



Head Teacher: Kirsti Ashman
Dill Avenue, Cheltenham, GL510ES
T 01242 525616
E head@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk
WWW. hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk

Dates for Diary 2023

See HWPS Annual Calendar for in school activities and events.

30th January to 6th February - National Story Telling Week

Thursday 2nd February – Bedtime Stories Event – see separate letter/text

Friday 3rd February – NSPCC Number Day – see separate letter/text

Tuesday 7th February - Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 8th February – Y6 Class Assembly 2.30pm

6th-12th February – Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 13th and Wednesday 15th February – Parent's Evening

Tuesday 14th February – Valentines and PCSO visit for Internet Safety

Wednesday 15th February – Y3 Class Assembly 2.30pm

Friday 17th February – Last day of Spring Term - 3pm finish

Monday 23rd January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an action-packed Spring term 3, we have had so far! Our pupils, as ever, have shown positive attitudes to learning and school life. They have been working very hard to make progress. We are looking forward to sharing your child's work and latest verbal report at Parent's Evening at the end of this term. You will be able to sign up to appointments shortly. Parents who may prefer an online meeting can email the class teacher or admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk

Cultural Capital

We want to be able to provide a varied range of experiences and opportunities for our pupils, to support their learning of the curriculum and life skills. The teaching staff have reviewed what we have done as a school, pre-Covid, and what we would like to do moving forwards. Please find the website link here: <https://hesterswayprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Cultural-Capital-Offer-original.pdf>

Staff have been organising visits, visitors and clubs, to re-ignite our Cultural Capital Offer. A brilliant example of this was **Young Voices**. A group of pupils learnt songs as part of a club and then attended The Resort World Arena to sing as part of the world's largest choir, with Mrs Godzisz and Mrs Best. As part of this Mrs Godzisz will support the children to apply for their Blue Peter badge, as recognition of their contribution to the event. <https://www.youngvoices.co.uk/>



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On the way home the children said to their teachers:

"It was the best day of my life, I recommend it dearly."; "#Best Choir ever! My favourite part was everything!"; "I liked watching the Urban Striders."; The violinist was really cool!"; "It was spectacular!"

Some other examples of our Cultural Capital Offer have been included on the annual calendar but others are being organised all of the time, these have included: Reception class's fire fighter visit; Reception and Year 1's visit to the Cheltenham Literature Festival; Year 2's trip to the London museum to learn about "The Great Fire of London"; Year 3' World War II Day; Year 5's Road Safety sessions; Year 5 and 6's City Fibre and Cheltenham Town – Internet and E-safety sessions and KS2 Cheltenham Town Football Clubs "Active Maths" sessions..... and many more!



As you will appreciate costs have risen, especially in coach hire and fuel to get pupils to and from places. So we are looking to work with local businesses and other agencies to support our Cultural Capital Offer.

Clubs

This term we have Y1 Phonics, EAL, Football, Y6 SATS and a Y3/4 STEM Club being offered to different year groups and some identified pupils to give additional support. Separate letter invites have been sent out.

Welcome

We would like to welcome Mrs Sarah Loveridge, to our Pastoral Support Team. Her official role is Safeguarding Lead. She will work with identified children and their families as well as support any who need advice, guidance and access to other agencies that may be able to support with any needs.

Email: Safeguardinglead@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk

Mrs Loveridge has been spending time getting to know the children and staff and has met some parents. She will sometimes be at the gate to welcome children and families. Please do not hesitate to say hello!



Parking Free Zone

The Cheltenham Borough Council are planning to the make the roads around school, a parking free zone. Whilst this is being put into place, please can we ask that any drivers follow the Highway Code <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code> and do not park in front of our neighbours drives, blocking access to their properties.

National Story Telling Week

As part of this week, we will be hosting our Bedtime Story event in school. A separate letter will be sent out with details. The children are also taught to re-tell stories through our Talk for Writing curriculum. Please ask your child to share the story that they are learning about at the moment.

<https://hesterswayprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Whole-School-Overview-Talk-for-Writing-2022-23.pdf>

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Safer Internet Day

Our PCSO will be in school to teach the children about how to keep safe online on 14th February. This is an additional support to the learning that they have as part of the curriculum. If you need any guidance for home online use there is information about parental controls and what to look out for here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

The NSPCC have some great resources for parents and carers <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> Please report any concerns of online sexual abuse <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/> and let school know if you have any concerns. Children are spending more time on devices and need to know how to protect themselves, as well as parents be able to monitor and report issues.



ZIP IT

Keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do online.



BLOCK IT

Block people who send nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.



FLAG IT

Flag up with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline.

Children's Mental Health Week

We are all aware that everyone's mental health is vitally important, this is especially so with children. This year's theme is "Let's Connect" <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/> We are planning activities in school, using Place to Be primary resources. They have also shared some resources for families <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

If you have any concerns about your child's mental health, please speak to the class teacher, Mrs Mel Richards (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) or Miss Kaytee Parish (Family Community Worker). They will be able to help and support your child in school and refer you to any agencies that may be able to help and support with your child's needs.



Thank you to parents, carers and families for all of your continued support, valuable feedback and contributions.

Kind regards,

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

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