



HERNE BAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

King's Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 5DA

Tel: 01227 374608

www.hernebay-jun.kent.sch.uk

MRS MELODY KINGMAN B.A. (Hons)

Headteacher

email: headteacher@hernebay-jun.kent.sch.uk

**HERNE BAY JUNIOR SCHOOL IS A SAFE, INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT
FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.
APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS SHOULD BE UPHELD AT ALL
TIMES.**

For safeguarding, the school office will be closed from 8.35am-8.50am and 3.15pm-3.25pm daily. This is to allow the children to enter and exit the site safely. Please call or use the intercom during these times for assistance.

Friday 23rd February 2024

TERM DATES FOR THE DIARY

Next week:

- 28th February – Da Vinci class Sewing Workshop
- 28th February – 8th March - Year 5 Bikeability
- 29th February – Year 4 parents invited MTC information session at 2:45pm
- 1st March – Dali & Kahlo classes Swimming

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- 4th March – Year 5 Mother's Day Shop
 - 5th March – Year 4 Mother's Day Shop
 - 6th March – Year 3 Mother's Day Shop
 - 7th March – Year 6 Mother's Day Shop
 - 7th March – World Book Day – children come to school dressed as their favourite book character
 - 8th March – Dali & Kahlo classes Swimming
 - 14th March – Year 5 parents invited in to AR session – 9am
 - 15th March – Dali & Kahlo classes Swimming
 - 18th March – Year 5 Home Learning Projects due in
 - 20th March – Women's History Month Art Day
 - 20th March Years 3 & 4 Home Learning Projects due in
 - 22nd March – Year 6 Home Learning Projects due in
 - 22nd March Dali & Kahlo classes Swimming
 - 25th March – Year 5 Project Exhibition – 2:30pm (parents invited)
 - 27th March – Year 6 Project Exhibition 2:30pm (parents invited)
 - 27th March – Easter Service at Christ Church (whole school)
 - Thursday 28th March – End of Term 4 (1:15pm finish)**
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TERM 5 BEGINS - MONDAY 15TH APRIL

Today, we said good bye to Jacqui Curtis, our catering manager, who is retiring after 29 years service!

In assembly, the children presented her with flowers and a book of messages along with a voucher for an Afternoon Tea on board a steam train on the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

Mrs Curtis told the children that preparing desserts has been her favourite thing to cook: the 'goody' bar being her personal favourite to eat!

In her time at HBJs she has prepared an estimated 5,500 meals and served over 1,000,000 individual dishes!

I am sure that she is now ready to begin her well-deserved retirement and enjoy spending time with her family alongside tending her garden and taking up new hobbies. We will miss her!

ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week is 90.58%.
Overall attendance this year to date is 93.02%.

No classes achieved 97+% attendance this week.

58 children remain in the 100 club with 100% attendance.
126 pupils currently have attendance of 98% or above.

100 late codes have been recorded this week:

Year 3 - 20

Year 4 – 28

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Year 5 – 22
Year 6 – 30

All children must arrive at school **by 8:45am** each day to avoid being coded as 'late'. A late arrival results in a disrupted start to the day. Learning begins at 8:45am: a child arriving late will find it difficult to join in a lesson that has already started.

Early Morning Sports Club is **free of charge** and open for all children to attend. It starts promptly at **8:20am** each day. Please consider this if your child is held up by you dropping siblings to other schools.

HOUSE POINTS

Hawks are the winners this week with 235 house points – well done!

Falcons – 231 house points

Kestrels – 229 house points

Eagles – 227 house points

PTA NEWSLETTER

Attached to this newsletter is an update from our PTA. Please take a look as it includes details of upcoming events.

Next Wednesday 28th February is the termly PTA meeting. All are welcome to attend: 7pm at The Heron, Station Road, Herne Bay.

PTA MOTHER'S DAY SHOP

Our Mother's Day Shop will take place in school week beginning 4th March. Attached to this newsletter is a flyer with details.

BIKEABILITY

Next week Bikeability is starting for Year 5 children who have signed up. Sessions will take place from Wednesday 28th February to Friday 8th March.

A text reminder will go out the day before to remind pupils to bring in their bike and helmets. The class teacher also has a rota and will advise the children of the time of their session.

