



September

Welcome back to Hockliffe Lower School. It has been lovely to have the children back and of course to give a warm reception to our new starters, all of whom have settled in really well. We have had a busy start to the term at Hockliffe. The children have settled in very well and are engaging with new routines and expectations.

We, as a team, have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children's enjoyment in their learning since they have returned. Our aim, in all that we do, is to ensure our children are "Happily learning to succeed."

We look forward to an exciting term ahead.

Mrs Aoife Greaves

Headteacher

Values

At Hockliffe we are proud to be a Values School. It is this that determines the thinking and behaviour in school of all pupils and staff. Through our values we develop a positive culture for teaching and learning. This is based upon valuing ourselves, each other and the environment. Our School Values support the development of the whole child.

September's value is Simplicity. Simplicity avoids waste, teaches economy, avoids value clashes complicated by greed, fear, peer pressure, and a false sense of identity.

From simplicity grows generosity and sharing.

Simplicity is putting others first with kindness, openness, pure intentions - without expectations and conditions.

Meerkat Awards

Every week, each teacher chooses a child in their class who has demonstrated one or more of our Meerkat learning behaviours. The behaviours we want to see are:

Motivation

Enquiring minds

Engaged in learning

Resourceful in learning

Knowledgeable in learning

Alert

Thoughtful

This year I would like to celebrate these achievements further by including pictures in our Newsletter and on a display in school. I didn't quite manage this last year. If you do not want your child's image included in the newsletter or on the display can you please email me through the school office.

Communication

At Hockliffe we are trying very hard to ensure that communication is accessible and helpful. We use a range of ways to get in touch with you:

Parent Portal

Administrative communication such as letters about trips, upcoming events and pupil reports. Please ensure you sign up for and download the Parent Portal App. If you have the app you will get notifications when new emails arrive and all of your school related emails will be accessible in one place.

School Money

Payment requests for trips and other curriculum activities

Google Classroom

This is used for teacher to communicate regarding curriculum matters e.g. change in PE Day or messages about Forest school as well as providing a platform to share home tasks and celebrate what is happening in the classroom

Text Messages

We use our text messaging system to send absence texts and short reminders as well as urgent messages.

Monthly Newsletter

The Newsletter shares whole school celebration and reminders as well as relevant communication from third parties e.g Central Bedfordshire

Facebook

Celebration of events that have happened and engaging with the wider community

Impact Food Group App

This is used for ordering school meals, paying for school meals and updating allergy information. (School also needs to be made aware separately regarding allergy updates.)

Rocksteady

At Hockliffe, children have the opportunity to join a band. Every Friday the children, who have signed up, have the opportunity to work with other children to develop their music skills. The children work together to create a performance which is shared with the other children and parents towards the end of each term. If you would like your child to sign up please use the link below to find out more information.

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/info-for-parents/>

Dance Club

Christina Marks Dance School offers the students of Hockliffe Lower School Street dance classes every Tuesday before school. Class times run from 8am-8:45.

To register and book please follow the link below.

<https://christina-marks-sopa.classforkids.io/>

Reading

Over the coming weeks, children will be given a reading book that is appropriate to their level. In EYFS and KS1, this will be a decodable Rhino Reader book, some children in KS2 will also have a Rhino Reader book. Your child's reading book will be changed at least weekly by an adult in the class. *To make maximum progress, children should be reading fully decodable books. This means that the books children are given should match up exactly to the phonics that they have learned. Books shouldn't contain any letter sounds not yet taught. With fully decodable books, children can use their phonics skills to tackle every word and there's no need to rely on guesswork or clues from the pictures.* This helps them quickly gain confidence and feel successful when they read. Some of the older children may feel that they have mastered a book after one reading, we really encourage you to ensure they read it at least 4 or 5 times. If your child is reading other books at home please do record this in their reading record so we can praise them for this.

For some this will be a change to how books were changed last year but research shows that rereading ability appropriate books helps children to:

- 1. Improve Reading Comprehension Skills
- 2. Develop Vocabulary
- 3. Increase Reading Confidence
- 4. Increase Reading Fluency
- 5. Get to Grips with Plot, Characters and Themes
- 6. Develop a Love of Books

Children will also be able to take a book home from the library each week, this book doesn't need to be at their reading level. The aim is that this book is shared with the adults at home and will hopefully instil a love of reading and build the habit of reading for pleasure.

Primary Update

I wanted to take this opportunity to update parents regarding our conversion to a Primary School. Hockliffe Lower School and the Kingsbridge Educational Trust continue to be in discussion with Central Bedfordshire. There is no timetable for the conversion at present. Parents of year 4 children will need to apply for Year 5 spaces at local Middle Schools through the Central Bedfordshire websi

Is your child due to start school in September 2025?

Open Morning (9.00 - 10.30) and Evening (6.30 - 7.00) 14th November 2024



**Was your child born between
1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021?**
**They will start school in September 2025, so you
need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2025.**

 **Apply online at** www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

You can also complete a paper application form which is available from your local school
or by contacting School Admissions  admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk  0300 300 8037

A great place to live and work.

