

# School News

## October 2017



### NEW HOUSES

We have recently changed our house system, as we were aware that there were considerably more children in blue house in Year 6 than yellow! Using suggestions made by the children, our houses are now named after planets (Mars, Mercury, Saturn and Jupiter). We want - as far as can be possible - to have the same amount of children in each year group in each house. When new children arrive at the school in Year 1 or above, they will join the house that has the least children in it in that particular year group. Siblings are no longer in the same house.

We recently held elections for our House captains and vice captains. We were all impressed by the high quality of presentations that were made on the day. Our successful captains are now responsible for celebrating house heroes each week. Winners of this award will be children who have demonstrated a chosen value either in the classroom or out at play.

Our vice captains will be responsible for counting our weekly Dojo totals and updating our display in the school hall. Dojos are awarded to children who demonstrate our school values, not just in the classroom, but throughout the whole school day. The vice captains will also award weekly Dojo certificates for children who achieve the highest total in each year group.

Our Dojo display in the hall will show how well children are working towards their termly target. Jojo the Dojo (named by children in Robins) will show how close they are to a reward for demonstrating their responsibility, caring, respect, ambition, creativity and perseverance.

### PARENT DROP-INS: HAVE YOUR SAY!

As a school, we regularly review our practice and monitor teaching and learning. For this reason, we strongly value the feedback that we receive from parents so that - with their input - we can adapt and improve. Your communication to us enables us to address key issues and move forwards.

Parent drop-ins provide a forum for discussing school improvement and we dearly want you to join us to have your say. We meet in the staffroom after the bell has been rung for the start of the school day. If you are unable to join us, but would like to share your opinions on a subject, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to the office.

Our first drop-in is on **Tuesday 17th October** when we will be discussing Maths homework and Mathematics. Come and join us for a coffee to share your thoughts.

### OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone: 01454 238629

E-mail: [enquiries@hawkesbury.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hawkesbury.org.uk)

Website: [www.hawkesburyprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.hawkesburyprimaryschool.co.uk)

## **OUR RESPONSIBLE PUPILS TAKING THE LEAD**

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

We have a very motivated team again this year and are meeting once a week at lunchtime. Members of the School Council were elected by their classmates at the start of the year. So far, they have achieved the following:

- Created an anti-bullying message for the school. This is now on display in the school hall and has been signed as a means of agreement by the children in Robins, Swallows and Hawks. Wrens will be able to sign this later in the year.
- Selected charities to be supported in the Autumn terms. These include the Mercy in Action Christmas Appeal, together with the British Red Cross Hurricane Appeal, which is our chosen charity for Harvest.
- Carried out a safety audit of the school to ensure that all pupils feel safe.

### **WORSHIP WARRIORS**

Our Year 6s have all volunteered to become a Worship warrior this year. This means that they will set up Collective Worship and start each service with a prayer. In addition, all members of Hawk class will be involved in running an act of Collective Worship this year, either by presenting or by setting up. We have planned six entirely child-led Collective Worship services this year.

### **ECO GROUP**

A group of Year 5 children have created their own lunchtime Eco club. They too are planning to lead a whole school service but on the theme of protecting our environment. They have also arranged for Be The Change to visit the school to help spread the word about Eco issues. The group will be creating their own display in the junior corridor.

### **DESIGN GROUP**

Members of Hawk class have also created a lunchtime design club. They are currently in the process of creating designs for a moon buggy.

## **HARVEST - FRIDAY 13th OCTOBER**

Please could children bring in non-perishable food only this year. We will be supporting the Julian Trust, which is also known as the Bristol Night Shelter. A list of food that they urgently need can be found in the letter that was sent out last week. To find out more about the Julian Trust, please use the following link: <http://juliantrust.org.uk/>

We will have a Harvest Service at St Mary's Church at 9:30am to which you are all warmly invited.

We will be holding our usual celebration service at 2pm. At the end of the service, we will auction a harvest loaf. Rather than holding a fruit and veg auction this year, the School Council has asked if we could hold a collection instead. They would like to raise money to support the British Red Cross Hurricane Appeal. More details about the appeal can be found on the following website: <http://www.redcross.org.uk/en/About-us/News/2017/September/Red-Cross-launches-Hurricane-Irma-Appeal>

We hope that you can join and support us at our Harvest this year.

## P.T.A. NEWS

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY 10th OCTOBER (8pm)**

Our amazing PTA are holding their AGM at school on the 10th October and you are all welcome to come along to find out what they have achieved over the past 12 months as well as vote in new officers for the year ahead. This is a very friendly evening, made even better by the promise of tasty nibbles! Do come along to see what the PTA do.

### **CHRISTMAS FAIR - SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER**

We are beginning to collect items for the children's secret shop for our annual Christmas Fair. If you have any gifts that you would like to donate, please bring them to the office.

