

'Enabling everyone to flourish' Respect, Perseverance, Creativity

Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School

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22nd September 2023

Term 1

We've had a fantastic start to the new school year. The children have settled well into their classes and we are so pleased to see how well our new Reception children are getting on.

Our highlights over the past 2 weeks:

- All Year 6 children have been paired up with their Reception buddies. They are forming positive friendships and looking out for each other at break and lunch.
- We have set up our new team of school councillors, our team of worship warriors and our house captains.
- We welcomed families to our first Friday celebration service of the year and celebrated many achievements from across our school including entries from the Hawkesbury Show.

We are pleased to have finally received our follow up visit from OFSTED. We are hoping that the report will be ready to share with you in the next few weeks. As soon as it is available you will receive a copy. We are grateful to all families for their support and words of encouragement throughout the process.

Thank you all for your support of our school. Please talk to a member of staff if you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of your child's education.

Thank you,

Mike Riches, Headteacher

Harvest service

Over the next two weeks, the children will be preparing for our annual Harvest service at St Mary's Church in Hawkesbury. The service will take place on **Friday 6th October at 9.30am**. Each class will share a Harvest themed contribution and there will be several whole school Harvest songs to hear.

We have chosen to support the Yate and Chipping Sodbury Foodbank once again this year as part of our celebrations. Items can be brought along in the morning and taken to classrooms where they will be collected together and taken to the church. If you are unable to contribute please do not worry.

This year, the foodbank is looking for the following items:

Washing powder, coffee, cooking sauces, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, sponge puddings, instant noodles, biscuits.

Attendance

Attendance and punctuality for the term so far can be found in the table below.

Wrens	Robins	Swallows	Hawks	Whole school total
100%	98.7%	98.6%	88.8%	96.1%
6 lates	5 lates	9 lates	2 lates	23 lates

Our whole school attendance target this year is 96% and no lates. Well done in particular to Wren Class for such fantastic attendance so far this year!

If you are unsure whether to keep your child off school for illness, please check the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> or speak to a member of office staff. We ask that text or email confirmation of any appointments made during school time is sent through to the school office.

We would like to remind families that every day in school counts so please do try to ensure your child is in school and on time every day. Thank you for your support.

Admissions 2024 – primary and secondary

Is your child due to start primary or secondary school in September 2024?

The application process for places is now open. Read South Gloucestershire Council's web pages and admission guides by following the links below.

- The deadline for secondary school applications is 31 October 2023. [Find out more](#)
- The deadline for primary, infant and junior applications is 15 January 2024. [Find out more](#)

Staffing update

On 2nd October, Swallow Class will be joined by a student teacher who will be with us until January. Mr George Riley will work alongside Mr Bryant support the children's education over the next few months. We are always pleased to welcome student teachers to Hawkesbury and we look forward to having Mr Riley as a member of the team.

We also wanted to let you know that Mrs Gabb is currently working in Wren Class instead of Swallow Class. This is to support the transition of our new Reception children into their time at Hawkesbury. Mrs Gabb will continue to work with children in Key Stage 2 during the afternoons.

Lunchtimes

Many of you will be aware that our catering company changed this September and we are now working with Edwards and Ward. We would like to thank all families for their patience whilst adaptations have been made. We are grateful to parents for sharing their feedback on the current arrangements and welcome any further comments.

We have now had confirmation that Edwards and Ward are not able to support the offer of baguettes that were originally available with Integra. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Celebration services

Each Friday, a whole school celebration service is held. Children are recognised and celebrated for their achievements and for the way they have demonstrated our school vision and values. Each teacher chooses a child from their class who has shown that they are flourishing as a learner and our Y6 House Captains choose children who have stood out in terms of their behaviour and attitude. We sing happy birthday to children who have had a birthday during the previous week and there is an opportunity for children to share medals, trophies and certificates they have been awarded outside of school. The next opportunity for families to join us for celebration service will take place on **Friday 20th October at 2.30pm**. To enable children speaking at the front to be heard, we ask that younger siblings who become unsettled and upset during the service are taken out to the playground or to the bird's nest just along the corridor.

Parent teacher meetings

Our first set of parent teacher meetings will take place on 16th and 18th October. In the next few weeks you will receive more detailed information about this and you will be offered the chance to book a 10 minute appointment. Meetings will take place after school hours and will provide you with an opportunity to discuss all aspects of your child's learning with their teacher. You will also be able to look through your child's books to get an insight into the work they are participating in during the school day.

Roles and responsibilities

This year's **school council members** are:

Wrens – Kitty

Robins – Ruby (Y1), Ezra (Y2)

Swallows – Hattie (Y3), Natalie (Y4)

Hawks – Elizabeth (Y5), Rebecca (Y6)

Our **house captains** are:

Mars – Vera, Evelyn

Saturn – Suzy, Phoebe

Jupiter – Masie-Mae, Callum

Mercury – Maisy, Jacob

Our **collective worship** team:

Elizabeth, Freddie, Vera, Phoebe, Bella, Callum, Masie-Mae, Rebecca, Jacob, Suzy, Adelaide, Clara.

Our **librarians** are:

Adelaide, Holly, Phoebe, Ursula, Clara, Eloise, Suzy, Mia.

Thank you to all children for their contribution to the school.

Term 1 calendar

Event	Date and time	Information
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	
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 dates for 2023-2024

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

Remaining INSET days

Monday 25th September

Tuesday 2nd January

Monday 11th March

Friday 28th June