

Monday 11th September 2023



Newsletter 1 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see everyone back in school last week. There was a great buzz in the playground on the first morning as the children were reunited with their friends. I must extend a very warm welcome to all of the new families joining us this year. I know you will soon feel part of our wonderful Black Horse Hill community.

The children settled really quickly into their new classes and I was very impressed with their positive attitudes and excellent behaviour. You may have noticed there are a couple of new additions to our playground: a stage and a sandpit. The children were excited to use them and were very patient waiting to have a turn. Thank you to Mr Pritchard for installing these over the summer holidays.

We look forward to working in partnership with you over the forthcoming year. Do remember, like you, we want the very best for all our pupils and if you have any concerns about your child don't hesitate to contact us. The best time to speak to the teachers is at the end of the school day when they have seen the children out or alternatively you can contact the school office by phone or email to arrange an appointment.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding RAAC and its use in educational settings. I wanted to inform you that we are not affected and we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings.

Curriculum Evenings

At Black Horse Hill Infants we think that it is really important for our parents and carers to understand our school curriculum so that they can support their child at home. Please save the dates below and come and meet your child's new teacher and find out what your child will be learning throughout the year.

- Wednesday 20th September @ 5pm Foundation 2 Curriculum Evening
- Thursday 28th September @ 5pm Year 1 Curriculum Evening
- Tuesday 3rd October @ 5pm Year 2 Curriculum Evening

School Start and Finish Times

Here is a reminder of school opening and closing times. Doors open **for all classes at 8.40am** (except F1 which is 8.45am). The doors will remain open until 8.50am and then the doors will be closed. Registers will be taken at 8.55am and any child arriving after 9am will be marked as late (L) in the register. In line with recommendations from the Department for Education (DfE), registers will close at 9.15 a.m. If children arrive after this time, they will be recorded as having arrived after closure of registers (code U). This counts as an unauthorised absence for that session. If children are late on ten or more occasions then a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued.

Please ring the school office if your child is going to be late and our office staff will arrange for your child's entrance door to be opened. Late children should not access school via the school office.

Keeping children in our school safe is of paramount importance to us and I would appreciate your co-operation in adhering to the following guidelines at the beginning of the day:

- Ensure your child is inside the school building before leaving the playground. Once your child is in the school building staff will take responsibility for your child's safety.
- Try to avoid speaking to the class teachers at the beginning of the school day because they are focusing on getting the children into the school building safely. Instead ask to speak to them at the end of the day. If the matter is urgent please telephone school and arrangements will be made for you to speak to a member of school staff.
- Report to the main office if you need to come into the school building.
- Let us know if your child is going home with somebody different e.g another parent/carer by writing a note to the classteacher.

Our new school finishing time is **3.10pm (F1 3pm)**. If you are going to be late collecting your child from school then please let us know so that we can provide reassurance to your child.

If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child please speak to Mrs Morris who is the Safeguarding Lead in school.

Parking



I have recently received correspondence from parents and members of the local community about unsafe parking around the school. Parents/carers are parking on the yellow lines and also on the zig-zags near the school gates. In addition, parents/carers are blocking the drives of some of the local residents. This is compromising the safety of other road users and families coming to school at the beginning and end of the school day. Older children (Junior School) are also not being allowed to walk to school due to concerns about their safety on the roads. Please ensure that you are parking safely and respectfully when dropping off and collecting your children from school.

Wherever possible try to travel to school by walking, cycling or scooting as this will in turn reduce the build-up of traffic outside the school gates, improve air quality and create a safer and more pleasant environment for everyone around our school.

Attendance

For children to make good academic progress they need to attend school regularly. At Black Horse Hill Infant School, children's attendance has always been closely monitored and if your child's attendance is causing concern then we will contact you to discuss the reasons.

We recognise that sometimes children do become unwell and need to remain at home. If your child is unwell please contact the school office before 9.30am to let us know why they are unable to attend school that day. If we do not hear from you then a member of staff will ring you. Please be aware that we have guidance to say that following a sickness, vomiting or diarrhoea bug children should not return to school until 48 hours have lapsed since the last episode.

Taking holidays in term time will affect a child's education as much as any other absence and we expect parents/carers not to take children on holiday when school is open. Headteachers are asked not to grant any leave of absence unless the circumstances are exceptional.

