

Newsletter

Tuesday 28th February 2017

Term Dates 2016/17

27th February World Book Week Start of Fair Trade Fortnight

28th February Y3/4 Sportshall athletics L2

6th March Hinduism Workshop Day

8th MarchTravelling Book fair arrives
Parents Evening

9th **March** Tag Rugby Festival Parents Evening

13th March Full Governing Body meeting

14th **March** Netball tournament

20th MarchParent Workshops

24th March Red Nose Day

26th March Mothers' Day

29th March Biathlon for KS2

3rd AprilClass photographs



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."-Dr Seuss

Mrs Burkinshaw

I hope everyone has enjoyed a fun and happy half term – I have seen only a couple of injuries, so hopefully that was the height of it!



I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Burkinshaw is expecting a baby! The papy is due in mid-July which means Mrs Burkinshaw's maternity leave will commence about 4 weeks prior to the end of term. To offer that bit of continuity, Anne Lilly will be covering the class for the last month of the year. Anne is a governor at the school who has covered Mrs Burkinshaw's management time weekly this year, so knows the class very well. We will very much miss Mrs Burkinshaw in her absence she is an outstanding teacher and an exceptional deputy head - but we know the next phase of her family life will be the most exciting yet!

I am sure you will all wish Mrs Burkinshaw the best of luck; we all know she will need it! (I won't tell her that of course, we are expecting our 3rd child a month before so it can't be that bad!) We will inform you all of arrangements for September once appointments have been made and ahead of transition days in the summer term.



Governor Spotlight!

Name: Nicola Hogg

Role: Vice Chair of Governors

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I live in Driffield with my husband, 2 sons and 2 dogs. All of whom keep me very busy! Both of our boys have been to Hutton Cranswick primary school - my eldest is now in Y8 at secondary school in Beverley, and youngest in Y3 at the school



generation of my side of the family to have gone to the school! In my spare time I like a mixture of activities such as dog walking, gardening, running (not enough of it!), classes at the gym, catching up with friends, and reading.

Why did you decide to become a governor?

As a secondary teacher for over 20 years, my insight into primary education was pretty limited. I wanted the opportunity to be involved in shaping the experiences and education my children had at primary school. I have been, and continue to be very happy with the whole education experience and am proud that HC School has gone from strength to strength.

What kind of things have you had to do in your role as a governor?

In the past I have been involved in a lot of teacher recruitment, I chair the Pupil Achievement and Teaching Committee, and have been involved in the Leadership and Management Committee. I have sat on an appeal panel, and as Communication Link Governor (for Literacy and Reading) I come into school at least once a term to meet with relevant staff and get involved in activities in the school eg book scrutinies, undertaking the Salford reading tests, attending assemblies, listening to readers etc. I particularly enjoy coming in to school to work alongside the children, who are always so enthusiastic and keen to share what they are learning.

Book Fair

There will be a book fair in the hall on the 8th, 9th and 10th March from 3.20pm to 4.30pm.

Staff members will man the stalls and collect money from you there and then. This is usually very popular, so please pop in after school and take a look.

Workshops

On Monday 20th March we will be holding 30 minute workshops from 3.45-7pm. These will focus on reading, phonics, writing, assessment and maths, and potentially other things too! The workshops will be repeated in various slots across the night, allowing you to visit all or just attend for the 30 minutes of your choice. This is a new idea in response to parental feedback and in an attempt to hit many things at once!

Parents Evenings

Yesterday, you should have received a booking slip for your parents evening consultations. I am going to provide you with a bit more information about these meetings, as you will be receiving more information than you have ever received before!

The expectations on outcomes in primary education is now very high – the latest examples of 'national standard' writing is equivalent to a Level 5 on the old levels system. This is a huge rise in expectation from the government, coinciding with a reduced target of 65% of children to be meeting this new 'national standard' in reading, writing and maths combined. Last year, the national average was only 53%, 17% below our results here at Hutton Cranswick.

As a school, our belief is that we should have a broad and balanced curriculum, and we do not believe in pressurising children – our aim is to challenge and support. However, children do have challenging targets, and I hope at the parents evening you will be able to have a good chat with your child's teacher about ways you can help at home too.

Unless you are new to the school, you should be all aware of the system we use in school for tracking children:



This terminology would have been on last year's report, with 'Secure' meaning on track, achieving age-related expectations. We use a range of different information to help us to track your child's progress, and in the classroom teachers use an electronic system called FLiC. FLiC is a way of assessing as learning happens, gauging which children are accessing the learning objective and highlighting those exceeding or requiring further support.

At this parents evening, you will receive a slip which is identical to the tables in last year's report, highlighting at this half way point your child's effort and behaviour and where academically they **currently** are. The word **currently** is key— there is half of the year left. It may be that your child is not currently assessed as secure, but they are on target to be by the end of the year and are progressing well. Alternatively, if your child is currently secure or higher, they have to maintain this in the second half of the year to be still at this point by the end of the year, with half of the learning remaining, which is challenging to maintain.

Alongside this, you will receive a FLiC printout for reading and maths that will provide information on the objectives your child has **currently** been assessed at. This may change, as it evolves when more learning is evidenced. We hope this information will allow you to support your child in the second half of the year, and your child's class teacher will highlight their most current key targets to work on.

In last year's parents' questionnaire 100% of parents said 'The school communicates effectively about my child's progress'. We want to build on that, and some parents said that even more information would help them support their children more at home. The parent questionnaire will be re-launched next week too, and I hope you will provide some feedback on what you will have received, whether it is too much or if you found it useful.

Reception will be the only year group not provided with this information, because these children are not assessed in the same way. This is because the Early Years curriculum is very different and encompasses a broader range of skills, including personal and social development.

Hair Bows

I understand there is a growing trend of hair bows (particularly the JoJo bow) that appear to be getting larger by the day! Hair accessories in general are not normally a big issue in school; however this current trend is starting to cause a few difficulties.

Firstly, this is a potential health and safety risk for outdoor play and PE and Games. Secondly, and most importantly, the competition to have the most eccentric bow is causing upset and tears amongst children, which is especially difficult for parents when each bow can cost up to £12. I am not normally the kind of head that jumps on the bandwagon and bans things that some schools do (such as Pokemon and Football Match Attax cards) - we try to include these things and stop the rise of an issue.

So, whilst I do not want to clamp down and specify this is not part of the school uniform and must stop, I am pleading with parents to either decide to keep the bow to weekend and discos, or ensure the size of the bow is reduced significantly to what used to be acceptable in school – a small bow, hairclip, bobble or headband. Your help would be gratefully received and we can get children back to what they are here for – learning!

Term Dates 2017/18



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