### **SAVE THE DATE! - 80s DISCO - SATURDAY 3rd MARCH**

## READING NEWS

### **PARENT READING WORKSHOP**

Many thanks to those of you who were able to attend our parents' reading workshop and Wren Class phonics session. We hope that they provided valuable support for supporting literacy at home.

### **SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**

Well done to the children who took part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Some 37% of the school completed the challenge this year.

### **TIME 4 READING**

Having met our target of achieving Silver accreditation in Time 4 Reading last year, we are now going for gold! In order to further develop our culture of reading, we are looking to achieve the following in the year ahead:

- Regular school library visits
- Three book swaps
- Hold a pupil-organised book fair. (This will be taking place in December - details to follow)
- Members of the community to share their favourite books
- Trips to libraries outside of the school.

## ROAD SAFETY PEDESTRIAN TRAINING

Our Year 5s recently received training on road safety from the South Glos team. They were given both practical and in-class activities.

We will be having a whole school assembly on the subject of Be Safe, Be Seen on Wednesday November 1st.

## CHRISTIAN VALUE

Our value for the term is humility.

### **Hawkesbury Afterschool Club**

Monday – Thursday 2.30pm - 6pm

Mini sessions 2.30pm -3.30pm

Call Louisa, Danielle or Miranda on:

**07527224741**

### **Breakfast Club**

Monday – Friday 7.30am - 8.30am

Food served until 8am

**£3 per session.**

## PARLIAMENT EDUCATION SESSIONS

On Tuesday 10th October, children in Swallows and Hawks will have a visit from the Parliament Education Outreach team. They will learn about democracy and how laws are made, which will help children understand more about our British Values.

## SCHOOL FUND

We have recently had the School Fund account audited in line with financial regulations. Accounts are available on request from Mrs Trayler.

## SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

### CHILD PROTECTION COURSE

All our staff have recently attended Child Protection training, either as part of their induction as professionals new to education or as a refresher for established professionals.

## IN-SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Each year our children benefit hugely from having extra adult support in class provided by parent / carer volunteers. It is also an excellent opportunity for parents, carers and people from the community to get involved with the school and the children's education. If you are willing and able to volunteer in any way, e.g. help hear children read, stick work in books, play a maths game, then please see your child's class teacher to offer help or let Mr Riddington know.

## FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD



Integra, our supplier of school meals, are delighted to announce that they have recently received the Soil Association **Food for Life Served Here silver award**. This means that all our meat is Red Tractor farm assured and all our food is free from artificial additives like aspartame & MSG. We also use a range of organic ingredients supporting a system which works with nature. So if you want your child to benefit from our healthy delicious meals please book a meal with the school.

## UNAUTHORISED LEAVE

There has been a lot of attention in the press in recent times paid to term time holidays. On behalf of the governors, I write to clarify where we currently stand as a school and to show the amount of unauthorised leave that is taking place. The governors are monitoring the situation with a view to reviewing how to address this.

| YEAR GROUP | AMOUNT OF LEARNING LOST THROUGH UNAUTHORISED LEAVE IN 2016/7 |
|------------|--|
| WRENS      | 15.5 days  |
| YEAR 1     | 26.5 days  |
| YEAR 2     | 11.5 days  |
| YEAR 3     | 3.5 days   |
| YEAR 4     | 6 days   |
| YEAR 5     | 2 days   |
| YEAR 6     | 7 days   |

Unauthorised leave has increased at our school over the past twelve months and this is a concern that has been discussed at our recent governors' meeting, when our attendance policy was discussed. Not only does it have a detrimental effect on the learning of the pupils that go away, it can also be disruptive to the rest of the class as time has to be spent bringing the returning pupils back up to pace. Children are assessed on a number of learning objectives that are covered during a year. If a child is away during the time that an objective is being taught, it may not always be possible to teach that again. As a result, their progress will be affected.

Our attendance policy states the following:

### Rationale

Regular attendance at school is essential for children as it promotes good learning, positive attitudes and maintains continuity in their education and in their friendships. Children should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason is unavoidable; permitting absence from school without a good reason is an offence by a parent.

### Aims

To maximise the attendance of all children

To provide an environment which encourages regular attendance and makes attendance and punctuality a priority for all those attending the school.

To monitor and support children whose attendance is a cause for concern and work in partnership with parents and carers to resolve any difficulty.

### Statutory Framework

**Under Section 7 of the 1966 Education Act, parents/carers have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their children of compulsory school age receive full time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.**

The school is obliged by law to differentiate between authorised and unauthorised absence. A letter or telephone message from a parent does not in itself authorise an absence. Only if the school is satisfied as to the validity of the explanation offered by the letter / message will the school consider authorising an absence.

Previous attendance for the child will be taken into consideration when reaching a decision to authorise an absence.

