



Honiton Primary School

20th September 2024

Notes from the Head

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year, I hope that you have had a wonderful summer and made many strong and lasting memories with the children. Always good to remember that childhoods are short, so do make the time, play in the sand, share an ice cream, and make the memories. They'll grow quicker than you'll ever imagine.

Now, let's find out all the great and the good; inside and outside of school!

Examination Results –

Just a quick note to remind that despite the extended legacy of COVID 19, missed learning and recent years of uncertainty, the staff and children delivered another year of solid examination results for those years the government tested, namely:

EYFS - Early Learning Goals (ELG's)

Year 1 - Phonics Screening Tests

Year 4 - Multiplication Times Tables Check (MTC)

Year 6 Standardised Attainment Tests (SATs)

All very strong with the majority well **above** the national averages. We are all very proud of the children and the staff for their efforts. Thank you to those at home who also added to their child's education during the year too, it really is appreciated.

Reading is the key to life:

Read to them, have them read to you and [put the sub-titles on](#) the television – it helps them to read!

Please, please, please, do continue to engage with your children in their reading and their online Doodle maths. It is absolutely vital that **parents play their part in raising strong, literate children.**

The right to read is huge. Remember, they'll thank you for having those battles when they are able to land a good job, read an official document or read to their own children later in life. If you are at all unsure how to move forward with this then speak to your class teacher immediately.



School Vision Circle – World Ready People –



Another reminder of what our school stands for, what we are working towards and how it is all embodied in an easy to reference image for all and sundry. The vision circle starts at the outside with a hard ring of unbreakable British Values, then moves inwards into all the areas we wish to take our children and community, moving the children towards the ultimate goal of being a World Ready Person at our centre. Please do take the time to stop at the various signs around the school with your children and talk it through together.

Uniform:

Many, many thanks extended to all parents and carers putting in the effort with children's uniform. We take great pride in all looking alike, creating that sense of belonging and acting as an HPS "tribe". We wear our blues with pride and having the correct uniform is really important. We really do not need brands and bling. We need to just be smart and comfortable. There's no need or desire for bright colours and big label prices.

Thus far, it's been a very neat, tidy, and orderly start to the term and long may it continue. Thank you for the ongoing support. The children are generally looking very smart and those without the correct uniform do really stick out. That is why we have a uniform, to bond us together, wearing clothes that don't dictate class or financial positions. Please do keep up the standard and make sure that their uniform is present and clear. It really does cement the sense of togetherness.

Cutlery

Seems odd but for too many children, they really do not have a notion of knives, forks and spoons and this really is a life skill that needs instilling. We can support, guide, and remind but really this is a home skill and parents really do need to put the time in here to make sure that their children are set up properly for life.

It may well have been summer picnics out, cold buffets, or a treat of fish and chips, but as we come more indoors to hot meals and the like, children really do need to have a full grasp on cutlery and how to use knives, forks, and spoons with good manners.

PTFA

Just a note of recognition for our industrious and hardworking PTFA. They work tirelessly for our children and put in many hours behind the scenes let alone the time they are actually spotted tending gazebos, selling ice-creams, planning the superb events we all enjoy and generally just helping the strong community ethos of our school. They are simply amazing. Bravo!

We should all be very grateful or better still, **sign up! More members needed.** Ask at the office for more information. Watch out too as the next instalment of project Yurt comes to life because of their diligent fundraising in the very near future.

Doodle - This is still Home Learning –

We remind parents in some quarters, that there is an expectation that children are supported at home to be successful. We are all in this together; please play your part.

Many thanks and best wishes for the year,

Mr Tribble

Main Diary Dates

Please remember that you can see our term dates on our school website and app

Mon 23 Sep	9:00am	Year 6 Skern Lodge Residential
Tue 24 Sep		Year 6 Skern Lodge Residential
Wed 25 Sep	3:20pm	Year 6 Skern Lodge Residential
Fri 27 Sep	3:20pm	Year 6 Cake Sale
Wed 2 Oct		School Photographer (family groups)
Thur 3 Oct		School Photographer (individuals)
Thur 10 Oct		World Mental Health Day #HelloYellow
Fri 18 Oct	2:30-:300pm	Halloween Disco Nursery & Reception
Fri 18 Oct	3:30-4:00pm	Halloween Disco Years 1 & 2
Fri 18 Oct	5:00-6:00pm	Halloween Disco Years 3 & 4
Fri 18 Oct	6:30-7:30pm	Halloween Disco Years 5 & 6
Tues 22 Oct		Parents Evening (further info to follow)
Thurs 24 Oct		Parents Evening (further info to follow)
Thurs 24 Oct		Yr. R – 6 Flu Immunisations
Fri 25 Oct	3:20pm	School Closes for Half Term
Mon 4 Nov	8:50am	School reopens
W/c Mon 4 Nov	8:50am	Year 5 Bikeability
W/c Mon 11 Nov	8:50am	Year 5 Bikeability
Fri 15 Nov		Children in Need
Mon 25 Nov		Moustache Monday
Thurs 28 Nov		Honiton Food Bank Day
Fri 6 Dec	3:30-6:00pm	PTFA Winter Fair
Tue 17 Dec		Yrs. 1, 2 & 3 Concert at St Pauls 1:30 & 6.00pm
Wed 18 Dec		Yrs. 4, 5 & 6 Concert at St Pauls 1:30 & 6.00pm
Thu 19 Dec		Save the Children Xmas Jumper Day
Thu 19 Dec		Christmas Dinner
Fri 20 Dec	1:15pm	School Closes for Christmas Holiday
Mon 6 Jan		Non Pupil Day
Tue 7 Jan	8:50am	Spring Term Begins