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Reading Afternoon

On Thursday 3rd October we will be holding a reading afternoon. You will be able to spend some time reading with your child or with a small group of children in their learning environment. If there are any parents who would like to share their love of reading with a class or a group please get in touch. 2.30 - 3.

Harvest Collection

We will be holding a short Harvest Celebration on 22nd October at 2.45. As part of our Harvest Celebration we will be collecting items for the Leighton Linlade Food Bank. If you would like to donate non-perishable food items, please bring them in during the week of 16th October and place them in the collection box on the playground.

Family Information Directory

The Central Bedfordshire's Family Information Directory contains lots of information about childcare settings, local and national organisations that offer support and advice, children's centres and local activities in Central Bedfordshire.

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/familyinfodirectory

Reminders

No nuts or nut products

Hockliffe Lower School continues to aim to be a 'nut free' environment. In the interests of protecting pupils with nut allergies, we request that you do not send your children to school with any of the following:

- Packaged nuts
- Peanut butter or chocolate spreads containing nuts
- Cereal, granola or chocolate bars containing nuts
- Cake or biscuits containing nuts
- Peanut-based sauces like satay
- Any food made with sesame seeds (which can cause a similar allergic reaction)
- Foods with coconut or coconut oil

The above list is not exhaustive. Please check the ingredient lists carefully, especially chocolate spreads.

Both children and adults with severe nut allergies can suffer from life-threatening reactions if they eat, smell, or touch any foods containing nuts. We are therefore grateful for your cooperation in helping to keep our pupils and staff safe.

Grapes

If you are sending grapes in for your child's lunch or snack please ensure these are cut into quarters as they are a choking hazard.

Parking

Please remember that our school is situated in a residential area. If you do need to use your car to travel to school you must ensure that you are parking your car legally and not blocking the driveways of the houses in the local area.

At drop off and pick up times the staff car park should be accessed by staff only unless access has been agreed with myself. This is to ensure that staff can park and start work promptly.

Mobile Phones

Please be aware that parents and visitors should not be using their mobile phone on the school site. This is for safeguarding reasons. If you appear to be using your mobile phone you will be asked by a member of staff to cease using it.

Play Equipment, bikes and scooters

The play equipment should not be used before and after school.

Bikes and scooters should not be used on the playground.

Attendance

The Government has made changes to fines that families can receive for poor attendance or term time holidays. Please see the information below.

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For Example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

5 Consecutive days of Term Time Leave

Penalty notice fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

10 Sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10- week period

Penalty notice fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be :

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days

Second Offence

(within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's court. Magistrates fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

Local Authority DO NOT accept the following as exceptional circumstances:

- My work do not allow me to take holidays during the school summer holiday period, even if they provide a letter
- My child needs a holiday at quieter times due to needs
- Our holiday has been gifted and paid for and did not have a choice of dates
- My child has good or 100% attendance
- I will report my child being poorly - schools are expected to carry out home visits, if a holiday is suspected, school will report to the local authority for a penalty notice fine

Month & school events	Other important dates
<p>Forest School</p> <p>Willow</p> <p>Weekly on a Tuesday in the autumn term start date to be confirmed by Mrs Carter.</p> <p>Maple & Rowan will have Forest school in the summer term. Which half of the term will be confirmed in the spring term. Children will require their Forest School clothes each week for the 6 week block.</p>	
<p>September</p> <p>13th HSA meeting 8.34 – 9.15</p> <p>17th Young Leader training Yr 4 9.30 – 11.30 PE kit</p> <p>17th BASH – Be Active Stay Healthy Yr 3&4 lunchtime PE kit</p> <p>17th Maple Parent Evening 5.30 – 6.00</p> <p>18th Rowan Parent Evening 5.30 – 6.00</p> <p>19th Individual Photographs</p> <p>19th Willow Parent Evening 5.30 – 6.00</p> <p>23rd Week Beg SEND Parent meetings</p> <p>24th Young Leader training Yr 4 9.30 – 11.30 PE kit</p> <p>24th BASH – Be Active Stay Healthy Yr 3&4 lunchtime PE kit</p>	<p>21st National Fitness Day</p> <p>21st International Day of Peace</p> <p>22nd World Car free Day</p> <p>26th European Day of Languages</p>

<p>October</p> <p>1st Young Leader training Yr 4 9.30 – 11.30 PE kit</p> <p>1st BASH – Be Active Stay Healthy Yr 3&4 lunchtime PE kit</p> <p>3rd Reading afternoon 2.30 – 3.00</p> <p>8th BASH Yr 3 & 4 lunchtime PE kit</p> <p>14th Flu Jabs</p> <p>15th BASH Yr 3 & 4 lunchtime PE kit</p> <p>22nd Harvest Celebration 2.45 – 3.05</p> <p>25th Break up for half term (HSA mufti)</p>	<p>Black History Month</p> <p>International Walk to School Month</p> <p>World Blindness Awareness Day</p> <p>The Big Draw Month</p> <p>4th World Animal Day</p> <p>4th-10th World Space Week</p> <p>7th National Poetry Day</p> <p>7th World Smile Day</p> <p>10th World Mental Health Day</p> <p>14th-20th Recycle Day</p> <p>17th Child Poverty Day</p> <p>29th – 3rd Nov Diwali</p>
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