



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 5th January 2024

TERM DATES FOR THE DIARY

Next week:

- 8th January - Emotional Wellbeing Team workshop for Year 5 pupils
- 9th January – **PTA meeting 7pm at The Heron, Station Road** (All parents and carers interested in joining are invited to attend)
- 10th January – Nightingale class assembly (parents invited 8:50am)
- 12th January – Picasso and Da Vinci classes swimming

- 15th January - Emotional Wellbeing Team workshop for Year 5 pupils
- 15th January – 2:30pm Dali Class parents invited in for AR session
- 16th January – O2 Young Voices choir event
- 19th January - Picasso and Da Vinci classes swimming
- 24th January – Da Vinci class assembly (parents invited 8:50am)
- 26th January – Picasso and Da Vinci classes swimming
- 31st January – Safer Internet assembly
- 2nd February - Picasso and Da Vinci classes swimming
- 5th – 9th February – Mental Health Week
- 6th February – Safer Internet Day
- 6th February – Year 6 Parents’ meetings
- 7th February – Art Day (linking to Mental Health Week)
- 7th February – Year 6 Parents’ meetings
- 9th February – End of Term 3 (3:15pm finish)**

Monday 19th February - Term 4 begins

Happy New Year! We welcome you all back to term 3. I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and were able to enjoy the break.

Yesterday, I emailed a letter to inform you of a change to our Leadership Team structure. From the start of term 3, Mrs Evett-Collins has taken the role of Head of School. She will lead on the day to day running of the school allowing me to focus on our strategic direction. Attached to this newsletter is the school’s Strategic Plan which details our intention for the coming 3 years. Our ambitious vision, underpinned by guiding principles and values, has been developed with consideration of the role that we play as educators in preparing our young people for the future. By creating the position of Head of School, this allows me to devote my attention to the strategic aims and objectives of the school development plan.

This term’s dates are listed at the top of the newsletter. These will be added to each week as more events and activities are planned.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance data will be shared with you in next week’s newsletter.

We will be starting the new year with a greater focus on improving the number of children arriving late to school. May I remind you that you may be issued with a Penalty Notice, incurring a fine, if your child is persistently late in the mornings. 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.

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SAFEGUARDING

Network Rail Safety Campaign

Network Rail have contacted us to raise awareness of the risks to children and youths related to negligence near trains. Their campaign has been developed in relation to the tragic death of Harrison Ballantyne in 2017, when he was in Year 7 at Guilsborough Academy.

We are planning to share the relevant 15-minute safety video in school and engage in safety discussions with all children in school the week of 15.1.24. Over 20 million students, parents and teachers from across the UK have already watched these videos which has led to a significant decrease in the number of fatalities and injuries in their area through watching the safety videos.

Below is the link to the videos we plan to show in school so you, as parents can watch it at home in advance:

Y3 & Y4 pupils will watch - NEW Primary school version: Suitable for KS1 <https://learnliveuk.com/ks1-primary-school-safety-talk/> This video uses a railway safety story book to support their understanding of how to keep safe near the railway. They will also participate with the Learn Live broadcast discussion/ question part of the video that Y5 & Y6 will use below.

Y5 & Y6 pupils will watch - NEW Primary school version: Suitable for KS2 <https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-primary-school-safety-talk> This video includes a re-enactment of how Harrison died followed by a Learn Live broadcast discussion/ question session.

If you have any questions about this safety campaign please contact your child's class teacher to discuss.

SEN NEWS

If your child has an Autism diagnosis then you will be able to access the Cygnet course provided by the Local Authority ([Cygnet | St Nicholas School \(st-nicholas.kent.sch.uk\)](http://Cygnet | St Nicholas School (st-nicholas.kent.sch.uk))).

Sadly, even if you are on a waiting list, you don't have access however, you can sign up for a **Real Life Autism Course** (see attached flyer) with **The Autism Apprentice**.

There are 6 sessions covering difficulties that families experience when learning to manage associated with autism. The course is available during the evening or in the work day to suit your availability.

SEND Newsletter from Kent's Local Offer

[SEND parent newsletter - December 2023 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

This month's newsletter covers the national disruption to the supply of ADHD medication, support for families of children with EHCPs when they are moving to a new school and much more. Please use the link above to access the full newsletter. The newsletter reports on the improvements being made in school for children with Autism. I'm really proud to share that many of the strategies advised are already in place at Herne Bay

Junior school including: Quiet spaces at break time, Regulation stations (names Safe Spaces at HBJS) and use of visuals in the classroom.

Y6 pupils with an EHCP

The Local Authority have a statutory deadline of February 15th to inform you of your child's confirmed secondary school place. If the school you selected is not awarded, think carefully about how you broach this with your child, or if you inform them at all, as you might consider using the appeal process. It is important that your child sees the move to secondary in the most positive manner so consider looking at the school's website and requesting a visit.

