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Dates for Diary 2023-24

Monday 4th and 5th September – Inset Days – Staff only
Wednesday 6th September – Children attend school gates open at 8.45am
Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th – Reception Class induction meetings
Friday 8th September - New Reception Class start induction sessions - see individual dates/times
Thursday 14th September – Reception to Year 6 Nasal Flu Vaccinations – Parental permission forms have been sent out
Friday 27th October – Last day of term – 3pm finish

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a wonderful first week back to school!

It has been lovely to see everyone again, after the summer break. We are so proud of all your wonderful children! They have come into school looking super smart, in their uniforms, and speaking very positively about their new classes. They shared some lovely comments in assembly: "I like being in Y5 because we now go upstairs", "I like my new teachers", " It is brilliant to see all of our friends again". Some were also a bit nervous about coming into school, through the gate, on the first day, which is completely normal after a long time away from school and new beginnings. With your reassurance and our support, they will come running in the school gate, confidently and independently, next week.

Contact Us

If you need to speak to your child's class teacher at all, please can we ask that you call the school office on 01242 525616 from 8.30am or email admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk . Please leave a message for the teacher to call you back. If urgent then please explain that you need an immediate response, otherwise they will phone you back out of class teaching time. You can always leave messages with the office.

Other staff contact details:

Miss Kirsti Ashman (Head Teacher): head@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk

Mrs Mel Richards (Deputy Head and Special Educational Needs Coordinator/SENDCo):
melrichards@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk

Mrs Sarah Loveridge (Safeguarding Lead): safeguardinglead@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk

Miss Kaytee Parish (Family Community Worker – FCW): FCW@hestersay.gloucs.sch.uk

Mrs Joanne Asquith (Admin and Finance Officer): admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk

Mrs Lin Green (Admin and Attendance Officer): lgreen@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk

Our School Values

Perseverance, Confidence, Resilience, Determination, Pride and Independence

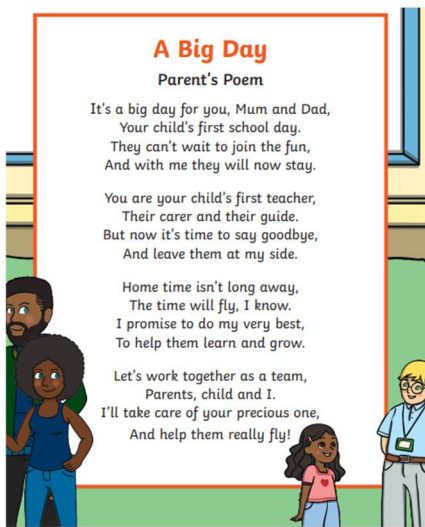




Update Pupil Information

Please can you inform the office if any of your details have changed such as home address, phone number, email or emergency contacts. We must have at least two authorised people named to collect your child from school.

Only Year 5 and Year 6 pupils can walk home on their own with parental permission – please ask for a form from the office. They often use mobile phones for safety on the way to or from school, but phones must be switched off and locked away by the teacher everyday and handed back at the end of the day.



Welcome New Reception Class – Year of 2023!

We are so excited to welcome our new Reception Class. They have been visiting class with their parent/carers and getting to know staff. The rest of school are very much looking forward to getting to know your child, make friends, help and support them to settle them into school life.

The first induction group have made a great start, even joining in with KS1 playtime. They have shown 'sharing and caring' behaviours already, playing with friends and taking turns. Well done!

Reception Class pupils have baseline assessments when they start at school, to assess their current attainment. This is a government initiative to measure progress across primary school life. The children will not know these are assessments as the tasks will be made fun by the teaching staff.

Please find parent information here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1182374/2023_Information_for_parents_reception_baseline_assessment_WEBHO.pdf

Sleep

It seems that we now return to school and the temperature rises! It can be very difficult for the children to sleep and a few admittedly said they were tired readjusting from the summer break bedtimes routines but no doubt they will get back into school routines, very soon.

We will be learning about why sleep is important, what happens to our bodies and mind when we are asleep, what we can do to get a better night sleep and why we should improve our sleep routines. This is part of our PSHE curriculum and support us to 'Be Ready' for our learning, with better learning attitudes.



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Young Minds Matter – Trail Blazer School

We have exciting news to share – HWPS will become a Trail Blazer school this Autumn term with access to the Young Minds Matter training and resources. We have been invited to an initial meeting and will find out more very soon.

[Young Minds Matter \(YMM\)](#) is a safe and confidential mental health support service developed for children and young people up to 18 years of age in schools currently in the Trailblazer project across Gloucestershire.

The team can offer support if you are struggling with things like anxiety, low mood, and poor sleep or similar. This can be either face to face in school or via a virtual online platform. When we know more we will share how we can offer, seek consent and refer a child and what the support and outcomes might look like.

