

'Enabling everyone to flourish' Respect, Perseverance, Creativity

Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School
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6th September 2024

Welcome back

It has been a pleasure to welcome all families back to school this week. Thank you for your ongoing support of the school and for working with us to create such a positive environment in which the children can flourish.

Over the summer, Mrs Parry arranged for a number of improvement and decoration works to be carried out at the school and we are feeling ready for the new school year as a result. We are incredibly grateful to school governor Adrian Gilby who organised for a group of volunteers from the village and a group from BT to carry out a number of tasks to improve the look of the school; thank you also to Charlie and Tom Hodder for supplying some new plants. New heaters have been installed in the older part of the building which we hope will help keep the building heated more efficiently in the colder months. Over the coming weeks we hope to continue with our plans to install solar panels too.

I'd like to say a special welcome to our 15 new Reception children and their families. Welcome to Ivy, Cameron, Ella, Florence, Connie, Rory, Royce, Poppy, George, Alex, Ollie, Alexander, Clementine, Oscar and Avalon. We also welcome Rosalie and Rex to Year 2 and Max to Year 3. We look forward to having you with us at Hawkesbury School.

To all families, we would like to remind you that we are a friendly and approachable team. If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's education please do arrange to speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. Members of the senior leadership team are also available to speak to – we are Mr Riches, Mr Riddington and Mrs Wilson.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school. Mike Riches, Headteacher

Term 1 events

Celebration service – Friday 13th September, 2.30pm

All families are invited to join us for our first celebration service of the year. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the effort and achievements made by the children. Children are invited to share their Reading Challenge certificates at this service as well as to bring along any awards they received at this year's Hawkesbury show.

Circus skills – Friday 20th September

Thank you to the PTA for organising and funding a day of circus skills for all children to get involved in.

INSET day – Monday 30th September

School will be closed to all children for our second staff training day of the year.

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Term 1 events continued

Black History Month – October

All classes will focus on some important figures who have made a difference to the people around them.

Harvest festival – Friday 11th October, 9.30am

Each class will contribute towards our annual Harvest service, sharing something they have learnt about at this important time of the year. All families are invited to join us in St Mary's Church in the village. We will also be asking for donations for the Yate and Chipping Sodbury Foodbank – more information about this will be shared nearer the time.

Parent / teacher meetings – Monday 21st and Wednesday 23rd October

Our first of two sets of parent / teacher meetings will take place at the end of Term 1. Appointment letters will be shared nearer the time. If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's education sooner, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Staffing

Our catering company has made the difficult decision to reduce kitchen staffing to just one person from the end of September. We are therefore very sad to be saying goodbye to Allison Townend who has worked alongside Jane for a number of years. We are grateful to Allison for all her hard work in the kitchen but also when using her artistic skills to prepare the backdrop for Christmas Nativities and pantomimes over the years. We wish Allison well as she moves on.

Mr Brown has resumed the role of breakfast club supervisor. Breakfast club is now open every day of the week.

Danielle Boulton and Nicky Boulton will be running after school club every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. U-Sports will be running the club every Wednesday. Please book the Wednesday session using the usual booking system.

Collective worship

All schools across the country are required to provide a daily act of collective worship to all children which is 'broadly Christian in character'. At Hawkesbury, we do this in a highly inclusive way, inviting children to think and reflect on important values such as trust, truthfulness and respect; they are not expected to have a faith. As a church school, we have an important link with St Mary's Church in the village and we welcome members of the church to support us with this aspect of school life. Our pattern for collective worship is as follows:

Monday	Singing; led by Mr Riddington
Tuesday	School values; led by Mr Riches
Wednesday	Reverend Thomson visits the school every other Wednesday. On the alternate Wednesday: Wrens & Robins – Open the Book; Bible stories told by local residents Swallows & Hawks – No Outsiders led by Mrs Tilsley; younger children learn about No Outsiders once per term. We focus on equalities and how we can show respect to and welcome all.
Thursday	Class collective worship focusing on a value or a specific theme.
Friday	Celebration; led by Mr Riddington

Each Friday, two children from each class are presented with a certificate to celebrate how they have flourished in their learning. This is also an opportunity for children who may have been awarded a certificate, medal or trophy outside of school to talk about this with the rest of the school.

