



We are fast approaching the end of term and we have a lot of excited children ready for the festive break! Thank you to everyone who has supported our Christmas events this year. It is lovely to get the whole community together at this time of year and celebrate with the children.

Mrs Aoife Greaves

Headteacher

Celebrating Attendance

Attendance: 97%

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



Attendance & illness

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone or email the school office. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

The link below gives further information on childhood illnesses.

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Values

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

Responsibility

Happiness

Honesty

Hope

In January we will be concentrating on the value of Humility.

Piano Concert

Congratulations to all of the children who took part in our recent Piano Concert, you were all fantastic.



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We are privileged to live in a multi-cultural society in the UK which celebrates what is the same and what is different about us all. At Hockliffe School we strive to live by our values which include responsibility, happiness, thoughtfulness and unity. Over the past weeks we have had reason to speak to some of our children about the language they are using and how this can impact and upset others, an example of this is using the word poo when talking about the colour of someone's skin. Being unkind, using inappropriate terms and making fun of others – whether it is because of skin colour, how they talk, how they look, the religion they follow – is not acceptable. We will be doing some assemblies and PHSE lessons around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion over the coming months and we hope this will give all of our children the tools to be more inclusive and celebrate our differences. The NSPCC has some good resources for parents to use when talking to children about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

If you would be interested in working alongside me to improve our approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion please either speak to me on the playground or send an email via the school office. office@hockliffelowerschool.co.uk

I have previously used the poem below when working with children around the topics of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Stand up to Racism

Stand up to racism,
Treat people with respect
And always choose 'kind.'
No one should feel shame because
Diversity is glorious.

Use your common sense,
People are not the same!

That is what is amazing!
Of course we're all different and that is what's so excellent.

Racism isn't welcome.
Always be proud of who you are, we
Can't give up never!
It's okay to be different - let's celebrate our diversity and
Stop this for good.
Make the end forever – stand up to racism!

By Cape Town Class
Year 6 Kings Academy College Park

Year 2

NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Assembly

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the NSPCC’s Speak out. Stay safe. Programme in January. Speak out. Stay safe. is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities which we have reviewed, alongside NSPCC volunteer led face to face workshops for the children. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know more about the Speak out. Stay safe. programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout

NSPCC resources for families to help keep children safe

The NSPCC have shared some important information below on NSPCC resources and support to help keep children safe.

Parent/Carer support

Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parent and carers.

www.nspcc.org.uk/parents

Activities to extend learning at home

Take part in games and activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe.

www.nspcc.org.uk/activities

Online Safety Hub

For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more.

www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

Childline – under 12’s

Childline have an accessible website with advice, support, games and activities. Children can change the language, enlarge text and also listen to the content.

www.childline.org.uk/buddy (5-7)

www.childline.org.uk/kids (7-11)

Talk PANTS with your children

Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages. Download the free resources at

www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.

Big Ambition Survey

We have been asked to share the link to The Children's Commissioner's Survey with you. Please click the link below if you wish to take part.

Dame Rachel De Souza

Children's Commissioner for England Survey

https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/the_big_ambition/

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>

Willow

In Willow Class we started the year by thinking about ourselves, how we are different and ways in which we are the same. We learned about each other's families and thought about how we have changed since we were born. We had a visit to the class from baby Tom and his family. We know that we were all babies once and that babies need different things to us.

We learned about houses and homes. We know that houses give us shelter from the weather and keep us safe. We know that it is our families that make our house a home.

We made homes out of clay with visiting artist Mrs Houghton and then learned that clay is used in building materials like bricks and tiles.

In Maths we have been learning about shapes. We can tell you all about squares, circles, rectangles and triangles. We have been on shape walks around the school and thought about why things are particular shapes.

In Forest School sessions we have looked at the different trees in our outside area and compared their leaves and bark. We have made shelters from natural materials and tarpaulins. We have taken turns in the hammock and used peelers to take the bark off sticks. We have explored decaying wood and found that it is home to lots of different creatures.

In RE we have learned that we are all special and different. We have talked about the Christmas story and who the main characters are. We have also talked about how festivals such as Christmas, Diwali and Hanukkah are celebrated.

In PE we have learned to move in different ways, and we have practised dribbling, throwing and catching balls of different sizes.



Maple

In Maple Class we have been applying the number facts we have been learning in different ways, including playing maths board games and solving code breaking puzzles.

