

Monday 12th September 2022



Newsletter September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin my newsletter by welcoming all our families both old and new back to school. It is always a delight to see the children and staff return to school refreshed and excited about the year ahead. We really enjoyed our first week in school and the children have impressed us with how quickly they have settled into their new classes.

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.

Her Majesty the Queen

Everyone at Black Horse Hill Infant School is deeply saddened by the death of Queen Elizabeth II and we are grateful for her service to the nation. On Friday we held a special assembly for our KS1 children (Yr1 and Yr2) to remember the Queen. It was quite fitting to watch the short film about Paddington meeting The Queen for her Jubilee and we reflected on his closing words to her "Thank you for everything you have done Ma'am." The children were extremely respectful when we had one minute of silent reflection. Our Early Years children haven't attended an assembly yet but they had some thinking time in their classes.

The official date of the State Funeral is **Monday 19th September 2022**. This day will be a bank holiday and school will be closed on this day.

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 8.55am 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.

School finishes for all children at 3.05pm (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.

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 classteachers 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.

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.

Attendance

For children to make good academic progress they need to attend school regularly. The Department for Education has released a new document called “Working together to improve school attendance” which outlines how schools should focus on improving school attendance for all pupils. 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.

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.

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.

Monday - Mr Young's class PE day

Tuesday - Mrs Lucan's class PE day

Wednesday - Mr Hamm's class PE day

Mrs Bancroft's class PE day

Friday - Year 2 PE day

School Lunches

Our school menu is based on a three week cycle. Children are able to choose a hot meal or jacket potato each day. There is also a deli option on Tuesday and Thursday. If you would like to view the food choice 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

- Thursday 15th September Year 2 visit to Gilroy Nature Reserve
- Thursday 15th September Full Governing Body meeting
- Monday 19th September BANK HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED
- Tuesday 27th September Year 1 Curriculum Evening **5pm** (details to follow)
- Wednesday 28th September Year 2 Curriculum Evening **5pm** (details to follow)
- Thursday 29th September Foundation 2 Curriculum Evening **5pm** (details to follow)

October

- Tuesday 11th October - Fun Food Chef for Yr2
- W/c 17th October Parent/Teacher meetings
- Friday 21st October - School finishes for half-term
Non-Uniform day (£1 donation)
- Monday 31st October Staff Development day (Staff only)

November

- Tuesday 1st November - Children return to school after half-term
- Friday 11th November - Photographer in school for Individual photographs
- Wednesday 16th - November Flu Vaccinations F2-Yr2
- Friday 18th November - Children In Need event (Children wear spotty clothes)

Yours sincerely

Julie Morris
Headteacher