



Hamsey Community Primary School

Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for making the first month of this new academic year so enjoyable. Children and staff have settled into their new classes. Our new Reception children have joined our Hedgehog Class; we welcome, warmly, Ashwyn, Carolina, George, Grace, Mia, Nelson, Teo and William. We welcome Emilia (Millie) into Year 3, Jacobi into our Badger Class, and Moses into Year 6. We welcome Loretta back into our Owl Class. We wish them all a happy time at Hamsey.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, Mr James, our Executive Headteacher, will be at Hamsey on Mondays and Tuesdays. Ms Yapp, the Advisory Headteacher, will be at Hamsey on Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Fridays, Ms Shannon, the Skylark Federation SENCO/Inclusion Manager, will be leading the school.

At all other times, please feel free to contact Mr Dean or Mrs Hamilton or, alternatively, book an appointment in the office. Ms Shannon, our SENCO/Inclusion Manager, will be in school on Wednesdays and on Fridays should you wish to book an appointment.

Take One Flight

Our *Take One Flight* learning journey has really taken off! Owl Class and Badger Class enjoyed an exciting visit to the Science Museum in London on Wednesday 26th September. They recommend it whole-heartedly: *We went on the Apollo 11 Experience which was incredible! (Johnny); The Skylark Rocket was phenomenal (Amelia); I really liked the flight exhibition because one of my favourite subjects is History and I like learning about World War Two (Rosa); The 4D film was amazing because they sprayed mist at your face and the chairs rocked (Shelley); I liked the bit on the bus when we sang endlessly and annoyed the teachers! (Tino).* A great day was had by all; the only downside being that there were a lot of stairs! Thank you to the staff and parents who accompanied the children and made it such a successful trip.

We hope you will join us for our *Take One Flight* Open Afternoon on Wednesday 3rd October at 2.30pm. This is an opportunity to celebrate your child's learning and to see your child's classroom in action.

Breakfast Club

Hamsey's Breakfast Club is open daily from 7.45am-8.30am. To attend, there is a cost of £3.00 for 7.45-8.30am and £2.00 for 8.00-8.30am. This can be paid for in advance or on the day. There is a discount for siblings of 50p per session. A choice of breakfast will be on offer (toast or cereal) together with a drink. We are looking for table top games that are quick to play for our Breakfast Club. If you have any games to donate we would be extremely grateful. Please contact Mrs Whitehorn.

School gate

To ensure the safety of your children the school site is kept securely locked during the school day. The side gate for children coming to and leaving school will be open at the following times:

Morning: 8.30 to 8.45 a.m.

Afternoon: 3.00 to 3.15 p.m.

Please ensure that your child is in school promptly and, at the latest, by 8.45am. We place great importance on good punctuality here at Hamsey and are pleased with the improvements we have seen over the past year. We are hoping that this year will be even better with the support of our parents and carers.

End of day arrangements

If your child is in Owls (Years 5 and 6) and is to walk themselves home, or is catching a bus at the end of the day, could you please complete a form in the office.

If your child is to be collected by someone other than yourself, could you please notify the office, in person or in writing, of who will be collecting your child. Teachers will not release your child to an unauthorised person, as we have a duty to safeguard your children until they are in your care or that of an authorised person.

Eligibility for Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are currently entitled to free school meals.

Your child may be entitled to free school meals for all their time at Primary School.

If you are in receipt of Income Support, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Income related Employment and Support Allowance or some other form of support, your child may be entitled to free school meals throughout primary school and possibly beyond.

If your child does qualify, they also receive Pupil Premium funding for at least 6 years. This funding is used to support children's learning and help towards the cost of, for example, school uniform, after school clubs and school trips. If you would like to apply for these 'long-term' free school meals you just need to complete a form that is available from the school office.

If you qualify, please contact the office by Thursday 4th October so we can register this information in time.

Remember, if you are in receipt of benefits, you need to register for free school meals, even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 to ensure they receive free meals beyond Year 2, and also for your child to receive the pupil premium funding.

Attendance at Hamsey

Attendance matters at Hamsey; we want our children in school every day. As a school we are working hard to improve the education of our children. Attendance is a major factor that affects the attainment and progress that our pupils make. Regular attendance supports their well-being, too. Our attendance target is 96%; currently our overall attendance is 95.8%. Attendance in Hedgehog Class is 98.3%, Foxes are at 96.6%, Badgers are at 96.9% and Owl Class is at 93%.

Writing at Hamsey

Writing is a key focus in our School Development Plan this year. It is lovely to be able to share some snippets of our children's work with you. Spencer, in Year 4, produced this opening to a piece of writing based on his class's text: *I don't know my life anymore. It's 2019 and eagles are rare now. Owl Class have been writing poetry this month based on the theme of flight. Betty wrote, If I were to fly I would smell the scent of sweet blossom and perch on the open branches. Oscar wrote, If I could fly I would soar to the highest mountains to be like a brave king. I would look down on my world and feel proud. Sammy's poem included these lines: If I could fly I would listen to the whistling wind and the small voices in the distance...*

You will be able to see more examples of our children's writing at our *Take One Flight Open Afternoon* on Wednesday 3rd October.

Dates for your diary!

Please note these dates are not exhaustive and can be subject to change.

September 2018	
From Monday 17th	Clubs start
Monday 17th	Badgers Class Curriculum Meeting 3.10pm
Tuesday 18th	Hedgehogs Class Curriculum Meeting 3.10pm
Wednesday 19th	Foxes Class Curriculum Meeting 3.10pm
Friday 21st	Owls Class Curriculum Meeting 3.10pm
Tuesday 25 th or Wednesday 26 th (awaiting confirmation)	Visit to the Science Museum in London for Owl Class and Badger Class
October 2018	
Wednesday 3 rd	<i>Take One Flight Open Afternoon</i> from 2.30pm
Monday 8th	Harvest Service at Offham (see letter)
Monday 15th	Parent Consultations 3.30-5.30pm
Wednesday 17th	Parent Consultations 4.00-7.00pm
Thursday 18th	INSET DAY
Friday 19th	Last day of Term 1
Monday 29th	Term 2 begins
November 2018	
Tuesday 6th	Individual and family photographs
Wednesday 7th	Owl Class Assembly 9am
Wednesday 21st	Badger Class Assembly 9am
December 2017	
Wednesday 12th	Fox Class and Hedgehog Class Christmas Performance
Thursday 13 th	Children's Christmas lunch (tbc)
Tuesday 18th	Badger Class and Owl Class Christmas Performance
Wednesday 19th	Last day of Term 2
January 2019	
Thursday 3 rd	Term 3 begins

With best wishes,



Stewart James
Executive Head