



Newsletter 1 09.09.22

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year at the new school! It has been lovely to begin the new year in our wonderful building and we have got off to the best possible start!

An especially warm welcome is extended to our new families in Reception and right across the school. Please remember that we are here to answer any questions which you might have and to work with you for the very best outcomes for our children.

We send newsletters home regularly, at least once a month but more often if we have information and news to share. I apologise that most of this newsletter is mostly a list of what to do and what not to do! We will very soon get back to sharing good news and celebrating achievements.

Settling In

We have had a fantastic week at Havannah First. It has been great to see everyone back in school and to welcome new families and children into Reception as well as several other year groups in school. The children have settled in very quickly and have got straight back into learning as well as enjoying playing with old and new friends. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm for the new term and new school year.



Curriculum Information and Supporting Learning at Home

Teachers will continue to use half termly newsletters to share information regarding the curriculum and routines for each class. We are also building a bank of information on our website about each curriculum subject which you might find useful.

Parents and carers often ask us how they can give children support with learning at home. We always reply that the best thing you can do is read. By this, we mean read to your children, read with them, encourage them to read, listen to them read and let them read whatever they want to read, as well as the books from school. All reading is good reading! It's great to help with homework tasks too and to try and encourage children to talk about their learning. Y1-Y4 Class Teachers will give you more information at coffee

mornings about homework and supporting learning at home. Reception Parents and Carers are invited to a meeting at 5pm on Tuesday 27th September in the school hall, where you can learn about how we teach reading, as well as other early skills.

Toys in School

Children shouldn't bring toys to school. This is because they often get broken or lost, we have nowhere to store them and they can often become a distraction. Sometimes staff might ask children to bring in interesting objects and things linked to learning, but otherwise, toys are not allowed in school.

If you have been advised to provide your child with fidget 'toys', please talk to staff in school so that we can make arrangements to store and use these safely.

Dogs on Site

There is a policy on our school website about dogs on site. We allow dogs in the car park area only and they must be tied to the fence or left with a responsible adult when you pass through the secure line of the school (through the gates which are unlocked at pick up and drop off). You are responsible for your own dog and must be confident that he or she will not be aggressive or distressed. Dogs can only be tied to the fence beyond the furthest crossing, adjacent to the water tank/bin area. If you are unsure, ask Mr Scott, the office staff or Ms McKenna.

Water

We ask all children to bring a water bottle every day. Water bottles should be named so that they don't get lost and should be taken home and washed each night so that they are clean and hygienic. We only allow children to have juice if they need it for specific reasons and these have been discussed with class teachers.

Photographs and Performances

For many years, we have allowed parents and carers to take pictures and make recordings during our performances and class assemblies. We know that these give you precious memories to treasure. We always remind audiences that these pictures and recordings must stay on the devices or be saved safely at home and must never be shared on social media or sent via email to any other people, including wider family members. We would like to continue doing this as much as possible. If, for safeguarding reasons,

Coats

Children need a coat in school every day, even if there is no rain in the forecast. We take the children outside for learning and play in almost all weathers and we have a very limited stock of spare coats.

Snacks

All children in Reception and KS1 are offered a piece of fruit or veg each day and so do not need to bring other snacks. If you would rather send in your own snacks then they should be only fresh fruit or veg and should not be pre-packaged. The same applies to KS2 snacks from home.

Grapes

All grapes sent into school should be cut in half vertically so that they do not represent a choking hazard. Young children don't chew as well as adults and they have much smaller airways which can be easily blocked by whole grapes.

Nuts

We are a nut free school! Please do not send any whole nuts or foods containing



nuts into school. We have several children with severe nut allergies. Thank you.

you cannot allow this to happen, then please let us know in advance so that we can ask visitors to refrain from taking pictures or making recordings before the event.

Absence from School

Children should only be absent from school when they are unwell or need to attend medical appointments. If possible, we ask you to try and book appointments outside of school hours but we know that this is not usually possible. If your child is unwell, you need to let school know before school starts. You can leave a message on the answerphone or you can speak to a member of staff in the office.

Holiday Absences

Following Covid, we have been more accepting of disruptions and unavoidable changes to holiday plans. However, from now on, we will not be authorising any holidays in school time, other than in rare and unavoidable circumstances. If you need to make a request for absence (other than illness or appointments), you can obtain a form from the school office.

Punctuality

Children should be in school before 8.55am each day because learning begins immediately and some of the most important learning takes place first thing. When children are late, they miss out on learning and their late arrival disrupts lessons which are then in progress. If you arrive to school late, please come to the main office where we can sign in your children and record the reason for their late arrival. Thank you.

The Car Park

If you are using the car park, please park with care and awareness of other people's safety. We fully understand that parking is currently limited and we hope to have use of the Park and Stride facility soon. Please do not park dangerously, on the raised areas, the grass or in places where there are cones. Thank you for your support.

Dates and the calendar

There is a calendar on the school website. We try to keep this as up to date as possible and we share a dates list in most newsletters. We are in the process of setting dates for events leading up to half term and then Christmas. We will add these to the calendar and share them next week.

Twitter

Everyone can find us on Twitter and keep up to date with our tweets, you don't have to follow us, but we like it when you do because we now have 1287 followers and the number is continuing to grow. We love spreading news about learning, school events and everyday happenings on the school account and the class accounts.

The Death of Queen Elizabeth II



We were all saddened to hear the news of the death of the Queen yesterday. We will be talking about the Queen and her legacy in school in an age appropriate and sensitive manner during the period of mourning. Today, we have had an assembly for children in Y1-Y4 and we have talked about her 70 year reign and what she has meant to so many people in that time. We will keep you up to date with any news and information which we receive from the DfE.

Newcastle City Council has shared the following information with us today:

As a mark of respect, Civic flags are being flown at half-mast and books of condolence will be open at the Civic Centre (Arches reception) from 8.30am this morning, and City Library (Level 1– beside blue glass entrance), from 10.00am

this morning. These will be open until the day after the funeral and members of the public are invited to sign these to express their thoughts and sympathies. There is also an opportunity to sign the e-book of condolences that can be found on the Royal Family's official website (www.royal.gov.uk). Floral tributes may be left on Ceremonial Way at the Civic Centre, and flowers laid at other locations will be moved here. Other details about events that are happening during the eleven days of official mourning can be found on the Council's webpage - <https://newcastle.gov.uk/home/death-her-majesty-queen-elizabeth-ii>

Best wishes

Helen McKenna

Headteacher