



Hormead C of E First School NEWSLETTER



Monday 2nd October 2017

Issue: 17/18 No. 3

Reasons to Celebrate

Join us every Friday from 2.45pm for Celebration Assembly – all parents (and relatives) welcome!!

Headteacher's Award

James	Finn L
Arthur Ma	Mia
Missy	Oscar
Ethan	

Hormead Heroes

Love: Reggie, Lydia **Respect:** Indie, Oli, Felix
Kindness: Penelope, Romey, Evie, Jessie
Peace: Aiden, Lillie-Ann, Owen B
Co-operation: Charlie, Ella B, Finn L
Aspire: James, Charlie, Thomas, Maddie-Jayne, Frazer

House Points:



Ruby



Emerald



Amber



Sapphire



We achieved GOLD for our sports this year – well done Hormead!!

From the Headteacher

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Each year The Friend's and Parents of Hormead School (FPHS) organise a spectacular fund raising Bonfire Night event. The evening is open to the public and it is very well attended, approximately 500 people. To enable it to run smoothly, they need volunteers to aid in the organisation and who will be available to help on the night, "Many hands make light work".

The FPHS help to raise much needed funds to ensure we give our children an enriched education. Without their support we would not be able to subsidise trips, which keeps costs down for parents.

If you are able to volunteer or would like more information, please contact Mrs Tompkins in the school office. Thank you.

Uniform and Names

We have accrued a fairly substantial pile of un-named lost property. **Please name everything! All Hormead jumpers look the same!!!**

I love seeing the Autumn colours coming out – has any found a great place for conkers yet?

Philip Asher, *Headteacher*

Hormead CE (VA) First & Nursery School

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After School Clubs

We now offer childcare until 5pm every day. £5.50 per day for the full session (3.15- 5pm, including a snack!).

Activity Clubs Please complete a booking form if your child would like to attend any of the clubs. £2.50 per session (3.15 – 4.15pm).

Activity Sessions:

Monday – Football (Full)
 Tuesday – Craft and Art
 Wednesday – Outdoor Club
 Thursday – Cooking (Full)
 Friday – Construction & Free Play

Diary Dates

*New dates are in **bold**.*

October

Wednesday 4th	2.30pm School Harvest Service at Hornead Parish Church – parents welcome to attend. We will dismiss children from church after the service; children attending After School Club and Leapfrogs, or not collected from church, will be brought back to school.
Monday 24 th – Friday 28 th	Half Term – school closed
Monday 30 th	School Closed – Inset Day for Staff, no children in.

November

Friday 3rd	Fireworks Extravaganza! Save the date!!! Gates open at 6pm – TICKETS FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE – SAVE MONEY AND BUY IN ADVANCE!!!
Friday 10 th	11am Act of Remembrance – at the Village Memorial
Tuesday 14 th	Y1 Nasal Flu Vaccines – for children in Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4.
Tuesday 14 th & Thursday 16 th	Parent Consultations – appointments from 3.30pm. Two evenings to choose from this year!

From the Office

School Meals

Please ensure you pay for School Meals in advance – the deadline for half termly payments for this term has now passed. If you haven't already paid, please pay within the next 5 days.

School Meal Prices 2017

Daily cost	£2.30	Weekly Cost	£11.50	Autumn 1 st Half Term	£80.50
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Free School Meals - Please Apply

There is a link on our website to apply for Free School Meals. To ensure that your child is receiving the appropriate funding, please could you complete the form – even if they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2. Once it has been filled in, the school may receive extra funding to help with your child's education.

Birth Certificates

Please could parents of children starting at Hormead from Reception to Year 4 bring their child's birth certificate in if you haven't already done so. It is a statutory duty of schools to ask to see them when children start in main stream school. If you have any concerns, please do ask.

Data Collection Sheet – phone numbers and email addresses

We recently sent home copies of the Data Collection Sheets. Please could you check that all details are correct, especially telephone numbers and email addresses, then sign and return to school by **Friday 6th October**. (Please return them signed even if there are no changes. Thank you).

Music Lessons - Recorder

There is space for more children should anyone wish to start – for children in Y1 and older. Please ask for a form from the office.

Music Lesson Termly Prices 2017 (avg. 11 lessons per term)				
Individual 20 min	£148.50	Individual 30 min	£220.00	30 Min Group Lesson 2 pupils: £110.00 each 3-6 pupils: £77.00 each

Unwanted Board Games

If you have any unwanted board games that are in good condition and have all the pieces we would welcome them for us to use for the after school club. Please contact Mrs Tompkins in the school office. Thank you.

School Uniform

Please could you check on a weekly basis your child's school uniform. This is to ensure that they have taken home the correct labelled items. If you find a piece that does not belong to your child, please return it to school. Thank you.

After School Club

Payment is now due for the first half of the Autumn Term. The cost for children attending the 3.15pm to 4.15pm is; £15 for one club per week, £30 for two and £45 for three.

Thank you to everyone who has already paid for their child's after school club. The cost for

children attending 3.15pm to 5.00pm is: £5.50 per day multiplied by 6 weeks. For example if they are attending a full week the cost would be £165.00.

