



Newsletter 10 24.03.23

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please see below for the latest news and updates from the Havannah First School Family.

Easter Egg Competition

The PTFA included details of the Easter Egg Competition in their latest newsletter. You might have been eggspecting the usual letter full of the same old, but eggcellent, egg puns. I hope that you are not eggstremely disappointed and that you have found all of the information you need in the eggciting PTFA newsletter!

Eggs are welcome from Monday onwards and should be brought to class teachers in the morning. We will eggshhibit them in school for all children to see and the School Council will scramble up some winners before the end of the week!

Please remember to hard boil your eggs in advance. Teachers will remind children to collect them to take home at the end of the week but any which are left behind on Friday 31st will be disposed of.



Bug Hotel @ HFS!



Thank you to Cathy from Northumbria Wildlife Trust who has been supporting our outdoor learning and helping us to develop the forest school area on site. Last week, a group of children joined her to create a bug hotel on site. It looks fantastic and will provide a habitat to attract lots of interesting bugs and curious learners!

Anti-bullying Session for Parents and Carers

Our safeguarding consultant, Dan Tolan, has been in school recently to deliver anti bullying sessions to some classes in KS1 and KS2 and he will be returning later in the year to other classes in school. These sessions build on school's own PSHE curriculum and help children to understand safe choices and how to manage their relationships in school. We have arranged for Dan to deliver a session for Parents and Carers too. This session will help you to understand:

- The difference between bullying and social or friendship issues
- How to teach children to deal safely and effectively with conflict and how to seek help
- How to support children if they are experiencing bullying or friendship issues

- How to access support and further resources

The session will take place in the hall on **Tuesday 18th April at 9.00am** and will last for approximately one hour. All parents and Carers are welcome. We will put a Form on ParentMail so we have an idea for numbers to prepare the hall.

Walk and Wheel

Thanks to everyone who is walking and wheeling, including those who have been parking off site and walking or wheeling for the last part of the journey. We will collate our data next week and let you know how we got on...

Yard Markings

The work on the yard starts on Monday next week (weather permitting!) It is likely that there will be some disruption to picking up and dropping off on some days. If this is the case, we will contact you and let you know. If you come onto the yard and there is a section marked off, please make sure that you don't allow children in your care to walk on those areas as this could damage the markings.

Huge thanks to everyone who has worked with or contributed towards the PTFA over the past year. We are paying for this work with the money which you have all raised. A special thank you to the family who gave us an incredibly generous one off gift to complete the amount we needed. We are extremely lucky to have such supportive families who want to work with us to get the very best for all of our children. You are all wonderful.

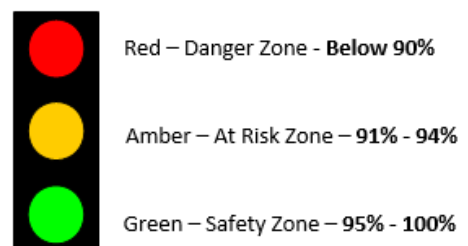
Thanks also the School Council who came up with the original ideas for the yard in the summer term and have since helped to shape the plans. Below are some images of just a few of the markings we will have. Well done everyone!



Attendance

Good attendance at school is essential in all year groups. It sets children off with the habit and expectation of attending school every day and will help them right through their education. Sometimes parents and carers make an assumption that first school attendance isn't as important as attendance later on. However, the curriculum is fast paced in first schools and learning is carefully planned so that it is sequential and each lesson in each area of learning builds upon the previous lesson. It doesn't take long for children to develop gaps in learning and begin to lose confidence and pace in their progress. Even in Reception, each day builds on learning from the previous day and learning in all areas is affected when children are absent.

As you will be aware, we monitor the attendance of all children in school. Any attendance below 90% is described as 'persistent absenteeism' and we class this as being in the 'danger' zone. Between 90% and 94% is classed as the 'at risk' zone.



At progress evenings next week, your child's class teacher will let you know your child's percentage attendance this year and discuss how this might be impacting upon their learning. Mr Burnett or I will be available on the evenings, or can be contacted on a separate occasion if you would like to discuss this further.

We are meeting with our attendance officer from Newcastle City Council after the Easter holiday to look at our data and follow up with families where we have a concern.

Multiplication Tables Check

All Year 4 children will take part in the statutory Multiplication Tables Check in June. You can read more about the check here [Parents and Carers' Information for MTC](#) Mr Burnett has arranged a meeting for parents and carers so that he can explain how the check is administered and how the results are used. He will also share ideas for how you can help to practise and build confidence at home. This will take place on Wednesday 19th April at 2.45pm and is open to all parents and carers of children in Year 4.

Progress Evenings

These are taking place next week and almost all of you have booked appointments. If you haven't booked yet, please contact the school office. If you cannot make it into school on the allocated evenings, please contact the office and we will try to find a mutually convenient time for you to catch up with your child's teacher. Thank you.

Best wishes

Helen McKenna

Headteacher



Dates for Spring and Summer Term 2023



Monday 27 th March	Governors meeting 5pm Work begins to transform the yard!
Tuesday 28 th March	Y1 – Y4 progress evening for parents and carers Book Fair in school (until Friday)
Wednesday 29 th March	Y1 – Y4 progress evening for parents and carers <i>Birch Class Progress evenings are 29th and 30th</i>
Thursday 30 th March	Reception visit to Hall Hill Farm
Friday 31 st March	PTFA Hair Day (mess it up or choose a new style!) Eco Warriors Litter Pick on the Great Park Break up for Easter Holiday
Monday 17th April	Return to school Beginning of PTFA Loose Change Challenge
Tuesday 18 th April	Anti Bullying workshop for Parents and Carers 10.00-11.00am
Wednesday 19 th April	Multiplication Tables Check meeting for Y4 Parents and Carers 2.45pm
Monday 1 st May	May Bank Holiday – school closed
Friday 5 th May	PTFA Coronation Chocolate Tombola
Monday 8 th May	King’s Coronation Bank Holiday – school closed
Wednesday 17 th May	School Photographer (could extend to Thursday 18 th May)
Thursday 25th May	Break up for half term holiday
Friday 26 th May	Training Day - school closed to children
Monday 5th June	Return to school
Wednesday 5 th July	Transition Day
Thursday 6 th July	Transition Day
Friday 7 th July	Annual Reports to Parents and Carers
Tuesday 11 th July	Open Afternoon (details to follow)
Thursday 20 th July	Y4 Leavers’ Assembly 9.00am
Friday 21st July	Break up for Summer Holiday
Monday 4 th September	Training Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 5th September	Beginning of New School Year

We will add more events, including sports days and year group assemblies, as soon as they are finalised