

'Enabling everyone to flourish' Respect, Perseverance, Creativity

Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School

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20th January 2023

Key dates and events for the term ahead

Final swimming lesson for Hawk Class – 27th January

Robin Class visit to SS Great Britain – 31st January

LGBT history month begins – February

During the month of February we look at the lives of some key people from the LGBT community who have made a difference to those around them. We use age appropriate resources to support us as we do this. We will share more information with you nearer the time.

Whole school Bhangra music day – 3rd February

Come along to our assembly at the end of the day to see what the children have been learning. This will take place at 2.30pm.

Bag2School collection – 3rd February

Please place bags outside the black side gate.

Final Cross Country event at KLB – 4th February

Children's mental health week – w/c 6th February

This will include separate assemblies for our younger and older children followed by class workshops. The theme is 'Let's Connect'. The children's mental health website explains: "It's all about making meaningful connections. People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing."

Safer internet day – 7th February

Safer Internet Day 2023 will take place on the 7th of February 2023, with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online**'.

Outdoor learning day – 10th February

We aim to spend the whole day learning whilst outside.

Final day of Term 3 – 10th February

First day of Term 4 – 20th February

World Book Day – 2nd March

Children will be invited to dress up as their favourite book character. The PTA will be sharing some fundraising ideas as part of the day.

Attendance information

We will continue to report attendance information to you each time a newsletter is released. Our overall attendance for this week is 98.14%. For the year so far, this stands at 95.4%. We are keen to achieve our overall attendance target of 96.5%.

Please ensure your child is in school and on time every day to enable them to do the best they possibly can. Having said that we recognise there is a lot of illness going round at the moment and the advice from the NHS is for children to remain out of school until a fever has subsided.

Term time holidays

Please do not book term time holidays as this means your child will miss out on vital learning and make it hard for them to catch up. As we move forward, more pressure will be put on schools by Government and Local Authority to issue fixed penalty notices for any unauthorised absence and this is something our Governing Body is currently having to consider.

Art day

Last week, the children participated in an art day which included an opportunity for them to work as part of their houses. It was wonderful to see the quality of the art work produced and the effort that went into the children's creativity. Thank you to all those who were able to come and see the work on display last Monday. We hope you enjoyed your visit.

Strike action

You may have heard that the National Education Union has released some potential strike dates for its members over the coming months; the first of these is 2nd February. As a school, we fully support any member of staff who engages in strike action. We are required however to do our best to ensure the school remains open in the event of any strike action. We are not currently aware of any teachers who will exercise their right to strike on this day. If this changes we will give you as much notice as possible of any changes to the school day.

Understanding the Playground - Fortnite

We have received the following safeguarding advice to be shared with families:

Since its release 2017, the battle-royale simulator – Fortnite, has become ubiquitous in classrooms and playgrounds throughout the world. The game, which features cartoonish renderings of characters, bright colours and non-visceral consequence free violence, has had a mass appeal to children. Each Christmas another draft of young pupils are induced into its overcrowded multi-player lobbies, to the point that there is not a school pupil in the country who hasn't owned it, begged their parents for it or played it round a friend's house. As a result more children than ever are exposed to multi-player chatting with strangers, and financial exploitation via the game's spend-to-gain-advantage operating style, allowing children to use real world money to gain perks and costumes. From criminal blackmailing, to the coercion of nude exchanges by online 'friends' posing as children, the danger this game presents from a safeguarding perspective is clear. As an added complication, the vocabulary surrounding the game used by pupils is near-incomprehensible, frustrating adepts to secure their safety.

Fortunately to allow for greater comprehension of reports to staff involving the game, Internetmatters.org has published a guide to understanding the game and its terms. You can find the link below:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/fortnite-battle-royal-parents-guide-keep-kids-safe-gaming>

Supporting your child's mental health - information from Jigsaw Thornbury

Do you have a child, young person who has been able to express anxious thoughts, worries, fears? Or maybe you see general ill health, mood swings, poor sleep, isolation, or avoidance which you feel may be linked to stress and anxiety?

Our Project 5 sessions start again this Saturday, 14th January and have helped many families reconnect, empower their children and young people to express themselves, their thoughts, feelings, and emotions. These sessions will start to develop an individual toolkit of support for your child, young person to use along their way to better resilience, acknowledgement and learning about how to manage stress and anxiety throughout life. Sessions are fun, supportive, and nurture resilience for the future. In addition, your child, young person will receive an interactive Project 5 Journal as a tool and reminder to the topics and skills covered in the sessions.

We understand that starting this journey is the toughest step. However, JIGSAW Thornbury are proving that if you and your child, young person can make this first step, you'll benefit your family's future mental health, connection, communication, and resilience. We hope you make the step towards this and join our sessions. Start your journey and sign up today.

JIGSAW Thornbury

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[Project 5 starting Saturday 14th January](#)
[Project 5 starting Monday 27th February](#)

Quotes from previous participants:

“My daughter was really anxious about coming, but she really loved it. It was nice for her to meet other kids like herself.”

“My children both gained a lot from the course and we loved being able to share this time together and connect in a fun way, while helping the children open up about their worries and anxieties.”

[Project 5 information video](#)

JIGSAW Thornbury

Telephone Number: 01454 567508

Website: www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk

Term 3 calendar

Event	Date and time	Information
Parent information – phonics (Wren Class)	25 th January 2.30pm	
Final swimming lesson for Hawk Class	27 th January	
Robin Class visit to SS Great Britain	31 st January	
LGBT history month	February	
Bag 2 School	3 rd February	
Whole school bhangra day	3 rd February	Parents can join us at 2.30pm.
Parent council meeting	3 rd February 2pm	
Primary Cross Country at KLB	4 th February	This is for children who signed up with Mrs Halstead in Term 2.
Children's mental health week	w/c 6 th February	
Safer internet day	7 th February	
Outdoor learning day	10 th February	
Last day of Term 3	10 th February	
First day of Term 4	20 th February	
World Book Day	2 nd March	Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character.

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