



Newsletter

10 March 2023

Headteacher's Message

In our last newsletter, I started it by asking parents to be mindful of taking concerns that their children sometimes bring home too literally as on occasions, a pupil's interpretation of an event may not always be what has happened. It is always important to keep an open mind until facts can be established.

In an attempt to be 'light-hearted' about an important issue, that sometimes causes distress to others, and additional workload for staff, I may have given the false impression that we do not want you to take children's 'disclosures' seriously. This is not the case. It is also not the case that pupils regularly disclose things about their parents that we ignore. Whilst we do, occasionally, receive information that we may have to follow up I would not want you to think that this is a common issue. We always want children to feel safe when talking about issues and events that are significant to them and have many avenues in place in order to facilitate this. As a school, (and as an individual), children's concerns and disclosures are always taken seriously. We will always listen to what pupils tell us and then take appropriate action if required.

Furthermore, can I reiterate that, if there is an issue that you feel does need following up, then please, ALWAYS speak to the class teacher first and foremost, in a calm and respectful manner.

Thank you for your understanding with this matter and helping us promote a positive relationship between pupils, parents and staff.

Our School

At Horton Kirby Church of England Primary School, we aim to be the very best we can for ourselves, for others and for God. Our School values are: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Reflection.

Announcements

Friday 17th March 2023 – Comic Relief and Mother's Day Sale.

Monday 20th March 2023 – Please note that this is a Trust Day and the school will be closed to all pupils.

Last Day of Term – Friday 31st March 2023 with a 2.15pm finish.

Mobile Phones – Mobile phones should only be brought into school if your child is travelling to and/or from school alone. Upon arrival at school, phones should be handed into the office, and can be collected at the end of the day. Pupils should not have their phones during the day. **If your child is coming to school with an adult and being collected by an adult, there is no need for them to bring a mobile phone with them.**

Jewellery - Earrings should not be worn in PE sessions for Health and Safety reasons. They will need to be taken out or taped prior to the school day. Staff are not able to remove the children's earrings for them or tape them. If your child is wearing earrings on their PE day, and they are not taped, then they will not be able to take part.

School Uniform – Please can you ensure that your child is wearing their correct school uniform every day. Please note that trainers are not allowed – appropriate school shoes should be worn unless advised by your teacher. Our full school uniform policy can be found on the school website.

<https://www.hortonkirby.kent.sch.uk/our-school/uniform/>

Healthy Eating - A gentle reminder that we are a healthy eating school. Children are NOT allowed to bring in sweets, chocolates (Mars bars etc., and fizzy drink in their lunchboxes – this week several children have been seen with two or three chocolate bars/sweets in their packed lunch and although a treat is allowed this is excessive. The following link will take you to a website full of healthy lunch box ideas:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

Safeguarding

Action for Children are a charity who protect and support children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support. They work to ensure their voices are heard, and campaign to bring lasting improvements to young people's lives. They also have a Parenting Hub, with a wealth of information to support parents and carers.

www.actionforchildren.org.uk

If you have any concerns regarding children's safety or welfare you can contact social services on 03000 41 24 45 and they will advise you on the best course of action.

Headteacher Awards

W/E 03 March 2023:

Acorn – None this week

Holly – None this week

Fir – None this week

Ash – Monnie-Mae Money

Willow – Rocco Webb

Oak – Monty Rhucroft

Cherry – Arnav Goel

Redwood – Rhys Chappell

W/E 10 March 2023:

Acorn – Violet Stanton

Holly – Freddie Dahmen

Fir – Henri Robinson

Ash – Aurelia Loader

Willow – None this week

Oak – Lacey Lawson & Oscar Farlie

Cherry – Lauren Whipps

Redwood – Amelia Sandford

TTRS Certificates

Myles Hall

James Copeland

Lily Kowalska

Austin Clark

Bonnie Morgan

Keira Vincent

Rosie Lindars

Harrie Hackworth

James Copeland

Finley Avison-Williams

Absences

Please can ALL absences be reported to the school office on the morning of each day your child is absent. You can either leave a voicemail on 01322 863278 or email office@hortonkirby.kent.sch.uk. This is important, and we appreciate your assistance in keeping our records up to date.

Sports

For those that may be interested, Miss Harper will be playing in the Kent Women's Cup Final, Aylesford -v- Gillingham, on Thursday 4th May at 7.45pm at the Gallagher Stadium in Maidstone. If you would like to support her, please do come along.

Attendance

Attendance matters – we aim for all children to achieve 96% attendance within the school year.

W/E 3 March 2023:

Whole School – 96%

Class Attendance:

Acorn - 95%

Holly - 92%

Fir - 96%

Ash - 98%

Willow - 97%

Oak - 94%

Cherry - 98%

Redwood - 100%

W/E 10 March 2023:

Whole School – 92%

Class Attendance:

Acorn - 89%

Holly - 85%

Fir - 91%

Ash - 96%

Willow - 88%

Oak - 100%

Cherry - 90%

Redwood - 97%

You said, we did!

If you have any suggestions for improvements at our school, or would like to volunteer, please contact the office on office@hortonkirby.kent.sch.uk.

Reading Awards

Bronze

Phoebe Price

Phoebe Chakkarath

Ossie Pitman

Henri Robinson

Poppy Smith

Violet Penalver

Dolly-Rose Grant

Esme Chakkarath

Constance Goldsmith

Silver

Arlo Copas

Aden Rothwell

Lauren Essex

Henry Gurnett

Ollie Dorney

Amelie Smith

Buddy Donnelly

Charlie Hall

Corey Lloyd

Dexter Garland

Isabella Webb

Isabelle Reed

James O'Donoghue

Gold

Mia Crow

Pixie-George Hanafin

Rosa Dean

Amelie Smith

Buddy Donnelly

Isabelle Reed

James O'Donoghue

Louis Crowley

Oliver Ballard

Ebben Hurrell

Amelie Clark

Kyla-Harmony Okullo

Georgie Turner

PTA

We are always looking for new volunteers and fresh ideas. If you have any questions or are interested in being part of a fun team and raising money for our school, please drop our PTA team an email at hkpta@yahoo.com for further information.

We welcome our new Co-Chairs – Evie Brown and Sarah Osborne

Upcoming Events:-

Mother's Day Sale – Friday 17th March 2023