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Newsletter – Autumn Term 1 2024

Friday 24th October – End of Term – Finish 3pm

Autumn Term 2 2024
Monday 4th November – **INSET DAY** – no children in school
Tuesday 5th November – First day of Autumn Term 2 – Start 8.45 am

Gates
Gates open 8:45am and close at 8:50am – school starts at 8:45am.
Gates open 3:10pm – school ends at 3:15pm.

*See dates for diary in **'HWPS Calendar for Autumn Term 2 2024'** attached.*

October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had an amazing Autumn Term 1.

Attendance
Whole school attendance is 95%. This has improved greatly. Well done to all of the children for keeping on top of this and celebrating their class attendance, together. The best class each week, gets extra playtime and use of the Trim Trail. Thank you to parents/carers who have supported this too.

This term we have re-introduced the Gold, Silver and Bronze raffles for attendance. Children with 100% attendance have been entered into the Gold prize raffle, 96-98% attendees are entered into the Silver prize raffle and children attending 92-95% have been entered into the Bronze raffle.

Winners are:

Prizes included Legami pencil cases and pens ☺
There will be different prizes next term.
54 x 100% Attendance Certificates have been handed out in our end of term Celebration Assembly.
Best Class Attendance in Autumn Term 1 goes to Year 6. They have had attendance treats to celebrate!
Keep up the competition next term and see which class wins next!

Parental Engagement

Thank you to parents and carers for attending: Reception new pupil meetings; Reception Open Morning – tour and meeting; Teacher Curriculum and Timetable meetings in class; Phonics meeting; Harvest Festival assemblies and Parent's Evenings. We appreciate your time and support. The children love performing to an audience and are increasingly confident, singing and performing to others.

Please find a questionnaire in book bags, as we would like to find out how your child has settled into their class this term. Thank you to those who have already completed these.

Governors

Our new Chair of Governors is Pippa Child. She has been a Parent Governor for over 20 years. We also welcome new Governor Michelle Lucas-Halliwell, who brings a wealth of educational expertise. There are some more candidates interested, with elections due at the next Governing Board meeting. If you too are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact the Clerk Nicky Blatchly-Lewis HWPSClerk@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk. Application details can be found on the school website: Vacancies - Hester's Way Primary School

We would like to thank Penny Manuel for her two and half year term with us, as Governor and Chair. She stepped down at the end of the summer term. We are grateful for all that Penny did as a Governor, as well as her collaborative donations from SOHO COFFEE Co. 'Cardboard to Coats' campaign which bought a coat for every child, books as well as new writing and maths sheds in the Reception outdoor area.

Thank you too to James Hayden and Chris Dee for their contribution to Governance.

Vision and Values

We have reviewed our Vision, Mission and Values – please find the details on the school website Values, Mission, Vision - Hester's Way Primary School.

The main change has been in reducing the Values to: Perseverance, Positivity and Pride.

The Governor Strategic Plan sets out our priorities, identified pupil needs that will be addressed and what we want school outcomes to look like in a 5 Year Plan. Governor-Strategic-Plan-final-2024.pdf

Our current main strategic goals are to:

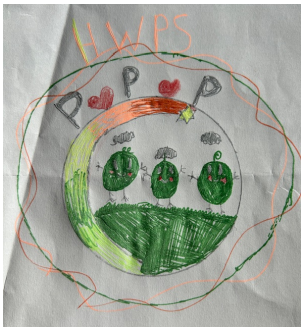
- Be the local primary school of choice;
- Enable social mobility through cultural capital and academic progress;
- Use financial acumen and effective resourcing to fulfil the plan.

We have listened to pupils in assemblies and pupil voice activities, taken on board parental verbal feedback as well as responses from parent/carer questionnaires, staff have had input their visionary aspirations for the school, as well as the Governing Board.

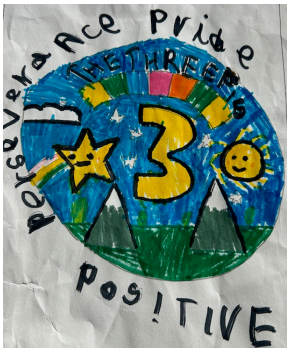
The Governor Strategic Plan informs our School Development Plan which drives our continual improvements. Please take a look and if you have any comments email head@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk

Values Logos
We asked the children to design a Logo to demonstrate the new school values. The competition winners have been given a certificate and prize in Celebration Assembly. As we had a varied response, we want to celebrate the designs across the school, on posters, displays and furnishings. We will post pictures when they arrive in school.

Gold - Celia



Silver - Amelia



Bronze – Josie-Rae

Autumn Term 1 Events
School staff have been working hard to ensure that not only that the curriculum is taught but also the children have access to after school clubs, visitors and visits that support their learning.

This term, staff have organised and provided:

After school clubs: Art, Science, Boys and Girls football, Young Voices and Move More Multi-Sports.

Sports and Physical Activity such as Forest School, Swimming at Cheltenham College, Gloucester Rugby Club tuition, Football after school clubs and games with local schools. The football teams were commended for their resilience and determination, as they competed against some highly skilled pupils from other schools.

The PC Beat Officer has been into school to talk to the Year 6 class about online relationships and keeping safe online. An 'Online Safety' newsletter was sent out to share the risks associated with social media and online activity. We ask that the official age limits are followed by pupils and parents.

Reception Class had a success external review from the Local Authority GLOSSI Performance Team. The early years children have settled in well to school routines and are taking part in whole class teaching sessions as well as learning through adult-led and child-led tasks, through play. Excellent practice and provision was celebrated.

Local Parking
Please can we ask that if parking locally to drop off or collect children from school, that cars are parked legally, not on yellow lines or over our neighbours' driveways. There have been some reports where people have not been able to get off or onto their driveways. Thank you in advance!

Halloween Disco

Thank you to the Friends of Hester's Way Primary School (FOHWPS) group for organising and fund-raising at the brilliant Halloween disco. The children looked fantastic in their costumes. They had such a wonderful time and enjoyed every last minute.

The Party Peeps have donated two family tickets for their Halloween Party at the Pittville Pump Rooms. These have been awarded as fancy dress prizes to Lana in Year 1 and Logan in Year 5. They have also given all of our families a 20% off discount. Use the code: HESTERSWAY20

PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN TRICK OR TREATING TO BE RESPECTFUL AND NOT KNOCK WHEN THERE ARE SIGNS, NO LIGHTS ON AND NO DECORATIONS UP! STAY SAFE WITH ADULTS ☺

We wish you all a restful half term break!

Kind regards, Miss Kirsti Ashman and the HWPS Team