illnesses. I am happy to say that we have returned to school without any sign of those, so would like to offer the chance to come into school again. Our next scheduled twilight evening is not for a while, so we will have an open afternoon instead. We haven't done this quite in this way before, so apologies in advance if it doesn't go completely smoothly!

On Thursday 12th September, please arrive to collect your child at 2pm. The children will be ready and waiting for you in their classrooms. The classrooms will be set up with resources and equipment so they can show you around, tell you about their classrooms and introduce you to their friends. You will have opportunities to chat with the teacher, some of the TAs and to meet other parents. Once ready, you can leave with your child and tour the wider school environment, see the Forest School area and the outdoor spaces that your child will be spending their time in. BAM, our caterers will be here in our Hall, offering cakes and pudding samples for you to try.

As mentioned above, we will be selling outgrown uniform that afternoon. Our office/admin staff will be on hand to help you with any queries, Mrs Newcombe and I will be here to offer support in any way needed.

Hopefully, everyone will be able to attend. You are welcome to collect your child at 2pm if not. For any working parents or those unable to arrive before 3pm, please let your class teacher know, so that we are able to plan adequate supervision for them.

Can I please remind you of the photograph policy before the afternoon, and ask that you leave your phone at home if you can, otherwise we will need to ask you to hand it in at the school office before heading to the classrooms.

Flu immunisation programme for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 on 30th September 2024 - A leaflet for this year's programme has been published by Public Health with information for primary schools; this can be found via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools>

Please also see separate letter explaining how to give your consent.

Staff news

We have not started back in September quite how we planned, as unfortunately Mrs Bryant and Mrs Seago are both unwell. We expect Mrs Bryant to return just before or after October half-term, but it is likely Mrs Seago will be out until at least Christmas, if not longer. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Mrs Bryant's teaching days in Gruffalo class (Monday and Tuesday) are being covered by Mrs Clements (who also teaches in Snow Bears on Thursday and Friday). After school Forest School club will have a break this term, with a plan to reintroduce it at a later date.

Mrs Seago's teaching responsibilities are being covered by Mrs Gentile on Monday and Wednesday afternoons in Night Pirates class, and by Mrs Gardner in Paddington Bear class. Mrs Gardner will teach Paddington Bear class on Monday and Tuesday with Mrs Beresford continuing Wednesday to Friday.

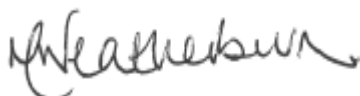
During Mrs Seago's absence, Mrs Beresford will be acting Deputy Head, with an additional day out of class to fulfil some of these responsibilities. I am delighted that she will be supporting me and am confident that these changes will not impact your child's progress.

Wet Doors

Inside the main gate then...	Class/Nursery room	Teacher/s
First gate on the left (as usual)	*Humpty Dumpty	Miss Allen
Second gate on your left (as usual)	*5 Little Ducks	Miss Keal
Third gate to your left (Wendy House garden)	*Gruffalo	Mrs Huxley/Mrs Bryant
Fourth gate on your left (train garden)	*Jack and Jill	Miss Miller
Second hall door on your left	Night Pirates	Mrs Foord
	Percy the Park Keeper	Mrs Burrows
High gate on left to playground then first door on your left	Snow Bears	Mrs Clements/Mrs Hall
	Very Hungry Caterpillar	Mrs Williams
High gate on left to playground then second door (at the other end)	Paddington Bears	Mrs Beresford
	Stardust	Mrs Burrows

*Our three Nursery rooms, Humpty Dumpty, Five Little Ducks and Jack and Jill, and also the Gruffalo class use these doors at all times, regardless of the weather. If your child is in Gruffalo class and you arrive late, after the gate has closed, you must please take them to the main school office to sign them in, and a member of staff will escort them to the classroom.

Yours sincerely



Mary Weatherburn
Headteacher