Operation Encompass

Our school (like many) is part of the Operation Encompass scheme. If the police have attended a Domestic Violence incident at a house where children are living then the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school is notified by email. This sharing of information enables appropriate support to be given in school, dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child.

Uniform

The children look very smart in their school uniforms. I do feel it is important that our school uniform is adhered to. Variations in colours of cardigans, jumpers and footwear can lead to children wearing inappropriate attire for school and unsuitable footwear may compromise their safety.

Jewellery, including earrings, should not be worn. School staff will not be able to tape children's earrings. Parents/carers will be contacted if their child is wearing earrings and they will be asked to come into school to remove or cover their child's earrings. Extreme hairstyles/hair accessories are also to be discouraged.

Please remember to label your child's clothing so if lost it can be returned easily.

Celebration Assembly

As part of our Behaviour/ Assertive discipline policy, we hold a special assembly on a Wednesday to celebrate children's achievements at home and school. At this assembly children are awarded special trophies for excellence, kindness and for setting a good example to others. Some children are also awarded a certificate for working hard in maths. Please can I ask that if your child is given a trophy, they return it to school the following week (Monday or Tuesday). If the trophy is not returned then this means that another child misses out on the opportunity to take the trophy home. Please check whether you have any trophies at home that have not been returned to school.

If your child has been awarded a certificate or trophy for an out of school achievement, for example in football, swimming, gymnastics or dance, then they can bring this in on a Wednesday to show the rest of the school.

Rainy Day Bags

We ask that parents/carers of children in F2-Yr2 provide a small bag containing some toys, colouring books etc that children can leave in school and play with when it is a rainy day. The toys should be small and inexpensive.



PE Days for this Half-term

On PE days children can come to school dressed in PE kit. Our school PE kit is a white, plain t-shirt, navy or black shorts/joggers/leggings and a dark coloured hoody/zip up or school sweatshirt. Football kits should not be worn.

Tuesday – Year 2 (Miss Murphy and Mr Young)

Wednesday – Year 1 (Mrs McLeod and Mr Hamm)

Thursday – Foundation 2 (Mrs Bancroft)

School Lunches

Our school menu is based on a three week cycle. Children are able to choose between a hot meal, jacket potato or deli each day. If you would like to view the food choices on offer, you will find the menus on our school website, or alternatively pop into the school office and we can provide you with a copy.

Please note: If you send your child into school with a packed lunch we would be grateful if you do not include any nuts, peanut butter or houmous as some of our children have severe allergies to these products. Small foods such as grapes, olives and cherry tomatoes should be cut in half. We also ask that fizzy drinks, chocolate bars or sweets are not included in children's packed lunches.

Children should also bring a water bottle to school each day and this should only be filled with water.

Medicines

Parents/carers need to complete a consent form (available from the school office) for all medicines administered in school. Please note that apart from continuous daily medication, only medicine which requires four or more doses a day will usually be given. Parents/carers must take responsibility for collecting the medicine at the end of the day.

Play Equipment

For health and safety reasons, the play equipment in the main school playground should only be used during school hours. Please do not let your children or younger siblings use the equipment before and after school.

Bikes and Scooters

We encourage our children to walk, cycle and scoot to school. However, once in the school grounds we ask that children refrain from cycling or scooting in the playground as there are too many people to manoeuvre around safely. Bikes and scooters may be stored in the cycle rack at the top of the playground but I would advise you to lock them up.

Dogs on Site

We do not allow dogs to enter the school site.

Diary Dates

Please find below the key dates for this term:

September

- Wednesday 20th September Foundation 2 Curriculum Evening **5pm** (details to follow)
- Tuesday 26th September Tennis Roadshow (All children to wear PE kit)
- Tuesday 26th September Full Governing Body meeting
- Thursday 28th September Year 1 Curriculum Evening **5pm** (details to follow)
- Friday 29th September FOBHHS Disco **4.30pm**

October

- Tuesday 3rd October Year 2 Curriculum Evening **5pm** (details to follow)
- W/c 16th October Parent/Teacher meetings
- Friday 20th October - School finishes for half-term
Non-Uniform day (£1 donation)
- Monday 30th October - Children return to school after half-term

November

- Thursday 2nd November - Photographer in school for Individual photographs
- Wednesday 15th - November Flu Vaccinations F2-Yr2
- Friday 17th November - Children In Need event (Children wear spotty clothes)
- Saturday 25th November FOBHHS Christmas Fair **1-3pm**

Yours sincerely

Julie Morris
Headteacher