

Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School

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21st October 2022

Thank you to all

As we conclude the first term of this school year, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support of the school. We have achieved a lot over recent weeks and the children are settling well into their new classes. Thank you also to our wonderful staff team for being so incredibly committed to the education of the children at our school.

It was good to welcome so many families to our recent Harvest service at St Mary's Church – thank you to those who were able to come along and for the many donations that were made to the Yate and Chipping Sodbury Foodbank.

It was good to welcome you to our recent parent teacher meetings. Whilst we are only able to hold two formal meetings like this each year, we always encourage you to come and speak to your child's class teacher if you ever have any questions or are concerned about anything to do with your child's education.

Earlier in the week, we shared with you the news that Mrs Halstead will be leaving us at the end of December. We are currently in the middle of the recruitment process: an advert has been placed, several prospective candidates have been shown around the school and we will hold interviews early in Term 2. As soon as a decision has been made we will provide you with an update.

We wish you a happy and healthy half term and look forward to seeing you again on **Monday 31st October** at 8.30am.

Mike Riches, Headteacher

Attendance information

Our current attendance information for each class is as follows:

Wrens Reception	Robins Y1/2	Swallows Y3/4	Hawks Y5/6	Whole school
96.8%	97%	95.2%	96.3%	96.3%

Our attendance target for the year ahead is 96.5% and we are already pretty close to achieving this. Well done to Robin Class for having the highest attendance so far this year!

Every day in school counts and we ask that all children are in school on time every day unless they are too unwell to attend. Thank you to all for supporting us as a school as we strive to provide the best possible education for your children.

Morning routine

Don't forget the children will go straight into class as soon as they arrive on the playground from next term. Please arrive by 8.20am to ensure your child doesn't miss out on important learning.

Next INSET day

Our next training day for staff will take place on **Friday 25th November**. School will be closed to all children.

Online safety parent information session

All parents are invited to attend an online information session about online safety. This will be led by Deb Ferris who works for the Local Authority. The session will take place on **Wednesday 16th November at 6pm** and will last no longer than 1 hour. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

School priorities for the year ahead

Each year, staff and governors work together to decide upon the priorities for the year ahead based on new initiatives and in response to the specific needs of the school at the time. This is part of an ongoing process of self-evaluation and identification of next steps which all schools go through. This year we have decided to focus on the following main priorities:

- Implementing a new approach to teaching phonics and early reading called Unlocking Letters & Sounds
- Exploring new approaches to the structure and organisation of maths teaching and learning
- Continuing to embed our approach to teaching the wider curriculum – we call this Curious City
- Continuing to embed our approach to teaching writing through a process called Talk for Writing
- Implementing a new music curriculum called Charanga
- Promoting healthy lifestyles – both in terms of physical and mental health
- Further strengthening the roles of our subject leaders as they lead and monitor each aspect of the curriculum

At various points through the year we will review our progress towards these priorities at staff and governor meetings. We hope to update the wider school community on an ongoing basis, too.

New After School Tennis Coaching opportunities

Chris Butcher from Hawkesbury Tennis Club is able to offer a tennis club after school from 2.30-3.30pm on a Wednesday, starting after half term. Lessons will be for a 6-week block at a cost of £6 per session (maximum of 16 children per session). Sessions can be booked directly with Chris chrisjbutcher@btinternet.com

Friday celebration assembly

Last week, the following children were celebrated for their achievements:

Wrens – **Jack** was celebrated for good friendship, and **Ruby** was celebrated for her counting in maths.

Robins – **Lucy** was celebrated as an author for her wonderful poem.

Swallows – **Erin** was celebrated for her use of conjunctions within a narrative, and **Reuben** was celebrated for his tenacity on the football pitch.

Hawks – **Rebecca** was celebrated for her pastels and charcoal artwork, and **Maisie** was celebrated for her writing.

House captains: **Martha** was chosen as Jupiter House hero for always helping her friends. **Ezra** was chosen as Mercury house hero for being kind in class. In Mars House, **Ruby** was house hero for being kind and in Saturn house, **Suzy** was house hero for always being positive.

Governor Update

Governors met on Monday 10th October for their termly Full Governing Body meeting. The headlines from the meeting were as follows:

- The agreement of the Federation Development Plan (FDP) – this is central to what the schools do.
- Decision on changes to school hours at Hawkesbury Primary School.
- Agreement to provide additional resource at Iron Acton where staff have identified it is needed.
- The Governor monitoring programme is having a real impact on the schools.
- Governors met earlier in the term and held a beneficial off site – session.

If you have any questions about the work of the governing body, please join one of our parent-governor sessions on **Monday 7th November – at 2.30pm in the school hall, or at 7pm via teams**. Alternatively, please contact the school office or Clerk to the Governors, Kate Bashford.

Term 1&2 calendar

Event	Date and time	Information
First day of Term 2	31 st October 8.30am	
Parent-Governor information sessions	7 th November – 2.30pm (school hall) and 7pm (online)	
Parent council meeting	11 th November	Please send questions and comments to class reps.
Celebration assembly	11 th November 2pm	Families are invited to attend.
PTA Christmas jumper swap	11 th November 2.30pm	Please see separate PTA flyer.
Online safety parent information session (online)	16 th November 6pm	This is an incredibly important safeguarding session which is relevant to parents of children across the age range. A teams invite will be sent out nearer the time.
Non-uniform day for Christmas fair prizes	18 th November	
Church family service	20 th November 10.30am	
Anti-bullying week	w/c 21 st November	This will include a visit from drama organisation Unique Voice.
INSET day	25 th November	School will be closed to all children.
Celebration assembly	11 th November 2pm	Families are invited to attend.
Christmas fair	10 th December	This will take place in the Village Hall.
Wrens & Robins Nativity services	6 th & 8 th December	Ticket information will be shared nearer the time.
Swallows & Hawks performance	13 th December	Ticket information will be shared nearer the time.
Last day of Term 2	Friday 16 th December 2.30pm	
Christingle service	Friday 16 th December 9.30am	Families are invited to join us at church for this event.
First day of Term 3	Wednesday 4 th January 8.30am	

Dates can also be found on our school website: <https://hawkesburyprimaryschool.co.uk/category/news/>