



Newsletter 1 08.09.23

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year! An especially warm welcome is extended to our new families in Reception and 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 reads as 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. The children have settled in very quickly and have got straight back into learning as well as enjoying playing with old and new friends. It is only our second September in the new school and everyone seemed to know exactly what to do where to go and how to behave when they arrived on Tuesday. Well done, everyone!



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. There is also 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 talk and 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. We also encourage lots of screen/device-free time of talking and listening at home. This accelerates language development which in turn accelerates progress in reading, writing and right across the curriculum.

Y1-Y4 Class Teachers will give you information at coffee mornings (see dates list below) about homework and supporting learning at home. Reception Parents and Carers are invited to a meeting at 5pm on Wednesday 27th September in the school hall, where you can learn about the Early Years Curriculum and how you can help your children to achieve well.

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 often distract children from learning. 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 near the hall 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 on the left, beyond the furthest crossing, adjacent to the water tank/bin area.** If you are unsure, ask one of us. Dogs should not be tied to the fence in areas where children are walking past. If you bring your dog onto site, you remain responsible for its actions at all times.

If dogs are coming onto site inside the secure line or into the building (eg the school dog, star of the week visitors and assistant dogs) they need to be risk assessed individually prior to their visit.

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.

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, 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 always possible. If your child is unwell, you need to let school know before school starts. You can report an absence on the ParentMail app, leave a message on the answerphone or you can speak to a member of staff in the office.

Holiday Absences

We cannot authorise 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. 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.

Lunches

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free school meal and almost everyone takes up this offer. In KS2 some children purchase a meal, some are entitled to a free school meal and some bring a packed lunch.

In all Key Stages, it is not possible for us to provide school meals without sufficient notice and it is not possible to pick and choose certain days of the week to have a school meal or a packed lunch. Options need to be for the whole week and we need one week's notice to provide school meals.



The menu is online and teachers talk to the children about their options in class so that they know what to ask for in the hall.

Occasionally, to reduce waste, meet dietary needs and make the service efficient, all options might not be available to all children. We try to provide as much choice as we can within our limits and we try to alternate the order of classes coming to the servery so that the same class is not always last.



If your child is bringing a packed lunch, please see our packed lunch policy and ideas on the website. Children bringing packed lunches also need to bring a drink (in addition to their water bottles).

School meals are priced at £2.20 per day, £11.00 per week. In order to help with administration and school costs we ask that you pay the correct amount each week. ParentMail charge school if we have to process a refund to you.

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 'longways' (see picture) 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. Cereal bars and chocolate spreads sometimes contain nuts and these are often forgotten about – please check. We have several children with severe nut allergies. Thank you.

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 in advance with class teachers.


Uniform

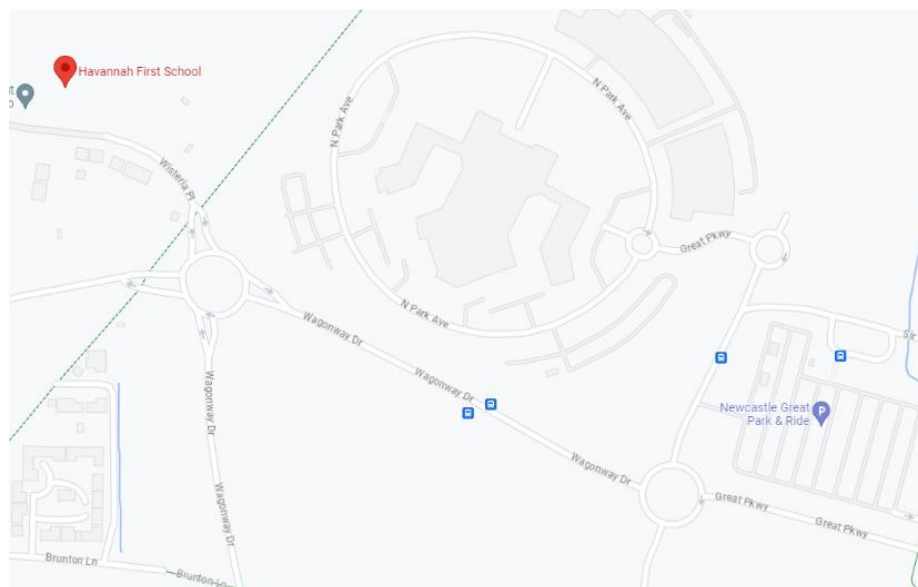
The most important thing about school uniform is that it is labelled! Every year we dispose of huge amounts of uniform, coats, hats, shoes, gloves etc which have been lost and which are not labelled. Please ensure that you have at least initialled labels in all clothes with a marker pen – expensive iron-on or sewn-in labels are great but a marker pen will do the same job!