**The school will not authorise an absence for a child, unless there are exceptional circumstances and the absence has been approved in advance.**

Every half day absence from school has to be classified by the school, (not by the parents) as either AUTHORISED OR UNAUTHORISED.

## **Absence**

### **Authorised absence**

Absence can be authorised if:

The pupil is away from school for a good reason such as illness or other unavoidable causes e.g. a day of religious observance. A family bereavement, the pupil is attending an approved off-site activity or special off-site tuition.

All absence starts as unauthorised until a reason is given and accepted by the school.

### **Unauthorised absence**

Absence will be unauthorised if:

Attendance is below 90% for the current academic year or there have been two or more broken weeks during that term.

No explanation is forthcoming.

The school does not consider the absence as reasonable and for which no permission has been given, e.g. the pupil stays at home to mind the house or look after siblings; the pupil is shopping during school hours; the pupil is on a family holiday without permission or if the parents have failed to apply for permission in advance of the holiday and instead seek retrospective approval on their return.

### **Holidays during term time**

Holidays during term time are not allowed unless there are exceptional circumstances as they disrupt a child's education and impair progress. They can only be agreed in exceptional circumstances and application should be made in advance. Each request will be treated on an individual basis and parents/carers will be asked to complete a Request for Leave of Absence form given during the meeting with the Headteacher.

### **Penalty Notices**

If a child's absence causes continual concern and parents / carers have done little to improve the absence the case will be referred to the Education Welfare Service who may issue a Penalty Notice for is £60 if paid within 28 days of receipt of the notice; and £120 if paid within 42 days of receipt of the notice.

### **Other Absences**

Other absences from school during term time will be considered on an individual basis and a decision will be made on whether to authorise the absence. To make an application parents or carers must make an appointment to see the Headteacher, prior to the absence.

## **PARENT DROP-IN FEEDBACK FORM**

If you are unable to attend our next parent drop-in, but would like to share your thoughts, please complete this form and return it to the office.

Many thanks.

**SUBJECT: MATHS HOMEWORK AND MATHLETICS**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

| WHAT                              | WHEN   | WHERE           | WHO                 | OTHER DETAILS   |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| Harvest Service                   | Friday 13th October                              | St Marys Church | All are welcome     |   |
| Last day of Term 1                | Friday 20th October                              | School          | Children            |   |
| HALF TERM HOLIDAY                 | Saturday 21st October -<br>Sunday 29th October   |                 |                     |   |
| First day of Term 2               | Monday 30th October                              | School          | Children            |   |
| Parents' evening                  | Tues 7th November (late)<br>Wed 8th Nov (early)  | School          | Parents and carers. |   |
| Infant Nativity                   | 1:30pm Tues 5th December<br>9am Wed 6th December | School          | Wrens and Robins    |   |
| PTA Christmas Fair                | Saturday 9th December<br>(lunchtime)             |                 | All are welcome     |   |
| Junior Production                 | 1:15 and 5:30pm Tues 12th<br>December            | School          | Swallows and Hawks  | Please note that Swallow and Hawk children will need to be at school for the later performance. |
| School trip to the theatre        | Wednesday 13th December                          | Bristol Old Vic | All children        | Details to follow   |
| Last day of Term 2 for children.  | Friday 15th December                             | School          | Children            |   |
| INSET DAY                         | Monday 18th December                             | School          | Staff               | Children should not come to school.   |
| CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS                | Saturday 16th December -<br>Tuesday 2nd January  |                 |                     |   |
| INSET DAY                         | Tuesday 2nd January                              | School          | Staff               | Children should not come to school.   |
| First day of Term 3 for children. | Wednesday 3rd January                            | School          | Children            |   |
| Last day of Term 3                | Friday 9th February                              | School          | Children            |   |
| HALF TERM HOLIDAY                 | Saturday 10th February -<br>Sunday 18th February |                 |                     |   |
| First day of Term 4               | Monday 19th February                             | School          | Children            |   |
| Last day of Term 4                | Friday 23rd March                                | School          | Children            |   |
| EASTER HOLIDAYS                   | Saturday 24th March - Mon-<br>day 9th April      |                 |                     |   |
| INSET DAY                         | Monday 9th April                                 | School          | Staff               | Children should not come to school.   |
| First Day of Term 5 for children. | Tuesday 10th April                               | School          | Children            |   |
| Last day of Term 5 for children   | Thursday 24th May                                | School          | Children            |   |
| INSET DAY                         | Friday 25th May                                  | School          | Staff               | Children should not come to school.   |
| HALF TERM HOLIDAY                 | Friday 25th May - Sunday 3rd<br>June             |                 |                     |   |
| First day of Term 6               | Monday 4th June                                  | School          | Children            |   |
| Last day of Term 6                | Friday 20th July                                 | School          | Children            |   |