

'Enabling everyone to flourish' Respect, Perseverance, Creativity

Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mr M Riches

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8th September 2023

Welcome

It has been a real pleasure to welcome the children back to school this week and also to see 9 new children starting with us in Reception.

Welcome to the following children and their families: Theo, Eliza, Mia-Rose, Noelle, Bertie, Jaxon, Kitty, Rosalie and Robyn.

To the staff team, we also welcome Mrs Adams who will be working in the office every Wednesday morning and all day on a Friday.

Communicating with school

Members of staff are on hand to take messages and answer any questions you may have and we ask that you speak to them in the first instance. They are available at the beginning and end of the day; you can also make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher if you need to. We are a friendly and approachable team and we want to work alongside you to do the best for your child.

Our Special Education Needs Co-ordinator is Mrs Wilson. Please contact the school office if you would like to meet with her to discuss your child's needs.

Texts and emails

Texts from the school are used to share short messages and reminders. Emails are used to share longer messages. We aim to send most communication by email through our Friday email where possible. This includes the newsletter which is shared every other Friday. We ask that all families take a look at the newsletter so that you know what is currently going on at school.

Please do email the school office if you have any other questions or queries. Mrs Brumpton, Mrs Adams and Mrs Parry will be able to direct any messages to your child's class teacher where required.

Picking up and dropping off

The school gate opens at 8.20am. Children must be in school by 8.30am – if they arrive after this time, they will be marked late in the register. The gate opens again just before 3pm when children can be collected.

Children in Wrens (YR), Robins (Y1/2) and Swallows (Y3/4) must be collected from their classrooms. Children in Hawks (Y5/6) can either be collected from the playground or from the front of school; some children meet their families off site – please ensure they are aware of your agreed collection point.

There is often a member of staff at the front of the school but this is not always the case. We therefore ask that you ensure your child stays with you once they have been handed over. Children in Hawk Class will not be stopped at the gate as they are expected to know their pick-up arrangements prior to moving on to secondary school.

Celebration services

Families are invited to join us in school on **Friday 8th September (today) at 2.30pm** for our first celebration service of the term. During this service, children will be invited to share any certificates they may have been awarded during the summer, including those for the summer reading challenge and anything from the Hawkesbury Show.

As our Reception children are not in full time yet, we will make sure there are plenty of similar opportunities during the year.

Celebration services will continue to take place each week where individual certificates and awards are presented. If your child has a certificate, trophy or award they would like to share they are encouraged to do so.

We will be celebrating Harvest on **Friday 6th October at 9am** in St Mary's Church. All families are invited to join us and to hear from the children what they have been learning about. More information will be shared nearer the time.

Food

During the summer, our new catering company took over and have been working alongside Jane and Allison, our school cooks, since the start of term. There are inevitable changes to the approaches taken in the past and we appreciate your patience as we smooth out any initial issues. Any feedback is gratefully received and we will do our best to feed this back to the area manager where required.

The majority of children eat a school meal at lunchtime. If you choose to provide your child with a packed lunch instead, we ask that you ensure it is a healthy packed lunch and does not include an imbalance of unhealthy foods. Meals for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are free.

Our new catering company is unable to facilitate the provision of toast at morning break. We therefore ask that children bring in a piece of fruit for their morning snack. Children who bring any alternative snacks to school will be asked to take them home at the end of the day.

Is your child eligible for additional funding?

Your child may be eligible for means tested free school meals and subsidised school trips through the Pupil Premium funding. If you receive any form of benefits please check the list on the website below and consider applying even if they already receive the universal infant free school meals. This will also result in the school receiving additional funding which can be used to support your child's needs.

<https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=yp4evwg7Duw#free>

Please speak to a member of the office staff if you would like to know more or if you need assistance with this.

School crossing patrol

Keith Player will be on hand to assist with the safe crossing outside school each morning and afternoon. We ask that families use this facility rather than crossing near to the entrance to the village hall. Tractors and lorries often travel along the road at great speed so please do take care.

Attendance

The most important thing you can do to support your child's education is to ensure they are in school on time every day. Children who miss just a few days of school fall behind very quickly and it can be difficult for them to catch up.

We recognise that children are sometimes too unwell. If this is the case, please let the school office know by phone or email first thing in the morning. The office will contact you if they do not hear anything. The NHS has produced a helpful list of reasons to keep your child off school. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Schools are unable to authorise term time holiday absence requests unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you need to make a term time absence request, please speak to Mr Riches in the first instance to establish whether this is considered an exceptional circumstance. The Local Authority will issue a fixed penalty notice for term time absences of more than 5 school days.

The school monitors attendance rates rigorously and will contact parents for a supportive conversation where rates fall below 95%.

New climbing wall

Over the summer a new climbing wall was installed on the playground to replace the previous one. Thank you to the PTA for funding this new piece of equipment which has been very well used already.



Term 1 calendar

| Event | Date and time | Information |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Celebration service | 08.09.23 2.30pm | Families are invited to join us. |
| All-age service at St Mary's | 17.09.23 10am | All are welcome to attend this monthly service. |
| PTA Back to School Bash | 3-4:30pm | Details to follow. |
| INSET day | 25.09.23 | School is closed to all children. |
| Black History Month begins | 01.10.23 | All classes will engage in learning related to Black History Month. |
| Swimming for Hawk Class begins | 03.10.23 | Letters will be sent directly. |
| School Harvest service at St Mary's | 06.10.23 9.30am | See information above. |
| Bags to School – PTA fundraising | 11.10.23 | |
| Individual and sibling photographs being taken | 11.10.23 | |
| Parent teacher meetings | 16.10.23 17.10.23 | Letters will be sent nearer the time. |
| Outdoor learning day | 20.10.23 | Children will spend the day learning whilst outside. |
| Celebration service | 20.10.23 2.30pm | Families are invited to join us. |
| Last day of Term 1 | 20.10.23 | |
| First day of Term 2 | 30.10.23 | |

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

| Term | Starts | Ends |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Term 1 | Friday 1 September 2023 | Friday 20 October 2023 |
| Term 2 | Monday 30 October 2023 | Friday 15 December 2023 |
| Term 3 | Tuesday 2 January 2024 | Friday 9 February 2024 |
| Term 4 | Monday 19 February 2024 | Thursday 28 March 2024 |
| Term 5 | Monday 15 April 2024 | Friday 24 May 2024 |
| Term 6 | Monday 3 June 2024 | Tuesday 23 July 2024 |