



Working together so that all may flourish
Head Teachers Letter
Friday 16th September



Dear Parents and Carers,

There is a bit of a chill in the air this morning as we start to say goodbye to summer and welcome in the autumn. There has been some fantastic learning going on this week. It was lovely to welcome so many of you in to see the learning that was going on at our Stay and Learn session on Tuesday. Thank you for all of the positive feedback. I am glad that you enjoyed the session. We will be holding another Stay and Learn session next term in the afternoon from 2:15-3:15. I have had to move the date for this to Wednesday 9th November.



Over the past week I have reviewed our school uniform policy, in light of the current rise in cost of living. If you would like to read the policy in full it is available in the policies section of our school website. Please note that school jumpers, PE T-shirts and PE hoodies need to be blue but the addition of the school logo is optional. The same is true of the white polo shirts, the logo is an optional addition it is not mandatory.

I have noticed an increase in the amount of children wearing jewellery in school. Jewellery should not be worn at school (unless medical identification). Children with pierced ears may wear small studs, no hoops or drops. Children should be able to remove their own earrings for PE – if they cannot then please ensure they do not wear them on PE days. Children are permitted (indeed encouraged) to wear watches, but they must be removed for PE lessons and should have the child's initials on the back. The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to watches or earrings brought in to school.

At Heytesbury Church of England Primary School we believe wearing a school uniform creates a sense of pride and belonging, encourages positive behaviour and discipline, supporting effective teaching and learning. If you are struggling to buy school uniform then please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office. We will be holding a uniform sell and swap after school on Friday 30th September more details on this to follow.

On Saturday 24th September the church will be holding a produce sale, selling cakes, other produce and holding a raffle. Heytesbury Hedgehogs and the school will be collecting cakes and produce to sell. If you have anything that you would like to sell please drop it off in school on Friday 23rd September. If you are able to help with the sale please meet Nettie at the church at 9:30. The sale will take place from 10:00-11:00 all proceeds go to the church.

Next Thursday from 9:00-10:00 we will be having a coffee morning in school for both school parents and Hedgehog parents. Come along for a cup of tea and a slice of cake and get to know some other parents in the school. If you know of any parents who are currently deciding which school to send their child to next September do invite them along. Children under school age are welcome.



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As you will have seen from my message on Class Dojo this week we are seeing more rainy days as we move from Summer into Autumn. Please ensure that your child always has a coat in school. Unless it is very wet, playtimes at break time and lunch time will still be outside. We are also opening up the field even when it is a bit wet. If your child would like to go on the field at break time or lunch time they will need to wear wellies. These can be kept in school. If you have not yet linked up to your child's Class Dojo class please could you do so. Everyone will need to link in with the new classes, even if your child is in the same class that they were in last year. If you are having problems or are unsure how to do this please do come and chat to me or your child's class teacher and we will see if we can help.

Could we also take this opportunity to remind parents that we are a **nut free** school. Please do not send your child to school with any nut products in their lunch boxes.

This year we are making some changes to our colour banded book reading system. Children in EYFS and Key Stage One (year 1 and 2) will, as before, all have a colour banded book. This is the book that they should be reading to you at home. They will also have a sharing book for you to read together. We have assessed all of the children in Foxes and Badgers using a reading age test to determine if their reading age is currently below their chronological age. Any child in Key Stage Two (year 3, 4, 5 and 6) whose reading age is below their chronological age will be given a colour banded book. In school we will be aiming to hear children whose reading age is below their chronological age read 1:1 every day. It is key that you at home also make this your aim as it is crucial in supporting your child's reading progress. All children in key stage two will also have a reading book of their choice to read at home. Throughout the course of the year we will reassess children to check their progress. We will also assess any children who we feel may need further support in their reading. All children should be reading at home at least four times a week.

If you are not currently receiving Free School Meals, please see the criteria below to check whether you may be eligible to apply. Free School Meals are available to eligible children that attend school within Wiltshire on a fulltime basis. This includes Nursery children of compulsory school age who attend school full-time. You must be in receipt of one of the benefits listed below to be eligible for Free School Meals for your child or children:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (NOT contribution based JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (NOT contribution based ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 - National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS)
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (you must NOT be entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190 (April 2012)
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you think that you may qualify for Free School Meals please see the application form on the Wiltshire Council Website <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

All of the information that I have shared today is available on the school website. Teachers will keep in contact with you via Class Dojo to let you know what your child has been learning. You can also email any of the members of staff, speak to us on the gate, or phone the school office to arrange a meeting. Thank you so much for all you do for your children and the school, we are a team and as parents you are such a crucial part of our team. Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Elson
Head Teacher



House Points

Mercury- 39 points
Mars- 27 points
Jupiter- 28 points



This weeks winners are Mercury

Birthdays



Happy Birthday to George and Matilda

Values Champions

Alexia for her kindness, wisdom and generous spirit and for supporting other learners.

Callie for her perseverance, courage, determination in her learning and for wearing a radiant smile!

Harriet - She has worked so hard this week and successfully showed her knowledge of place value by representing a 4 digit number in dienes.

Jess - She has had a super week. She is always setting a good example and has worked particularly hard on her writing this week.

Alex for perseverance. He persevered and wrote a whole sentence in phonics with Mrs Fitzsimmons. Well done!

Lillie for respect and friendship she has listened to her class mates on the carpet and joined in when asked.

Attendance



This week's winners for w/c 12th September with the highest attendance score of all of the classes is Foxes Class Class with 99.5% attendance.