Flu Vaccination consent Form – Please return these as soon as possible. If not returned they will not be able to receive the vaccination. We would appreciate it if parents could inform us if they would rather their child did not have the vaccine. Thank you.

From the Classes



Ash Class

Ash class are continuing in their topic of Magical Me. We have been looking at our bodies and writing labels for the different parts we can see. We are also enjoying looking at how we have changed since we were babies! We have also been looking at the changes around us in our natural world. We went on an Autumn walk and discovered lots in the Forest school area. We were very good at coming up with adjectives to describe the things we found! In RE we have been thinking about what makes us special.



Willow Class

We were very excited last week to find a letter from the mouse that lives in the school library. In English we have been writing letters back to him, telling him about ourselves. In history, we have continued to learn about castles and all the different people who lived in them. A few children have brought in books about castles from home, which have been great to share.



Oak Class

Oak class are continuing to learn about the Ancient Greeks. We have learnt about the story of Pandora's box. We have written descriptions of Pandora, the box and retold the story. We are also using this in our artwork where we have been creating ideas of images that could be found on Greek pottery. In RE we have been learning about the promises made in the story of Noah's ark and the promises made during a Christian wedding.

Reminder about earrings – some children may have had their ears pierced over the summer holidays. We allow simple studs only in school, and children must remove them for PE lessons (taping over is only acceptable for the first six weeks of piercing, or with a medical note – this is due to the active nature of our PE lessons and the risk of severe damage to the earlobes if an earring catches on equipment or hair). Thank you for your understanding!

School Family Worker

Jane House, the school family worker offers parent support within the school community. She is able to help you if you are in need of parenting advice, listen to any concerns you

may have, put you in touch with support groups, provide the link between home and school and sign post you to parenting classes, all in confidence.

She works term time only and can be contacted on 01763 271446
or jane.house@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Open Days – Online application opens on 6th November 2017

Parents of children applying to start Reception September 2018 have the opportunity to look around our lovely school on:

Thursday 30th November 2017

Wednesday 4th December 2017

Friday 6th December 2017

Tuesday 9th January 2018

Friday 12th January 2017

Applications for Reception 2018 close on 15th January 2018

No appointment required on these days. If you are unable to visit on one of these days, please contact the school office and we will try to accommodate your visit on another date.

We look forward to meeting you!

Application for Leave of Absence

As you may be aware, Headteacher's are only permitted to authorise absence during Term Time for exceptional circumstances. At Hormead CE First School, in line with Hertfordshire County policy, an exceptional circumstance is one that:

- a. Is 'one off' (never to be repeated); and
- b. Cannot be avoided on a school day because of unique circumstances beyond your control.

Leave of absence is very unlikely to be granted for the purposes of a family holiday, for early travel to attend an event either in this country or abroad, routine medical appointments, or due to lack of childcare etc.

Leave of absence is likely (but not guaranteed) to be granted for the purposes of a funeral or wedding (1 day only), exam (1/2 day only), consultant appointments (medical card or appointment letter must be seen), transition tours for Y4 pupils at Middle School, and for induction days/sessions at a new school.

Last year our overall school attendance statistics were below that deemed to be a good level of attendance (94.6%, compared to the Herts average of 96.1%, and National average of 96%). We are aiming for above 95% for this year, and above 96% in the following year, which means all pupils need to have an attendance above those figures.

Please therefore support us by arranging for any absence under your control to take place outside of school time. We fully understand that not all absence (such as illness) is in your control, and there are systems in place to support that. I look forward to working with you on this over the year, and to achieving our target!

Mr Philip Asher
Headteacher

Absence Procedure

For **planned** absence (in exceptional circumstances), please complete a Leave of Absence form (available from the office). This should be returned to school no less than 2 weeks before the planned absence.

For **unplanned absence** (illness etc.), please ensure you have called the school office by 9.30am to let us know. You should call the school office on each day that your child is absent, unless asked otherwise. Please do not assume that we know where your child is. This should always be followed by a written explanation on their return. If medical evidence is available, please also provide this – it will be requested for children whose attendance is below 96%.

Start Of Term Reminders

CONTACT DETAILS – please ensure we have up to date contact details for your child. We use these if we need to get in touch with parents during the school day for an emergency or other reason. Please notify the office as soon as any changes are made to your contact details.

PACKED LUNCHES – We are a nut free school – please ensure that you avoid food products that contain nuts. This will help keep everyone safe! We foster a Healthy School ethos and encourage children to eat a balanced and varied diet. Please see our website for guidance on what they should include.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOOD: Whilst this is a generous and kind gesture, we ask families not to do this. Instead consider donating a book for the children to read together.

SNACKS – All children are provided with a healthy fruit or vegetable snack each morning. There is no need to send in any other snack – it may lead to disappointment!

WATER – children in Willow and Oak class are encouraged to bring in a water bottle each day. It can be refilled at break times in school. Ash class have water provided in class. **Water only please – no juice or squash.**

UNIFORM & PE KIT - Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct uniform every day. Details of the current uniform and kit are available on the school website or from the school office.