This year we will explore the following values: Term 1 – thankfulness; Term 2 – trust; Term 3 – perseverance; Term 4 – justice; Term 5 – service; Term 6 – truthfulness.

Attendance

One of the best ways to help your child to learn is to ensure they are in school every day. Attendance information will be published in each newsletter. Attendance rates are tracked and monitored rigorously and school will also contact you by letter to arrange a meeting if there are concerns about your child's attendance.

Schools are unable to authorise term time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances, e.g. a family wedding. Please speak to Mr Riches before booking a holiday to check whether it meets the criteria for an exceptional circumstance. [Click here](#) for more information about penalty notices.

The NHS has a website to help parents determine whether children with any illnesses such as chicken pox should attend school or not. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Volunteers in school

We are lucky to have a number of volunteers who come into school to support teaching and learning in many different ways. All volunteers are vetted through rigorous safeguarding processes. If you or anyone you know is interested in supporting the school in any way please do let the office know. This may be to help with reading, gardening or in class support.

Spelling

We are introducing a new spelling scheme to our school, for pupils in Years 2 to 6, called Essential Spelling to help improve our delivery of this key element of English. The new scheme enables children to understand how to apply patterns, strategies and knowledge to other words. It also provides links to prior knowledge and tracks back to related objectives taught in previous years.

To help support learning at home, we will send lists containing five spellings for each rule covered during a term. Please note that some terms may contain more spellings than others.

Dogs on the school site

If you choose to bring your dog with you when picking up or dropping off your child, we ask that you use one of the two spaces next to the front door to tie your dog. It is essential that dogs are not brought onto the school playground unless they are assistance dogs; this includes carrying dogs no matter what age they may be. Thank you for helping to keep children safe whilst on the school site.

Information sharing

Please let the school office know if any details have changed over recent months. This may include contact details including those for alternative emergency contacts or medical needs. It is essential that the office holds the most up to date information.

Change of footwear

During wet weather, children are required to change their footwear if they choose to go onto the field at break or lunch. We ask that all children have a spare pair of shoes or wellies in school into which they can change when required.

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Severe peanut allergies

There are several children at our school who have severe allergies to peanuts – not only if they are eaten but through cross-contamination. Whilst the national guidance is that schools do not put in place a nut free policy, as part of our risk assessment, our preference as a school is that children do not bring peanuts or peanut butter into school in order to reduce the risk of harm to these specific children, particularly when some of them are younger and therefore the risk is harder for them to manage themselves. We also ask that families talk to their children about this at home and discourage them from sharing food with their peers in the lunch hall. We thank you for your co-operation.

Term 1 calendar

Event	Date and time	Information
Celebration service	13.09.24, 2.30pm	Children are invited to share their Hawkesbury Show entries. Families are invited.
All-age service	15.09.24, 10am	All are invited to the monthly all-age service at St Mary's.
Circus skills workshops	20.09.24	All classes will be involved in this PTA organised event.
Parent meeting – smart phone free childhood initiative	27.09.24, 2pm	All are invited to join this meeting in the school hall.
INSET day	30.09.24	School will be closed to all children.
Black history month begins	01.10.24	
Hawk Class swimming begins	02.10.24	Letters will be sent separately.
Back to school bash	04.10.24	Organised by the PTA.
Harvest service	11.10.24, 9.30am	Please come and join us at St Mary's Church for this service to which the children will contribute.
All-age service	20.10.24, 10am	All are invited to the monthly all-age service at St Mary's.
Outdoor learning day	21.10.24	
Parent / teacher meetings	21.10.24 23.10.24	
Last day of Term 1	25.10.24	

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

Term dates:

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 1	Monday 2 September 2024	Friday 25 October 2024
Term 2	Monday 4 November 2024	Friday 20 December 2024
Term 3	Monday 6 January 2025	Friday 14 February 2025
Term 4	Monday 24 February 2025	Friday 4 April 2025
Term 5	Tuesday 22 April 2025	Friday 23 May 2025
Term 6	Monday 2 June 2025	Tuesday 22 July 2025