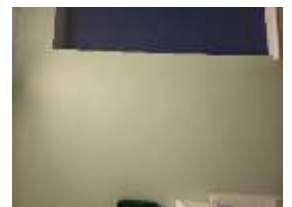




Welcome back to Hockliffe Lower School and welcome to 2024. We had a very busy autumn term and look forward to another busy term including sporting events, clay workshops and celebrating World Book Day. I look forward to sharing updates on these activities and more as we move through the term.

We were very fortunate to receive some money in the autumn term. This money is being used to redecorate Maple and Willow classrooms. In the last week of term both classrooms and the toilet areas were repainted. During the February half term they will have new flooring put down and we will also be replacing some of the older furniture. Thank you to staff and pupils who were extremely flexible and relocated their learning during the week. Please see the pictures of the before and after below.

Mrs Aoife Greaves
Headteacher





We had a great time at Jack and the Beanstalk and have already booked this year's Pantomime at The Grove. Thank you to Mrs Sharpe for all of her hard work organising it for us.

Values

At Hockliffe we are proud to be a Values School. The values we have followed and have learnt about this year are:

Responsibility

Happiness

Honesty

Hope

In January we will be concentrating on the value of Humility. We have been talking about doing things because they are the right thing to do not just because someone is watching or we might receive praise for it. We will also be talking about the idea of putting other people before ourselves.

What should my child's lunchbox consist of?

NHS guidelines suggest that a balanced lunchbox will contain something from each of the following groups:

- a starchy food such as bread, pasta or rice
- a protein source such as meat, fish, egg or beans
- a source of calcium such as yoghurt, cheese or milk
- fresh vegetables or salad
- fruit (including fresh fruit juice and dried fruit).

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/m>

Celebrating Attendance

Attendance:

37 pupils have not missed anytime off school this term. Well done.



Whole School Art Homework Umbrella



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Thank you to those parents who have already been in touch about being part of a working party looking at equality, diversity and inclusion. If you are interested in joining us please contact me via the school office. Our first meeting will be early February. Date and time to be confirmed.

Passport Applications

Staff are sometimes asked to sign applications for passports on behalf of children. This can cause a safeguarding issue for staff as personal details have to be shared. It is also time consuming and may later involve resolving queries with the passport office. I would like to inform parents that this is not an entitlement or part of a teacher's job. It is not something I will direct staff to do nor will I do myself. Please do not be offended when we say no.



NSPCC

Online gaming and keeping children safe

Do you know your whispers from your skins? Your Fortnite from your EA Sports FC 24?

As part of the NSPCC Game Safe Festival, we're encouraging parents, carers and those working with children and families to have conversations about online gaming.

GameCare will be sharing expert advice, and you'll hear directly from young people.

Our webinar will help you:

- understand how young people game online,
- learn about tools and resources that support safe play,
- gain the knowledge you need to keep children safe.

GAME SAFE FESTIVAL

7 February 2024, 7pm-8pm, via Zoom. Book your place via this link: nspcc.org.uk/gamesafe/tickets

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Lunchtimes

I understand some parents have had concerns about lunchtime. I just want to reassure parents that children have plenty of time to eat their lunch, to play and be social. We are trying different ways of serving in order to ensure that the children are served promptly. We do sometimes ask them to be silent while the meals are being served as the children need to be able to hear Mrs Bridger and she needs to be able to hear them. This also speeds up the service which enables the children to have longer to socialise both in the hall and on the playground. We are experimenting with a different direction of serving this week. If any parents have suggestions on how this could be improved please do not hesitate to speak to me. We are always looking to improve.

Calendar
January 8 th Ukulele begins Rowan 8 th SEND Parent meeting fortnight 24 th Fire Safety Visit Years 1 & 2 (children only)
February 2 nd NSPCC Number Day 5 th Children’s Mental Health Week Wear something bright or sparkly (Monday) 6 th Internet Safety Day 15 th Reading Afternoon 16 th Break up for Half Term 16 th HSA non uniform 26 th Return to School 27 th Yr 4 Young Leaders top up 27 th KS1 BASH (be active stay healthy)
March 5 th Top Up Young Leaders (Yr 4) 5 th Little BASH (Be Active Stay Healthy) Maple top come in PE Kit 5 th Clay work shop (all classes) 8 th World Book Day Celebration 12 th Joy of Movement Festival (KS1) 12 th Little BASH (Be Active Stay Healthy) Maple top come in PE Kit 18 th Rowan & Maple Parent’s Evening 1.30 – 6pm 21 st Willow Parent’s Evening 2.30 – 6pm 22 nd Joy of Movement Festival KS2 27 th Cluster Sports Festival KS2 (return approx. 4.30) 28 th Break up for Easter
April 16 th Children return to school

HSA Events 2023 2024

Date	Event	Cost
Valentines Roses	14 th February	TBC
HSA Non-Uniform	16 th Feb	£2
Mother’s Day	7 th March (PM)	TBC
Easter Egg Hunt and Quiz	28 th March (AM)	TBC
HSA Non-Uniform	24 th May	£2
Father’s Day Doughnuts & Lego	13 th June (PM)	TBC
Disco	4 th July	£5
Summer Fete	Saturday 6 th July AM	

Christmas Jumpers

If you have any unwanted children's jumpers or t-shirts please donate them to school for use next year. They can be dropped off at the school office.

Food Parcels for needy pupils/families



Leighton Linslade Helpers have kindly provided us with some food parcels (containing non-perishable goods) to distribute to any family struggling financially in the current climate. They support families in Leighton Buzzard and the surrounding area. If you are in need of one of these food parcels please contact the School Office.

There will be a letter in each bag advising the recipient of Leighton Linslade Helpers details, so that if appropriate, you can then receive a regular supply of basic food directly from them.

They also run the Community Fridge in Waterborne Walk, where food is available for anyone for a very modest donation. The Community Shop at the same location, sells products at a greatly reduced price. All the items that they have on offer to everyone, have been saved from going to landfill.