SPORTS NEWS:

Welcome back to what is already a very busy beginning to the Autumn Term with all things PE! Our after school sports club programme is underway with many full sessions so please keep your Weduc up to date in order to book your child in with plenty of time! Our daily Golden Mile challenge is being embraced by all of our children now that the new lunch timetable means that we can open it up to our

Year 1 and 2 children: look out for the achievement certificates at 10, 25 and 50 miles! The display board in the small hall is proudly displaying all names that reach these milestones! PE lessons are filling the timetable and Go Noodle is keeping every child active every day! The children are looking very smart and tidy in their PE kits - well done and thank you for your support with this. What a great start everyone 😊

I would like to remind you that, as the autumnal weather starts to cool and deteriorate, please ensure that your child is suitably dressed for outdoor PE sessions with black or navy tracksuit trousers, leggings, and our blue PE hoodie. Remember that these hoodies can be purchased from Honiton Sports Shop, and they are available in sizes from 3 years to adult large. Thank you 😊

★ School Games Mark ★

For a third year running, I am thrilled to announce that we have had our School Games Mark award finalised ... and we have retained the GOLD Level Award for the 2023 - 2024 academic year! Wahoo! 🎉

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme, launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward and recognise school's engagement, provision, and uptake in the School Games against a national benchmark and to celebrate keeping young people active; and obviously, I am delighted that we have continued to be recognised for our success!

The power of physical activity and school sport at Honiton Primary is something that we feel very passionate about, and I, personally, would like to take this opportunity to say 'THANK YOU': a thank you to you, our parents, families and friends that support us; a thank you to all of the staff of HPS - particularly Mr Watson, for his commitment, dedication and hours and hours of time ... and ultimately to all of the children: thank you. I am extremely proud of our whole school community, from our youngest in nursery through to our oldest in year 6, and all of the children in between, for their commitment to being active on a daily basis, in their play, at break and lunchtimes, during after school sports clubs, on sports days and during our sponsored events ... and of course, for all of the pupils that have represented HPS in the wide and varied sporting activities. Congratulations to everyone! 🙌

And let's keep it up - next step ... the Platinum Award ... what a target to aim for ... let's make it another great year in PE, sport and activity at HPS! 😊

World Ready People:

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to share with you the statutory & non-statutory requirements for your child's Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) including relationships education (ReIE) at Honiton Primary School.

Although non-statutory, we believe that PSHE is a fundamental part of our 'World Ready People' vision for our children. Through lessons, experiences, assemblies and school events; the children are immersed in opportunities to learn about, and experience the values that we all aspire to within our school community. The statutory element of our social curriculum, ReIE, requires schools to:

'Teach children a wealth of information about healthy relationships, including how to communicate their own boundaries and recognise the boundaries of others, staying safe online, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe contact. We strongly encourage schools to include the teaching of different family models and same-sex relationships'.

Health education should (when age-appropriate) include puberty, including menstruation, and this should as far as possible be addressed before onset. It also focuses on teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing, and teachers should be clear that mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.'

(DfE RSE statutory guidance 2019 - updated 2021)

Our PSHE/ReIE area on the school website provides a range of policies and resources to inform and support our families. I encourage you to have a look, especially if you are new to the school.

Honiton Primary PTFA

Welcome back to Autumn 2024. We hope that everybody is settling into their new year groups okay and Reception children are enjoying their first few weeks at school! We'd like to start the year by thanking you all for the amazing support you gave us last year, it really was incredible.

We have an exciting first term of events coming up before Christmas. Our cake sales start on Friday 27th September with Year 6, we have a Halloween Disco on the 18th October, and then our first ever Winter Fair is on the 6th December. Please keep a look out on our Facebook page for more details.

We are always hoping to recruit new volunteers to join our PTFA. If you would like to join our fantastic team, please speak to one of us in the playground or email us at ptfa@honitonprimary.co.uk.