TEACHING & LEARNING NEWS

Year 6 SATs practise week

Next week, Year 6 will be carrying out a SATs practice week. It will be the last one before the actual SATs in May. It is an important chance for the children to familiarise themselves with the format but also an opportunity for them to demonstrate what they have learnt and recognise the hard work they have put into their learning paying off. I'm sure many will be surprised by how much they have learnt and remembered. These assessments are certainly not something to worry about. In order for the week to run smoothly, it is important that children arrive to school on time. Arriving after a test has begun will result in having to be

tested at another time which can cause unnecessary worry and disruption to learning.

The actual SATs will be happening between 13th-16th May 2024. These are statutory assessments set by the DfE and will be used by secondary schools to set outcomes for GCSEs. Please ensure that this week is marked on your calendars. It is important that your child attends school in this week and that they are on time. If you do have any concerns or queries regarding these assessments, please discuss these firstly with your child's class teacher.

WORLD BOOK DAY AT HBJS

Thursday 7th March is World Book Day and we cannot wait to celebrate this with the children in school. During the course of the day children will be working in mixed age groups on a variety of exciting book-based activities as well as sharing stories with their peers and a range of adults across the school.

As part of this celebration of children's literature we would like to ask that everyone comes to school dressed as one of their favourite book characters.

Please do not feel that you need to purchase anything special for this. For over 100 quick and easy costumes, see the ideas at [126 easy World Book Day homemade costume ideas 2024 with pictures | MadeForMums](#).

In each year group there will be a £10 book voucher awarded to the child with the most creative and original costume.

SEN NEWS

SEN Surgery

If you are concerned that your child has some barriers or difficulties that are stopping them from achieving their potential, do speak to their class teacher in the first instance. This might lead to more conversations with Sammy Black, SENCO. Weekly meetings are held on Wednesday afternoons. Known as SEN Surgery, Miss Black and Mrs Hewitt support families through the referral process and support families in accessing support for their children with SEND.

SAFEGUARDING

Rail Safe Friendly

You may remember HBJS took part in the Rail Safe Friendly awareness campaign last term. We all know how important it is to promote rail safety and educate ourselves and young individuals on how to be rail safe.

We are pleased to let you know that as a school we have achieved the **Rail Safe Friendly Bronze Level**.

We now would like to look towards achieving the Silver level. For this we will be promoting the Switched On Rail Safety website on our social media channels. The link for you to access this is: <https://switchedonrailsafety.co.uk/>

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This will be alongside promoting the rail safety broadcasts we shared with you in January- these will be available on our website and through HBJs social media.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Understanding Autism: Online Parent Workshop

Do you have questions about autism or maybe your child has received a diagnosis and you are asking yourself "What now?". The Emotional Wellbeing Team are hosting a workshop about autism on **Tuesday 27th February, 5.30-7.30pm on Teams**. The workshop will give you the opportunity to meet other parents & carers and discuss helpful strategies that you can use at home to support your child.

If you would like to join, please see the joining details on the poster attached to this newsletter.

INCLUSION BEAR

Awarded:

Evangeline nominated Razvan, in Shakespeare class, for Patch. Evangeline said, "When my best friend was ill and I had no one to play with, Razvan offered to play with me. He was so nice, and he is always such a good friend."

Nominated:

Sienna, from Shakespeare class, nominated Isabelle, in Parks class, as when Sienna is sad, Isabelle cheers her up by making her laugh and playing games with her.

Evie nominated Sienna and Eva, in Shakespeare class. Evie said, "When someone was mean to me and called me a name, I felt sad but Sienna and Eva were kind to me. They asked if I was okay and let me play with them. They made me feel much better."

Tilly, in Anning class, nominated Abigail, in Kahlo class, for always being kind and giving her a smile every time she sees her.

Athena nominated Miss Wood. Athena said, "Miss Wood supported me when my cousin died and I was sad. She walked round the playground with me and asked me about my football match to take my mind off it. She is a star."

ROCKING READERS

Our Rocking Readers this week are Shakespeare class. The children have achieved an average of 92% in their quizzes this week – a huge improvement on last term where their average had been 82%. Keep it up!

