



Husborne Crawley Lower School
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Finding Everyone's Full Potential

September 2016 Newsletter

Welcome everyone, and a big hello to the families of children who have joined us this year: Tigerlily, Isaac, Charlie, Penny, Milly and Beatrice.

During the summer more double glazing was installed, this is part of our ongoing energy saving plan. Part of the front of the school has been repaired and painted. This work will continue at Easter.

We started this new term with teachers, support staff and Governors looking at our 'Self Evaluation', (known as the 'SEF' or Self Evaluation Form) considering how our school is progressing, and how to make ourselves even better. We looked at the areas of Leadership and Management; Teaching, Learning and Attainment; our Early Years Foundation Stage; and Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare. Closely linked to our 'SEF' is the School Development Plan, the main areas of which I will share with you in the next newsletter. Over this coming year we will continue to develop how we assess the progress of our children, working closely with other schools in our Learning Community.

We are now overdue our 'Ofsted' inspection, and in preparation for this we would really appreciate it if you were able to give your opinion of our school by using 'Parent View'.

The link is here:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/6749/1>

Please click on 'Give your views'. Thank you.

As always myself and the other class teachers will endeavour to be in the playground each morning to talk to parents, or to make an appointment for a longer chat if needed. If you have a concern it is never 'too small' to worry about, please do come and let us know.

Happy learning everyone! *Mrs Isaacs*

Achievements: Following a rigorous process, led by Mrs Todhunter our Science co-ordinator, we are thrilled to have just been awarded the silver 'Primary Science Quality Mark'. This is an award scheme to enable primary schools across the UK to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate their science provision. Leading on from this award are the actions in our new School Development Plan to further improve the teaching and learning of Science in our school.

For the second year running we have been awarded the gold level of the School Games Mark. This sporting award is a Government led awards scheme to reward schools for commitment to the development of sporting competition across their school and into the community.

Music: We are committed to ensuring every child has as much exposure as possible to music, and this includes the opportunity to learn an instrument. Year 3 and 4 will be learning the recorder and singing over the year, ready for a public performance in the summer term. Year 1 and 2 have pentatonic percussion lessons coming up. Mrs Byfield leads the music teaching in Reception class, the children will be singing and playing percussion instruments.

On Friday we had a wonderful cello demonstration; if your child is in Year 2, 3 or 4 there is an opportunity to take up this lovely instrument. We also have spaces for two more violinists. Other instruments taught here include keyboard or piano, flute and guitar. Year 2 is the ideal age to start however on occasion younger children may take up an instrument if the teacher feels they are ready.

Handwriting: Handwriting style and the ability to join letters is given greater emphasis in our new National Curriculum. We will now introduce the children to a joined cursive style when they start school in Reception. Mrs Neve-Davis our Literacy co-ordinator is helping to lead this change, across the school; a separate letter is available to explain the changes and how parents can help. Please see the school website.

Economics: A team of Year 4 children sell bags of healthy snacks for 40p each, called 'Tasty Tuck', on Monday playtimes. We believe it benefits the children to have the opportunity to spend money; finding the correct amount or working out how much change they need. The snacks are really tasty, too!

Please see the dates section overleaf for more important information. You will have the chance to book an appointment to talk to your child's teacher about their progress, after the half-term holiday. Look out for the individual class newsletters coming later this week.

Thank you everyone for collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers, we have some great new equipment.

School Dinners! Are free for children in Years R, 1 and 2. For Year 3 and 4 a school dinner this term costs £2:00. We prefer meals to be ordered on a Monday for the week, or for the half term ahead. However if for example a packed lunch is forgotten then a dinner can be ordered that morning. Letters & dinner money in named envelopes go in the child's book bag for them to hand in to their teacher; we *will* remind children to check! Cheques should be written to 'Eden Foodservices'.

Lots of information!

Our **value** for September is 'Fairness' and in our S.E.A.L. lessons we will be thinking about 'New Beginnings'. Later in the half-term we will be discussing the 'British Value' of Individual Liberty.

Sport: This year we will be taking part in many sports activities and tournaments. Sports Funding means that transport is provided both to and from events. We have also been able to pay for trained sports coaches who will be working with teachers, coaching children across the whole school in a variety of different sports.

Help: Times are tough for many families at the moment. Have you thought about applying for Pupil Premium? We receive funding to help support the children in their learning, and this also means free school dinners for year 3 and above. Please return the Pupil Premium form available on the school website as soon as possible.