We have also been busy scientists this half term! First, we explored different materials you can find at the seaside and carried out experiments to discover what materials might be best suited for building benches. When tested benches made from cardboard and wood. Which do you think held the most weight? We also explored seasonal changes and did an Autumn walk around the school grounds to discover signs of Autumn. We will continue to observe changes in the environment around our school throughout the year.

We had even more outside learning opportunities in Literacy. Inspired by the book 'Stanley's Stick' we collected our own sticks and used our imaginations to play all sorts of games. The sticks made excellent wands, swords, brooms and fishing rods! Back in the classroom, we used our ideas to write our own books based on 'Stanley's Stick'.



Rowan

In Rowan Class we have been learning all about the Anglo Saxons.; who they were, where they came from and how they lived. At the end of our topic we visited St Albans Cathedral to take part in their Anglo-Saxon trail and Monastery Kitchen Workshop. The teachers there were very impressed with our knowledge of Anglo- Saxon times. We took part in role play, an archaeological blanket dig and even met an Anglo-Saxon warrior. It was a really interesting day and a fun way to finish our topic.



We like to have visitors in our class to help us with our learning. We had a special assembly about self-esteem and making healthy relationships.



We have been having specialist music teaching this term with Mrs Brimicombe from Inspiring Music. We have learned some really lovely songs and we are looking forward to performing them at the Grove Theatre in the Summer Term.



Parent Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to those parents who took the time to complete our recent questionnaire, we really do appreciate it. Below are some comments received including some points for us to work on.

General comments

It's a joy to drop off to school every morning, always greeted by the warmest and most welcoming staff

Increase diversity in celebrations across the school

Highlights of the year so far

Forest school. Dance club. Harvest festival. Reading afternoon

Friendship, respect and joy

Future positive development:

Convert to primary

Include more diversity in the curriculum, books and celebrations

Consider frequency of communications

Behaviour Policy

I will write in the Spring Term inviting parents to a forum to discuss and review our policy



Hockliffe Lower School is involved in a project that will run jointly between schools and Bedfordshire Police.

Operation Encompass is the reporting of police attended domestic abuse incidents to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, where there are children in the home.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, Mrs Greaves, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have experienced a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.



Christmas Carols

St Nicholas Church

The children of Hockliffe School have been invited to sing "Away in a Manger" at St Nicholas Church, Hockliffe

Date : 16th December

Time: 7pm

Mince Pies and Drinks will also be available

It would be lovely to see children from school in attendance

Thank you

We recently set up a Wish List on Amazon. This week we have received some more books and toys from our list. As a staff we are delighted to receive gifts for the children rather than ourselves.



Wish List can be found [here](#).

Flu reminder

Most children aged between 2 and 11 can have a free flu vaccine. Please contact your health professional if your child has not already been vaccinated.

Further information can be found [here](#).

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 Donuts & Lego	13 th June (PM)	TBC
Disco	4 th July	£5

Calendar

December

1st Trudy Davidson author visit
 6th Maple & Rowan Christmas Performance 2.30pm
 7th Elfridges
 7th Maple & Rowan Christmas Performance 6pm
 8th Bikeability Yr 4 only
 13th Christmas dinner and jumper day
 14th Nativity Willow 2.30pm
 15th Rocksteady Concert 2pm
 18th Panto trip (return approx. 4.45pm)
 20th Last Day of Term (1pm finish)

January

4th Children return to school
 8th Ukulele
 8th SEND Parent meeting fortnight
 24th Fire Safety Visit (children only)

February

2nd NSPCC Number Day
 5th Children's Mental Health Week
 6th Internet Safety Day
 15th Reading Afternoon
 16th Break up for Half Term
 16th HSA non uniform
 26th Return to School
 27th Yr 4 Young Leaders top up
 27th KS1 BASH (be active stay healthy)

March

5th Top Up Young Leaders (Yr 4)
 5th Little BASH (Be Active Stay Healthy) Maple top come in PE Kit
 5th Clay work shop (all classes)
 8th World Book Day Celebration
 12th Joy of Movement Festival (KS1)
 12th Little BASH (Be Active Stay Healthy) Maple top come in PE Kit
 18th Rowan & Maple Parent's Evening 1.30 – 6pm
 21st Willow Parent's Evening 2.30 – 6pm
 22nd Joy of Movement Festival KS2
 27th Cluster Sports Festival KS2 (return approx. 4.30)
 28th Break up for Easter

April

16th Children return to school