There is a list of uniform items on the school website.

Travelling to School and Parking

We encourage everyone to travel sustainably if at all possible. This makes the area around school cleaner, safer and more pleasant for everyone. However, we understand that this is not always possible. If you are travelling by car, please consider using the free Park and Ride facility which is a 5 minute walk away from school. We are informed that there will soon be a path directly from the facility to school which will make its use easier. Parking on site is limited. If you do need to come onto site, please park safely in the marked bays only. Please do not allow your engine to idle when parked on or near the site.

The map below shows the Park and Ride facility and also the bus stops which are close to school. The Q3 is very regular and (mostly!) reliable. 



When you arrive on site, please take extra care to supervise your children in and around the car park. Please also make sure that you follow the paths and avoid the planted areas as these are still becoming established and they make our site attractive and interesting. The planted areas in the courtyard are not play areas for children and they should not be walking, running or playing in these areas. Thank you.

Information and Contact Details



It is absolutely essential that all of the information we have about children is accurate and up to date. Please ensure that you inform us of any changes to medical information, addresses and contact numbers. We'd also appreciate it if you could keep us up to date with any changes to family circumstances or other changes at home as this helps us to support children in school.

Birthdays

Children can wear non-uniform on the school day closest to their birthday. As we have lots of children with allergies and dietary preferences, we kindly ask that you do not bring or send sweets/cakes/chocolate into school.

Behaviour Policy

We expect children and adults to treat others with respect and to adhere to our golden rules as well as following our No Outsiders ethos. We are very proud of the positive relationships in school. You can read our Behaviour and Relationships Policy on the school website.

First Aid and Head Bump Texts

Children do sometimes fall, trip or collide with each other in school, particularly at playtime. Trained first aid staff will treat any minor injuries in school and if we think that the injury is serious, we will treat it and contact you immediately. If children experience a minor head bump, we send you a standard text. This is because head injuries and symptoms can develop later and we want you to be aware that they have had a head bump at school. Do not panic if you receive one of these texts – if it is at all serious or concerning, we will ring you rather than text you.

Medication in School

We can give children prescription medication in school if it is prescribed for four or more doses a day or if it needs to be given a specific time which is within the school day. We can also hold prescribed medication in school for allergies and chronic conditions. All medication requires paperwork and needs to be handed to a member of staff. Contact us if you have any questions and we can advise you in more detail. Thank you.

Twitter [@Havannah1st](#)

We love celebrating learning and our achievements in school. There is a whole school account and class accounts which are added to regularly. [Follow us at @Havannah1st.](#)

There is a dates list below and we will add to it as the term progresses.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend as we enjoy the last of the summer weather!

Best wishes

Helen McKenna

Headteacher



Dates for Autumn Term 2023

Tuesday 12 th September	Hazel Coffee Morning 8.55am – 9.30am
Wednesday 13 th September	Birch Coffee Morning 8.55am – 9.30am
Thursday 14 th September	Bramble Coffee Morning 8.55am – 9.30am
Friday 15 th September	Fern Coffee Morning 8.55am – 9.30am
Monday 18 th September	Squirrel Coffee Morning 8.55am – 9.30am
Tuesday 19 th September	Deer Coffee Morning 8.55am – 9.30am
Wednesday 20 th September	Skylark Coffee Morning 8.55am – 9.30am
Thursday 21 st September	Lapwing Coffee Morning 8.55am – 9.30am
Wednesday 27 th September	Reception (Ladybird and Honeybee) Parents and Carers' Meeting 5pm
Wednesday 25 th October	Y4 Harvest Assembly for Parents and Carers 9.00am Y4 Parents and Carers' Robinwood Meeting 9.45am
Friday 27th October	Staff Training Day – School Closed to Children

Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November – Half Term Holiday

Wednesday 8 th November	Y4 to Robinwood
Thursday 9 th November	Y4 at Robinwood
Friday 10 th November	Y4 return from Robinwood
Monday 13 th November	Parents and Carers' Evening
Tuesday 14 th November	Parents' and Carers' Evening
Monday 27 th November	Reception Parents and Carers' Maths Workshop
Tuesday 28 th November	KS1 Parents and Carers' Maths Workshop
Wednesday 29 th November	KS2 Parents and Carers' Maths Workshop
Monday 4 th December	Flu Vaccines
<i>Week beginning Monday 11th December</i>	<i>Christmas Concerts Week – details to follow</i>
Friday 22 nd December	Outdoor Carols – weather permitting – 1.30pm Break up for Christmas Holiday