



Henleaze Infant School
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Friday 1 March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back, I hope you all had an enjoyable half term.

This term our PSHE focus is 'Healthy Me'. As part of that learning we have been thinking about the role of lunchtime play in keeping healthy, through rest as well as exercise.

We have opened up both playgrounds to all children and zoned them in order to support children's choice to play more active, creative or restful games. The Playpod has been topped up and is now open to all children to use in den making, role-play and other creative pursuits. I really loved the ice-cream parlour today!



FHIS have given us funds to buy some small equipment to enable children to create some active games. They are making great use of hula-hoops as well as developing games with the cones, discs and quoits.

Making a great contribution to our happy and healthy lunchtimes is the introduction of our Year 5 Buddies from the junior school. It has been a really successful start to the project

with children from both schools benefiting from the interaction.



I have been able to follow up some questions raised at last term's Head's Tea and will be updating on other aspects in the near future.

One question raised was around school gates. I can confirm that the junior school do not plan to shut the gate between their playground and the Reception patios as a permanent fixture, but will close it off during school session times in order to safeguard their children.

I was asked whether there were plans to install magnetic gates at the front of the school. I raised this with the campus committee and the decision made was that the current gates (with both schools now having their own internal boundary fencing) were felt to be safe and the issues around

reliability and maintenance of electric gates out-weighs their benefits.

I have received some parental feedback in response to letters sent home at the end of term informing families of children with attendance that falls below 90% at this point. These were and will continue to be sent as is our school policy (updated in November 2019) in order to offer support families.

Our priority is to keep children safe and to ensure pupils realise their full potential. With this at the forefront, it is our responsibility to recognise and monitor what the Department for Education (DfE) defines as a 'persistent absentee', which is a child missing 10% or more of schooling across the school year, for whatever reason.

Our regular meetings with the local authority attendance officer require us to discuss these cases and where there are concerns, the local authority may choose to follow them up with families. Illness will explain the majority of absences, however the attendance officer will look at patterns and above average numbers of missed days through illness in order to support families as well as ensure the safeguarding of children. With this in mind, our correspondence with families is an opportunity to discuss attendance at an early stage in order to offer support.

On a related note, our website has details of next year's term and INSET dates. We have aligned them with the junior school and published them at the earliest opportunity in order for you to plan ahead. Details can be found here:

<http://www.henleaze-inf.bristol.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/academic-calendar-2019-2020.pdf>

I have received a very large number of requests for planned absence in recent weeks. As is the local authority and school policy, I am unable to authorise any term-time

days except in exceptional circumstances. These exceptional circumstances would include funerals and non-routine medical treatment or appointments.

I wish those of you attending the FHIS quiz this evening great success and look forward to dancing with those of you attending the children's disco next week.

Best wishes

Gemma Fricker
Interim Headteacher

YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK:

Reception

This week in Reception children have enjoyed writing about their holiday news. The children are really looking forward to taking the class teddies home for a sleepover. All children will get a turn.

Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about weight and experimenting with scales and standard measure. In thinking about healthy eating, they have been planning a balanced plate of food and dancing to music from around the world.

Year 2

Year 2 have been writing application letters to join the European Space Agency. They are eagerly awaiting a reply! They have also been thinking about 3D shapes in the environment and discussing their properties and suitability for different purposes – budding engineers as well as space explorers!

SOME REMINDERS FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 5 March – Pancake day pudding change – pancakes with lemon or banana and chocolate.

Thursday 7 March – World Book Day.
Scavenger hunt and sponsorship were emailed out before half term. We look forward to hearing about your achievements!

Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 March – Parents' Evenings. Further information was emailed out today.

Tuesday 26 March – SATS Meeting for Year 2 parents, 3pm in the Hall.

Wednesday 3 April – Year 1 play 'Our World' at 9.30am

Friday 5 April – Year 1 Egg Rolling Competition, Year 2 Easter Bonnet Parade, End of Term 4

COMMUNITY MESSAGES

FHIS Quiz and Curry Night – tonight! We look forward to seeing you.

FHIS Winter Disco – Friday 8 March. Please sign up if you can help out!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0449AEA82EAAF85-winter>

FHIS Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday 30 March.

Car Parking – if you need to drive to school, please remember to park considerately. We receive regular reports of unsafe parking. Please do not park in the staff car park – even if you are collecting from After School clubs – there are still a lot of pedestrians moving about the site at this time.

Head lice – we have reports of head lice in various classes. Please check your child and if they are affected, treat them appropriately. Further guidance can be found here
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>