



Hallcroft Infant & Nursery School
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NEWSLETTER 04 - 11th November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

BOOKS AND BISCUITS

It has been lovely to see so many of you sharing books and eating biscuits with your children this week. I know I can go on about it but reading books with your children is the most important thing you can do to help them be successful with their learning! Keep reading every day and not only will they progress more with their reading but they will also move along the reading rewards and nearer to treats like eating chocolate or visiting the park with me. If you need any help at all with the reading or an explanation of what to do with the phonics etc your child's class teacher will go through it with you - just catch them at the end of the day and they will be happy to help. They will also be happy to remind/nag or encourage your child if they need a bit of extra encouragement to do it with you at home!

FOOD HUB

The Fair Share project (who supply our food hub) are struggling for food at the moment so I have had to limit our Food Hub to families only. I have asked them to supply more food and if/when the supply improves I will change this if it is appropriate. Bags are £2.50 and we look forward to seeing our families there each week.

ATTENDANCE

Last year, for the first time in at least 10 years, Hallcroft's overall attendance was lower than the national average. Governors and I are aware that this was partially due to Covid but we also had an increase in term time holidays (probably some carried over due to Covid I know). As you know the Government does not allow schools to authorise holidays in term times - the Governors discussed the possibility of starting to fine at their meeting last night and there is also the possibility that central Government are going to make this compulsory. It is not something that we would like to do, particularly as these fines are now £75 per parent, per child, but we do need to prioritise attendance.

To make sure that children are getting all the register marks possible you can help us by:

- Making sure that if they need to go to an appointment that it is not during register times 8.50am or 1pm - ideally the afternoon is better.

We will be monitoring attendance very closely and anyone whose attendance is below 95% will receive a letter and anyone with what is described as persistent absence, below 90%, will be asked to come and meet with me to draw up a plan to improve attendance. Regardless of percentages and national averages - what worries me most is that children who have poor attendance are missing out on their education and also their opportunities to maintain friendships in school.

CHILDREN IN NEED

We are celebrating Children in Need on Friday 18 November - please wear non-uniform with something spotty if possible. Please don't buy anything special - any non-uniform will be fine. We suggest a donation of 50p per child but this is optional.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

We are going to host a Christmas Fair on Thursday 1st December from 2.30pm til 4pm. We are planning on keep this event as affordable as possible with Santa at £1 and children's craft stalls for 20p. Staff and I felt that it was important to restart this lovely school event but we are very mindful that money is very tight in some households. If you do not have the spare money to bring your children to the fair please do speak to me, we are keen that all the children can be part of the event.

If you are able to donate a raffle prize (or know a company that would), tombola prizes (like toiletries etc) or have any decent toys and books so we can run a second hand book/toy stall please bring them into school over the next few weeks. We will also be having a tea/coffee/squash and a cake stall so if you could donate buns/biscuits etc on the day that would be lovely.

DIARY DATES

Friday 18 November	Indian Experience Day in school
Friday 18 November	Children in Need - non-uniform/please wear something spotty!
Tuesday 29 November	Acorns visit to the Christmas Tree Festival
Thursday 1 December	Reindeers in school
Thursday 1 December	Christmas Fair
Friday 9 December	Last Parent & Toddler Group before Christmas
Tuesday 13 December	9.15am Acorns (Nursery) Christmas Play - afternoon children to attend in the morning
Tuesday 13 December	2pm Willow Christmas Play
Wednesday 14 December	9.15am Oak Christmas Play
Thursday 15 December	Church Service
Thursday 15 December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 16 December	9.15am Rowan Christmas Play
Monday 19 December	Rowan & Willow Christmas Parties
Tuesday 20 December	Acorns & Oak Christmas Parties
Wednesday 21 December	Last day at school
Wednesday 4 January	Inset Day - school closed
Thursday 5 January	First day back at school

Reminder: we have some preloved school uniform (lots of trousers, skirts etc) and shoes so please ask at Reception. Uniform does not have to have the school logo on or be new!

Food Hub runs every Friday in Term Time at 2.45pm - £2.50 per bag.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to email me or the class teachers.

Joanne Cook
Head Teacher