



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

13 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Open Afternoon – It was really great that so many of you were able to attend on Thursday afternoon to meet your teachers, explore your child's classroom with them, look around the school, and to sample some crumble! We will keep you informed of other parent events as they happen throughout the year. The next event is...

Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September 2pm onwards - Once again, we have decided to support this fantastic charity. There are very few of us and I am sure, your families, who have not been touched by cancer, and we are proud to do our bit to help support them. We are just tweaking the coffee morning to a coffee afternoon though, from 2pm onwards in the school hall. This way, you can collect your child when you arrive, and take them in the hall with you for cake and drinks. Please bring cash as we do not have the facility for card payments. It would be greatly appreciated if you could donate any cakes to this cause, but please note we are only able to sell shop-bought cakes or biscuits, which must be nut-free, due to health and safety regulations regarding allergens. Please check for nut-free ingredients. Please send any donations into school during that week. If you are unable to attend during the afternoon, the coffee afternoon will continue after school, and you are welcome to come in then. Thank you for your support.

Nut Free – We now have several children across all year groups including our nursery rooms, with allergies to nuts or nut based products, amongst other things. For some of them their reactions are severe and can have very serious consequences. We are, once again, a Nut Free school. Can we please ask that you check the contents of any items that you are sending into school. We only have a few children who bring lunchboxes, and we must ask that you are vigilant in checking your packaging to avoid any items that are nuts, contain nuts, or may contain traces of nuts. All staff are doing the same with their lunches, our catering company is aware of allergens and cater for this, and the teachers are adapting their planning for any food-based activities to ensure we do our best to keep your children safe.

Attendance – There has been quite a lot in the media lately about the changes the Government has brought in to improve school attendance, and to reduce the amount of term-time absences for holidays. Our school attendance for last year was 89.7%, impacted by the Norovirus and other outbreaks at the end of the year. Usually, it is around the 90-91% figure, which is lower than the national average of 94.5%, and something we are working to try to improve.

Whilst we may understand and often sympathise with the reasons for taking holiday in term-time, the Government has given us very strict instructions regarding what does not constitute an "exceptional circumstance", and how schools must proceed with penalty notices and fines. Should you wish to request an absence, this must be done using the form available on our website or from the school office in advance.

It is important to note that these absence penalty notices and fines do not just relate to holidays, but persistent absences within certain time periods. Regular attendance at school is crucial to a child's development and progress, and if well enough they should attend. Rest assured, I do not expect you to send a very poorly child into school, but current medical advice would be that most coughs and colds do not require children to miss school. Please telephone or email the school office on the first day of any illnesses to inform us of your child's absence. We are sending home a printed sheet today with your child which further clarifies the new guidance.

Scooters and Bikes on School Site – For those of you who are new to school, we encourage healthy lifestyles and are happy to see the children scooting or riding into school each day. We ask that parents supervise their children on the long drive, rather than letting them rush on ahead. It can be quite dangerous when they are weaving in and out of other people. The road section of the long drive is for bikes and scooters, leaving the foot path free for other families who wish to walk safely without worry.

Adults and older children are not permitted to cycle or scoot on our driveway, and they should always walk up and down the drive between our inner gate and the Rhode Lane entrance, alongside their children.

In all cases, children must get off their scooters and bikes outside the gates (where staff stand) and walk into the school and into the scooter park, and again when leaving, they would need to walk their bikes and scooters out through the gates, before getting onto them.

Google Classroom – All classes have newly set up Google Classrooms that they will be posting photos and information in every Friday for you to see and share with your children some of their learning from the week. You are able to comment on the posts and the learning that you see. We love to see some of the exciting things that are going on in your lives too!

You should already have received, earlier today, an email with guidance on how to log on to this online platform (you should have two emails as the first one cut a bit of important information out!). Although most people can log in with no trouble at all, there are always a few every year, who have “gremlins”! Please see Miss Pappin, our school business manager, if you are unable to gain access. If you bring your device in with you, she can usually work out a solution!

This is an excellent way for you to keep in touch with your child’s learning. We have had many positive comments from parents in the past who love being able to talk to their child about their learning in school. Please let us know if you are unable to access it and we will find a solution.

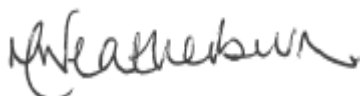
Contacts – Please let us know straightaway if you have changed any of your emergency contacts, or changed any phone numbers over the holidays. You can drop into the office, phone or email.

Reading Volunteers – We are always happy to welcome volunteers into school to help listen to children read. If you have an hour, here or there, and you would like to come in, please speak to your child’s class teacher to let them know.

Books – We have a few boxes of books that we no longer need in school. You are welcome to browse them and take as few or as many as you would like. We will lay them outside in the play area opposite Reception at home times next week (when it is dry). Please help yourselves.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Weatherburn', written in a cursive style.

Mary Weatherburn
Headteacher