Music: Individual lessons are expensive, but we continue to see the huge benefits to children's progress in learning when they play a musical instrument. If you are eligible for Pupil Premium this can be used towards your child's lessons.

Absences: Please phone in rather than email, if your child is ill. A message left on the answering machine is fine!

Sickness Policy: If your child vomits or has diarrhoea please allow a clear 24 hours before allowing them to return to school. This will help them recover properly and also hopefully prevent the spread of illness to other children.

Mrs Bland, office receptionist The School office opens at 8:45am, when Mrs Bland will be able to deal with any queries you may have, including the completion of medicine forms. On Mondays and Fridays the office is open all day. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons if you need to contact us please do leave a message on the answering machine, or 'text in'

School Opportunities Fund This is our own school fund to help towards music lessons, trips, swimming, uniform etc. If you do not qualify for Pupil Premium funding but would like help, speak to Mrs Isaacs, in confidence.

School Car Parking As at all schools where most parents need to drive their children, we do not have enough car parking spaces for everyone. We have a supportive Reading Room Committee which has allowed us to park in their car park for many years. There is plenty of parking and the walk up the path takes just one minute. Please don't block anyone else in. We can also, with the kind permission of Matt who runs the pub, park in the 'school end' of the White Horse Car Park; inconsiderate parking in this area or other cars being blocked in may lose us this privilege. I urge everyone to please park with consideration. We will never mark a child late if we know you have been waiting for a space, or walking up the road. If you park in the middle of the school car park or block others in, you will cause anger and frustration to others. We are not allowed to park on the road outside the school. Please come and speak to me directly if you experience a problem. Mrs Isaacs

NB: Due to a memorial service reception at 3:30pm on Friday 16th September there will be absolutely NO parking in the pub car park this afternoon.

School essentials Please make sure your child has a warm waterproof coat in school as we always have a run around outside at playtime, even if it is raining. PE kits (indoor and outdoor) need to be in school every day. Everyone needs a filled water bottle. All belongings need to be named. One sweatshirt or cardigan looks very much like another! Please return any borrowed school underwear- we are running very low on spares, however we have plenty of spare uniform and second hand items for sale.

Wrap around Care

Early Birds club starts every day at 8am. To attend bring your child to the red 'school house' door at the front of the building and ring the bell, there is no need to sign up in advance. The costs are £3 for dropping off between 8 and 8:30 and £1.50 for drop off after 8:30. A free breakfast is available up to 8:30.

There is also a **new** after school club based here at school, provided by 'The Future Games'. You can sign up on their website, even on the day itself if needed. <http://www.tfgcamps.com/husborne-crawley-club>

The club provides sports fun and activities up to 5:30pm, every day.



Your School Needs You! Have you ever thought of becoming a school Governor? We are looking for two new parent governors to replace those whose terms have come to an end. This is a voluntary role but a really vital one as you will provide us with support, and also ask those challenging questions to make sure we are doing the best job for the children. Training is provided and I would suggest you had a chat to a current parent governor to find out more. Please do come and talk to me if you are interested. Thank you! Mrs Isaacs

Dates for your diary

September

12th All teacher run clubs begin this week

13th Roald Dahl Day – wear your clothes inside out and even back to front!

14th Violin lessons begin, Spaces available

15th Cello lessons begin. Spaces available

16th NO PARKING IN THE PUB THIS AFTERNOON!

20th PTFA events planning meeting 9am – 10am, at school. All are welcome, New parents do please come along!

23rd Jeans for Genes day. Please wear jeans and school top, and bring £1 for this great charity.

October

4th Sports festival for Class 1 (led by Y4)

5th Individual photos, siblings may attend at 8:45am

7th School Harvest Festival. 9:10am

Parents Welcome. Children can bring a Harvest basket for someone in need in our local area.

Church Harvest Service To be confirmed

13th Open Afternoon for prospective new families, September 2017. 1:30 – 3pm

17th Buildings 7pm and Finance 8pm

Governor committee meetings

18th Y3&4 Netball competition

19th Curriculum 7pm & Strategy 8pm

Governor meetings

21st – Parents invited to achievement assembly 9:10am

21st Personnel committee 2:30pm

24th – 28th Half Term week

31st Children return

November

8th Parent consultations 6pm – 8pm

9th Parent consultations 1:30 – 3pm

14th Full Governing Body meeting 7 – 9pm

December

TBC 2nd Christmas Bazaar

6th Full dress rehearsal of Christmas play **2pm**

7th Christmas play **2pm**

8th Christmas play **2pm**

13th Pantomime trip