Playtimes

This Autumn term, we are returning to collaborative playtimes with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 playing all together on the Key Stage 1 playground and Year 3 to Year 6 playing on the Key Stage 2 playground. Year 3 children are on the Key Stage 1 playground until Reception fully start, and will then be introduced to Key Stage 2. This is a great way for children to get to mix and mingle, with other classes, forming other friendship groups and getting to know each other better.

Mrs Godzisz, our Sports Lead has been busy tidying and sorting the PE cupboard and getting the equipment ready for the children's play. Please see her Sports Newsletter celebrating last years outcomes.

Celebration Assembly

Brought back by popular demand! When your child gets a certificate awarded to them, you will be invited into our Celebration Assembly, on Friday mornings. The assembly will start at 9am and usually lasts about 30 minutes. Please enter the gate, with your invitation and wait outside the hall to be signed into school.

We will be celebrating the best reader, writer and mathematician for the week, as well as the Captain Positive Award for the children who have used our school values in their behaviour and attitude to learn.

Each class collects 10 objects across the week, when they work as a team or follow instructions, work hard etc. In Year 3, they are adding on Mr Potato Head's body parts to make him whole again. In Celebration assembly, the classes put their marbles in a jar and collect them for a prize. Last year, the whole school went to Cineworld for the International Film Festival season. Let's try and collect those marbles to get to the cinema again, with snacks and drinks!



We also celebrate class weekly attendance with 'Attendance Ted', house points, Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) leader board winners and a mention for those who have been working hard on Numbots!

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Behaviour – Captain Positive



Our Behaviour Policy will be shared shortly with our Home School Agreement. We always receive comments from visitors and others on visits about our children's amazingly good behaviour and polite manners. They often out-shine other primary school pupils. It is important that we all, review the school's expectations and rules "Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful", so that we can be consistent and support the pupil's behaviour, so that they have positive attitudes to learning. This week, the class have signed their Class Charters, learnt class routines. When walking around school, this week, the children have been using their 'classroom voices', focused on their learning and being kind to others.

Attendance and Lateness

Attendance is one of main school improvement areas. Last academic year, our school attendance was 91% against the National 92.5%. The main reason for absence was illness. Whilst we understand that children have been getting more 'childhood illness' since the Covid pandemic, such as Chicken Pox. We will also be monitoring, as support may be needed. Repetitive illness can be linked to a medical need, poor housing, diet and access to resources. Our Pastoral Support Team, Mel Richards (DHT/SENDCo), Sarah Loveridge (Safeguarding Lead) and Kaytee Parish (Family Community Worker) can help to sign post you to other agencies, if needed. We would like to help where we can!

We have also included the Attendance Overview which show the % and RAG rate, as well as Lost Learning Time Overview which shows the impact of absence and lateness on learning time. We would like to ask that we all work together to ensure that we 'aspire' to at least 95%, this year. A new initiative will be shared shortly for the children to celebrate attendance.

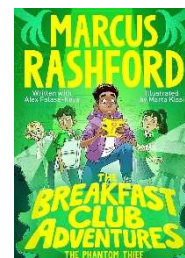
All holidays will be unauthorised in term time, you may be at risk of being fined £60 per child, per parent. For a family with two children and two parents the fine would be £240.

Breakfast Club

There may be spaces available, if you wish your child to attend Breakfast Club please contact lgreen@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk.

Breakfast Club starts at 8.15am and the children are supervised in the hall to have: low sugar cereals with milk and toast with toppings, as well as fruit, water and juice. The cost is 50p a day which must be paid through ParentPay. If you do not already have a ParentPay account, one can be set up for you.

Once the children have finished their breakfast there will be activities for the children to do, including: reading, games, handwriting/motor control, exercise and movement. It is a great way to socialise and develop independence. Our school aims to create a nurturing, caring environment, where pupils can start the day having eaten a healthy breakfast and be prepared in the best possible way for their learning, as well as supporting families with work commitments.



At the moment, all children have bagels as they come into school, as part of Magic Breakfast, so that they can eat for learning energy before the day starts. Children can choose if they want this or not.

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Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

We would like to reassure you that the Local Authority have been active in surveying our school. Health and safety is always the highest priority for our Governing Board and Senior Leadership Team.

In response to general enquiries, the below communication was issued by GCC's Communications Team:

"We are currently not aware of any Local Authority schools that contain RAAC in the county."

"We are continuing to work with the Department for Education and are in the process of further surveying our Local Authority schools in Gloucestershire."

"Surveys on the highest priority buildings have been completed with no evidence of RAAC being present and we are working hard to ensure all other surveys are completed as soon as possible."

Parent Curriculum and Information Meetings

The teachers will be inviting you into school, in the first couple of weeks of term, to share the curriculum for the year and information about your child's new year group. This will also give you an opportunity to get to meet the teaching staff.

A school calendar, more dates and events will follow. We are very much looking forward to holding more sports and parent events this year, celebrating the children's successes with you.



Here's to a great Autumn term, with lots of learning and fun!

Kind regards,

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

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