If you do wish to make use of the appeal process please contact Sammy Black SENCO.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING NEWS

Action for Happiness: Happier January Calendar

Action for Happiness' calendar this month is full of great ways to help spread happiness. We may not be able to change what's going on in the world, but our daily actions can still make a big difference. The January calendar (attached to the newsletter) includes some ideas to help you get 2024 off to the best possible start.

#WAKEUPWEDNESDAY

Parents' guide to setting up parental controls on new devices

At this time of year, it's highly possible that you have a new phone, games console or other digital device stashed somewhere at home, ready to be unwrapped. Many parents also prefer to place some protective measures on those gifts – to keep their child shielded from potential #OnlineSafety risks – while others would like to, but aren't sure where to begin. The guide attached shepherds you through the process of establishing parental controls on new internet-enabled devices, from smartphones to laptops to consoles. Simply find the device in question and read on to find out what options you have and how to enable them – letting children enjoy their shiny new gadget, without so much of the worry over where it might lead them.

SPORTS AWARD

Betsy Cowling was awarded the Sports Cup this week. Mr Hobbs told the children in assembly that Betsy shows spirit and courage in all sports. She shone in gymnastics this week alongside her Year 3 peers. Well done, Betsy!

LEGO EXHIBITION

RAF Manston History Museum - 'Bricks at the Museum'

If you or your child is a Lego enthusiast, this could be for you! Take a look at the flyer attached to this newsletter for details of the exhibition during the February Half Term.

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Healthy School



MR FOREMAN'S ECO CORNER

I hope you all had a great break and are ready to embrace the new year! Talking of the new year, how are your resolutions going? Did you make any? Are you sticking to them? More importantly, how many of you have made the resolution to be a more 'greener' or 'eco-friendly'?

Below I have put a top 10 list of really easy things you can do this year to help lower your carbon footprint. No money is involved (which is always good) and you don't have to change your lifestyle. Even if you only manage one thing it all helps. You may well be thinking to yourself what difference can I make to the planet? Whatever you do could inspire or at least make others think and change their ways.

What have you got to lose!

1. Use a reusable water bottle

It's tempting to keep buying new water bottles but, as they're made of plastic, they often end up in landfill sites and create pollution. In the UK, the water we get from our taps at home is perfectly safe, too. By drinking from a reusable bottle, not only will you save money, but you're minimising the amount of waste that goes to landfill sites!

2. Conserve Energy

Turning things off when we're not using them. Don't leave phone chargers on (yes, they use electricity even when they are not charging!).

3. Ride bikes and walk

Cars emit a lot of harmful gases into the environment. So, whenever you can, walk or ride a bike instead of using the car. If it isn't a long distance, we may as well get there by doing some exercise. Not only will you be minimising pollution but keeping fit at the same time!

4. Litter-pick

You might be great at putting things in the bin when you're done with them, but other people may not be! Do some litter-picking in your local park. Just make sure you wear the right safety equipment.



5. Plant a tree

Trees do an incredible amount for us AND the environment and they look beautiful, too! They absorb harmful gases and provide a home for local wildlife.

6. Make a bird-feeder

If you happen to have a plastic bottle or a jug that you need to throw away, why not make it into a bird feeder? You'll get lots of lovely birds in your garden, and the bottle won't end up in a landfill site. (I'll show you how to make one in the coming weeks)

7. Start a vegetable patch

Shop-bought vegetables are often wrapped in plastic and are imported from all over the world. Aeroplanes emit harmful gases into the environment, and plastic takes hundreds of years to break down. By growing our own vegetables, not only can we get tasty food from just outside our back door but we're helping the planet!

8. Open your curtains

When you get up for school in the morning it's tempting just to switch on the light. By opening our curtains or blinds, we can let the sunlight in – it's free, and it doesn't require electricity!

9. Recycle

If you've found some old homework you don't need, why not use it for scrap paper? And if you no longer need it, make sure you recycle it! By reusing old paper, we don't have to cut down trees and use energy and water in making new paper!

10. Encourage others



It's easy to be kind to the environment – and your kindness will hopefully inspire others to help the planet too! But sometimes people need a gentle reminder, so, if you see a friend littering or leaving the lights on, why not share your knowledge so they can be kinder too!

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	Jayden Gayton-Reeves
Shakespeare	Edward Stygle
Tolkien	Lilah-May Newman
Da Vinci	Arabelle Kent
Dali	Paige Till
Kahlo	Willow Mount
Picasso	Toby Powell
Anning	Sara Sinaci
Curie	Reegan Holmes
Hawking	Mila Hill
Jemison	Thomas Caira
Banneker	Junior Holness
Johnson	Logan Skinner
Nightingale	Amelie Martindale
Turing	Reggie Elvidge

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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	Artie Lane
Year 4	Ronnie Love
Year 5	Ruben Hodder
Year 6	Jessica Hallam

With my best wishes,



Melody Kingman
Headteacher

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