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Dates for Diary 2022

Tuesday 4th January – First day of Spring term
Friday 28th January – Inset Day – No children at school
Friday 4th February – NSPCC Maths Number Day – “Dress up for digits”
Friday 18th February 2022 – Last Day of term

Monday 17th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children, have made a great start to learning this term, we usually find that this is the best learning term. Pupils are dressed smartly, as always, and ready for learning. Hopefully, they have now got back to school and bedtime routines.

Sleep

In an assembly, we mentioned about not looking at the “white light” of screens, at least one hour before going to sleep. This helps the brain to rest, as TVs, iPads and other devices can keep the child’s brain active and they find it difficult to switch off and rest. It is so important for children to get a good night’s sleep and be awake, alert and ready for learning. One pupil said this week, “ I didn’t go on my tablet after tea I read a book and went to bed. I slept all night and today I got on gold. It works like a magic trick”. This was so brilliant to hear and what a role model for all!

Here is some info for sleep “Top Tips”: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sleep-and-tiredness/healthy-sleep-tips-for-children/>

Cold Weather and Ventilation



Please can the children wear layers in class, in order to layer up if windows and doors are open, where ventilation is needed. They can wear tights or leggings under trousers, vests and extra jumpers if needed. Children can wear coats, if they wish, inside class. The heating is on but we are advised to ventilate classrooms well to expel air to prevent Covid viral load, in the air.

Also, children need to bring coats into school, every-day, and we advise that they wear them at break and lunchtime, as the weather has been much colder, this term. Hats and gloves would be useful too!

Clubs and “Catch Up” Interventions

We have started clubs in “class bubbles” or two-year groups, to try and work within our Outbreak Plan. We are aware that the children enjoy clubs and want more extra-curricular activities. Class teachers are sending letters and texts out with more details. Some groups will have invitations only due to pupil needs.

Reception – Phonics and NELI (Nuffield Early Language Intervention)

Year 2- Handwriting and HERTs reading

Year 3 and Year 4 – Football Club will start in Spring term 4

Year 5 and Year 6 – Football Club Spring term 3

Year 6 – SATs booster club

Dance Club – to be confirmed shortly



Online Panto

As a lovely reward for a fabulous first week back, and rather than attending the pantomime due to Covid measures, the children watched an online Pantomime and had treats.

NSPCC Maths Number Day

We will be raising money for the NSPCC, a great charity supporting many children. On the 4th of February we will be taking part in 'Dress up for Digits' where pupils will be invited to wear an item of clothing with a number on (football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!). To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for a suggested donation of 50p each child or £1 per family as we'd like everyone in the school to take part in this special event. Please do not buy anything especially for this, use something that you already have or see your class teacher for help. We will also be using the fun curriculum-based maths challenges designed by the NSPCC and Oxford University Press on this day.



Parent Governor

If you would like to be a school governor, or would like to talk more about the role, please contact the school office and a governor will contact you to talk you through what it involves.

Purpose of Governance

"The purpose of governance is to provide confident and strong strategic leadership which leads to robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance.

All governance boards, no matter what type of school or how many schools they govern, have three core functions:

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;

Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and

Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent." – DfE Governance Handbook.

Our main role is to support and challenge the Headteacher, the phrase often used to describe this role is 'a critical friend'. We help them to set and reach targets and to strive for excellence across the whole spectrum of school life. This is actioned through school development planning; we use a Raising Achievement Plan (RAP) and Curriculum Leaders use mini-RAPS. The school's progress is evaluated termly through the RAP. Also, the School's Self Evaluation Form (SEF) is another working document that reflects the school's recent journey and current outcomes.

Our legal duties include: setting strategic direction, policies and objectives; approving the school budget; reviewing progress against the school's budget and objectives; appointing, challenging and supporting the headteacher.

The Governing Board meets regularly, at least once every term. We are currently holding "virtual" Full Governing Board meetings. Curriculum and Standards, Finance and Personnel, Premises and Health and Safety are covered during these meetings.



In the News....

The Gloucestershire Echo published the Nativity photos and an article about our Ofsted celebrations.
<https://www.pressreader.com/uk/gloucestershire-echo/20211223/281599538820882>



Clockwise from top: Year 1 Nativity; Christmas treats from FOHWPS and Asda, and reception's Nativity play



» HESTER'S Way Primary School had a fantastic last week of term, not only celebrating Christmas but also the publication of its recent Ofsted inspection. The school has been graded Good in all areas. Ofsted reported: "Leaders have designed the curriculum well. They have set out clearly sequenced steps of learning in each subject.... Pupils respond well to the learning challenges set by teachers." Following staff training, the school has adopted 'Reading as a Reader' and 'Talk for Writing', headed by Pie Corbett. The school has invested heavily in books, specifically de-codable phonics books and age-related books with themes of difference and diversity. In the Ofsted report it states: "Leaders have promoted a love of reading across the whole school. Staff across the school constantly encourage reading for pleasure."

Pupils enjoy a range of literature, including traditional classics, modern tales and poetry. The teaching of phonics is systematic and rigorous. It starts from when children join the school in the early years, and this helps them to develop fluency in reading." The school said the children shone through the inspection and everyone there was proud of their resilience, perseverance and confidence. They talked to the Ofsted inspectors and some gave them a tour of the school. Ofsted said: "Pupils' personal development is well nurtured. Staff encourage pupils to be responsible and respectful citizens." The school said it wanted to thank pupils, parents, staff, governors and community groups for their continued support, as well as schools that had worked in collaboration, and the local authority.



Kind regards, Miss Kirsti Ashman (Head Teacher) and the HWPS Team.