TT ROCKSTARS

This week's TTRS are Turing class. They were chosen for averaging 969 correct answers each day over the last week! Hawking class, Tolkien class and Shakespeare class were also recognised for engaging 3+ minutes a day on average within their classes.

We have 21 Rock Heroes.

Emma Cooper is currently at the top of the leader board, answering each question in an average of 0.61 seconds!

SPORTS AWARD

Ollie Foster was awarded the Sports Cup today. Mr Hobbs told the children in assembly that Ollie had been chosen for his skilled defending in the boys team match against Reculver. Although losing 2-0, it was recognised that a greater loss did not occur due to Ollie throwing himself in to defend so fearlessly. Great job, Ollie!

MR FOREMAN'S ECO CORNER

Diamonds are a girl's best friend!

LAB GROWN VS. NATURAL



Or so the song goes, but are they really the planets best friend? Probably not. You may know that diamond and gemstone mining can be a very destructive process, but I didn't know quite how destructive. It takes approximately 250 tons of mined earth to produce just one carat of diamond. That's a huge amount of devastation.

Worryingly, regulations governing mining operations vary in different parts of the world, and in some areas where diamond mining is very lucrative, there may be few, if any, regulations. Many companies take advantage of the lack of regulation and take no steps to restore local eco-systems or habitats once a mine is no longer productive but instead move on to their next operation without regard for what they may leave behind. So, what's the answer? Lab-grown diamonds, or eco-friendly diamonds?

Eco-friendly diamonds are ethically created with no direct or indirect impact on the Earth. Physically and chemically they are identical to their natural counterpart, plus the bonus of being a lot, lot cheaper. As a very rough comparison you'd be looking at around £1,800 for a 1 carat lab diamond, a natural diamond of the same carat weight and quality would be closer to £8,000. How are they made then? Well I'm no diamond expert, but from what I've read lab grown diamonds are created in an artificial setting which mimics how they are made naturally (through immense heat and pressure), hence why lab diamonds are almost exactly the same as natural diamonds. But would you have one? Some jewellers say interest has grown by more than 2,000% in five years, as people look for more affordable options. A study of 1,500 would-be husbands and wives found 70% would be willing

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to opt for a lab-grown alternative. And it's not just newly-weds that are switching; generally, sales of lab grown jewellery are up by 65% year on year. So, it appears that people are making the move, which is great news for the plant, and of course the recipient of the diamond too!

Back by popular demand.....Eco dates:

Show the Love – 1st – 28th February 2024

Show the Love is an annual celebration of everything we love and want to protect from the worst impacts of climate change. This climate action campaign is run by The Climate Coalition, the UK's largest alliance dedicated to action against climate change.

International Polar Bear Day – 27th February 2024

International Polar Bear Day, run by Polar Bear International, is an annual event to raise awareness about the conservation status of the polar bear.

FOOTBALL FIRST CLASS – PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Unsurprisingly, with Maidstone United currently featuring so well in the football fixtures, we have been asked to share a flyer giving opportunity for aspiring players to develop their football skills. Please take a look at the poster attached to this newsletter. While on the subject – good luck Maidstone United in your FA cup game against Coventry City on Monday!

STAR OF THE WEEK

Well done to the following children for being identified by their class teachers as this week's Stars of the Week. Certificates will be emailed to parents/carers.

Parks	Buddy Prior & Allanna-Ann Eskisan
Shakespeare	Sienna Webber
Tolkien	Elsie Bullen

Da Vinci	Tobias Manser
Dali	Aubrey Jones
Kahlo	Lillyanna Owens
Picasso	Scarlett Lawson

Anning	Leanne Ryder
Curie	Bobby Clifton-Rattray & Elsie Gilmour
Hawking	Sebastian Fowler-Vincent
Jemison	Noah Hayes

Banneker	Ava Austin
Johnson	Victoria Howlett
Nightingale	Jacob Goodchild
Turing	Jessica Hallam

TA RECOGNITION AWARD

Each week, our TAs recognise those children who consistently shine as positive role models to others during break and lunch times. Certificates will be emailed to parents/carers.

This week's awards go to:

Year 3	Isabelle Willis
Year 4	Jack Leeds
Year 5	Darlamai Hadlow
Year 6	Poppy Leeds

Wishing you all a happy and restful weekend.

With my best wishes,



Melody Kingman
Headteacher

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