



Husborne Crawley Lower School
School Lane, Husborne Crawley, Beds. MK43 0UZ
Head Teacher: Mrs S. Isaacs

Tel: 01525 280232
Email: office@hclowerschool.co.uk
www.hclowerschool.co.uk

Finding Everyone's Full Potential

October 2016 Newsletter

Heads Update

Thank you to everyone for the generously filled Harvest Baskets brought in for our special Harvest Assembly; we've received some lovely cards and thank you letters from the recipients in our local villages, these are displayed in the entrance hall.

Over this half term I have been taking the opportunity to regularly drop into classrooms, observing behaviour and talking to the children about their learning; I have seen that all our children are thoroughly engaged by exciting lessons and very good teaching. During a 'Head teacher lunch', talking to a group of children I was able to gather more information at first-hand about how the children feel about their learning and about the whole experience of being in school. Children have found the 'Long Long Ago' topic fascinating, especially enjoying time spent outside in the garden or on walks in the local area.

Prospective new families who visited us on our recent Open Afternoon commented on the lovely family atmosphere in school, and small visitors enjoyed seeing the chickens and guinea pigs!

As ever if you have any queries, concerns or comments then please do not hesitate to see me on the playground first thing in the morning, or make an appointment if a longer or more private discussion is needed. Mrs Isaacs



STARTING SCHOOL IN 2017!

Do you have younger children whom you'd like to come to school here when they are old enough? Please do register on our 'in-house' list by completing one of the forms available from the school office.

If you'd like your child to start in our Reception year, September 2017, you have until 15th January 2017 to apply to your own local council for a place. If your child is already 4, they may start here in January or April, either full or part time, as part of our 'Nursery' group.



Website (www.hclowerschool.co.uk)

Our website is updated regularly with essential information about school, our curriculum, policies, letters and the activities that are going on. Do check the calendar section too!

School Development Plan 2016 – 2017

As a team, the staff and governors have been working on how to take our school forward over this academic year and beyond. The 'School Development Plan' is now complete, although it is very much a working document. Below is a brief summary of our objectives, and we will keep you updated on progress in further newsletters:

Early Years Foundation Stage:

To develop the engagement of our parents and carers in their children's learning, both at home and at school.

To ensure that children make consistently high rates of progress in relation to their starting points, and that the children are making substantial and sustained progress over the year.

The Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

To allow time in classes to embed the children's knowledge, understanding and skills.

To develop the use of assessment in Maths, Literacy and Science, with planned time for peer and self-assessment.

To ensure that appropriate challenge is in place for the most academically able children, across the school.

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

To create increasing opportunities for children to experience a wide range of the Arts, including visits from outside professionals.

To value diversity and challenge racism and bullying.

To ensure our children can assess their own safety, and take appropriate actions.

Leadership and management

Governors will hold a deep and accurate understanding of our school's performance, particularly with regard to the progress of children from their starting points.

Governors will assess their own effectiveness and impact.

NB We still have one vacancy on our Governing Body team; do please speak to Mrs Isaacs if you would like to be involved in helping to take our school forward.

LOST PROPERTY!

Please do label all clothing, including shoes, as this makes it so much easier to return lost things.



Values Education

We are a Values Education school and we encourage a core set of values in school. This half-term we've been looking at the value of FAIRNESS. If you'd like to know more you could visit this website:

www.values-education.com

SCHOOL UNIFORM!

Please use our online uniform shop to order school uniform.

Any problems or queries regarding uniform orders can be directed straight to: beth@sondicoprofessional.com

General Information:

Parking: Matt at the White Horse kindly allows us to park in the pub for drop off and pick up times, however please **only** park in the section nearest to the Rec' gate and with consideration, do not block in other users. This also applies to our school car park, and the Reading Room. We have spaces for children to start learning the flute – see Mrs Bland for more details. 'Tasty Tuck' price will rise to 50p from November 2016. Colder weather is here so your child needs a named warm & waterproof coat in school each day, as we do go outside in all weathers.

Please look out for the events the PTFA are organising this term. We are so grateful to this hardworking band of mums and dads in fundraising for resources and extracurricular trips. Your support is greatly appreciated. Do look out for our '**Pay for a Pixel**' campaign- we will attempt to raise enough money to replace the outdated whiteboards in each class. We have a plan to serve coffee on cold mornings – watch this space! We have raised £57.60 for the charity 'Jeans for Genes' Thank you for your generous donations.

What We're Learning...

In Reception class the children have spent a lot of time outside, and with the help of Mrs Esther Barrett they've been planting the raised beds with onion sets and some bulbs for Spring. They've loved digging and raking up the leaves. The 'Dinosaur Discovery Centre' in the classroom has prompted much independent learning.

In Class 1 so far in our learning journey 'A Stomp in the Swamp' we've found out about different dinosaurs, what they ate, when they lived and what they may have looked like. We have also been palaeontologists with our very own dinosaur dig! We've enjoyed reading lots of different dinosaur stories like Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs and Dinosaur Roar; using drama to re-tell the stories and writing our own versions. We have written instructions, and our own story called 'The Three Little Triceratops' which we'll publish, making our very own class book. In Maths we've found 1 more and 1 less than a number, we've been counting and estimating, using number lines and finding different strategies to add multiples of 10 to 2 digit numbers. In Science we have learnt about food chains finding our own real life examples in the environmental garden. We also practiced our archaeologist skills by excavating chocolate chips from cookies using different tools including brushes, and we mapped out our finds on a co-ordinates grid.

Children Class 2 have loved finding out more about the Stone Age and have made an in depth study of the story 'Stig of the Dump.' Rocks and Soils is the linked Science topic, this has included a walk up to the churchyard to investigate the effects of weathering on the gravestones. In music, we are all progressing well with our recorder playing skills. Year 4 have been learning the skills of Sports Leaders; they have planned and delivered a Sports Festival for the children in Class 1. The children have learnt different warm ups, games that all can participate in however young, and how to engage and motivate when explaining a task to a small group.

Dates for your diary

October

17th Buildings 7pm and Finance 8pm committee meetings of Governing Body
18th High Five Netball competition Y3/4

19th Curriculum 7pm & Strategy 8pm committee meetings of Governing Body
21st Parents invited to assembly 9:10
21st Personnel committee meeting of the Governing Body

Oct 24th – 28th HALF TERM HOLIDAY

31st All return to school
3rd Holywell Middle Open evening 6pm

November

4th PTFA Fancy Dress Disco in Reading Room £5 includes pizza, drink & games. 5:30 – 7pm
5th Husborne Crawley Village Bonfire 6:30pm Please see posters around school for info.

8th Parent consultations 6pm – 8pm
9th Parent consultations 1:15 – 3:20pm
10th Tag Rugby competition Y3/4

14th Say No to Bullying week
14th Full Governing Body meeting 7 - 9pm
17th Year 3&4 Sports Hall athletics comp.
17th Fulbrook Open evening 6:30 – 8:30pm
18th Children in Need cake & toy stall
21st 'Open Week' at Fulbrook

November

22nd New Nursery children induction morning 9:15 – 12noon and parents meeting at 11:30am

December:

2nd Sports Ambassador training
2nd Mufti Day / wear home (bring filled jam jar for bazaar stall)
2nd Christmas Bazaar after school until 6:30pm
6th Full dress rehearsal of Christmas Play – younger siblings may attend
7th and 8th Main performances of Christmas Play 2 – 3pm
13th Pantomime! PTFA funded event
16th Break up for Christmas holidays