- **ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE NAMED** – we cannot take responsibility for any lost property on site, and naming belongings helps ensure they are returned to their owner if lost.
- PE Kit should be brought in each Monday.
- **Please ensure** children have trainers for Outdoor PE – plimsolls are not suitable outdoor footwear (and aren't part of our Uniform requirements!).
- **Jewellery is not permitted** and earrings must be removed for PE to prevent serious injury. Taping over earrings is only appropriate in the first six weeks of piercing. Parents should provide the tape for this purpose.
- **Long hair** must be tied back at all times during the school day (plain hair ties only please – no feathers, bows and patterns, pretty though they are!). Shoulder length is a good guide for when to tie back.
- **Nail varnish** and **transfer tattoos** should be removed before the start of the school day.

We use a sticker system in school – children without the correct uniform (or PE kit, or forgotten book bags!) will be given a sticker to remind them to bring it the following day. Our uniform is one of the ways we help children to develop pride and respect for themselves and their school community. Thank you for your support.

NO PETS on any part of the site at all times.

GATES – Please ensure that all gates are closed behind you. Please use the pedestrian gate to enter the school site (rather than the double gates), unless you need buggy access. **We operate a safe and secure site as far as possible:** all visitors (including parents) must come to the main door and sign in other than at the usual drop-off/pick-up times.

SOCIAL MEDIA – we have a school Facebook Page and use this to share photos and news of school events. Parents should not post their own photos/videos taken at school events – not all our pupils have consent for their image to be used in this way.

MEDICATION – please make sure that medical information is up to date. If your child needs to take any medication during the school day, a form must be completed (available from the office) and the medication must be in all its original packaging (including any leaflets). In keeping with County policy, only prescribed medication can be administered by staff unless there are exceptional circumstances.

At the beginning and end of the school day –

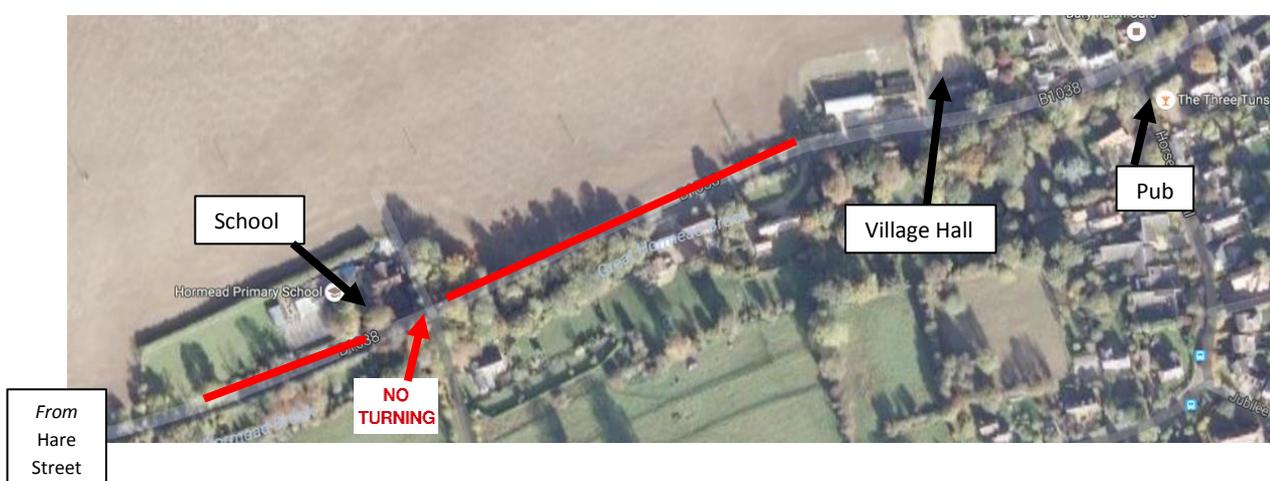
- for their own safety, please keep children off the play equipment in the playground or Early Years area. They have plenty of opportunity to use it during the school day!
- Please bring your child onto the playground to drop them off – dropping off by the roadside is not safe. We will only release children at the end of the day when we can clearly see who is collecting them – please come on to the playground to collect your child.

Parking at School

We rely on your co-operation to reduce the risks to our children and other road users from the traffic outside our school at the start and end of the school day. If you are able to walk or cycle to school, then we would encourage you to do so. There is a pavement from Hare Street to school, and also from school to the Village Hall.

If you do need to come by car, please park along the school side of the road (marked on the map below), and not on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the front of school (they are legally a ‘no stopping’ zone). Traffic Wardens do patrol through the year. The school car park is not available to parents during drop-off and pick up, unless explicit permission has been given by the Headteacher.

Be aware and considerate of other road users and our neighbours. Please don’t use the drive opposite (which is private) or the area in front of the school gates to turn round (where pedestrians – children! – may be walking). Drop-off and collection times are busy, and we want to ensure our children are as safe as possible.



And finally: do visit the school website regularly and read the newsletter!

Thank you for your support of all we try to do to keep our children safe, happy and healthy.