

Tuesday 9th January 2024



Newsletter 3 - January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you had a wonderful time with your families over the Christmas break. I'm sure the children will be fully refreshed after their holidays and are more than ready for another exciting year of learning at Black Horse Hill Infants as we begin 2024!

Reading

I make no apology for starting my newsletter with a spotlight on reading because it is so very important that we get all our children enjoying books and being able to read by the time they leave our school. To be successful readers our children need to practise reading regularly both in school and at home. It is for this reason that I ask you to make reading with your child one of your resolutions for 2024. Ideally, children should read every evening but **"Strive for 5" (Five reads a week)** would be extremely beneficial. Don't forget to write in your child's reading diary every time they read at home so they can receive a ticket to be entered into our reading raffle at the end of the half-term. If you need some advice about reading at home with your child then please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher. There are also guidance and videos on this site which are linked to the accredited phonics/reading scheme we use at school.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/#tabnametabBooksComingHome>.

Over the Christmas period I met one of our Year 2 pupils on the bus with his family. I was absolutely delighted when our conversation was focused on the books that he had received from Father Christmas and that he was reading more than twenty pages of his book each day! It was one of the highlights of my holiday.

Just a reminder for the parents/carers of our EYFS pupils (F1 and F2) that there is a **Reading and Phonics workshop on Thursday 18th January at 5pm**. You will receive a formal invite this week.

Don't forget to check out our school website under the curriculum section to find out what learning will take place this term for your child.

Staffing News

Mrs Gallagher who worked in our school office has a new job. She is going to work in the Finance Office at Woodchurch High School. We are delighted that she has a new full time role but after ten years working at our school she will be greatly missed. Thank you for all that you have contributed to our school over the years, Mrs Gallagher, and good luck in your new job! We have a new admin assistant starting with us this week called Miss Benson. I know you will all make her feel part of our Black Horse Hill family.



I am very proud to announce that one of our teachers (Mr Hamm) has been selected to represent England Men's Disability Cricket Squad later this month in India. Mr Hamm will be leaving for India on 23rd January, for 3 weeks. This is a fantastic achievement for Mr Hamm and we will make sure that we follow him closely on the tour in school.

Mr Hamm will be delivering an assembly to the children on his personal experiences and journey to the England team. Mr Hamm's class will be taught by Mrs Astbury in his absence.

Parent Workshops

You may recall that in the Autumn Term we asked parents/carers about information that they would find beneficial to understand the learning that takes place in school. We received forty responses to the survey with many parents/carers requesting more information on how we teach maths. Overwhelmingly the best time to deliver presentations was in the evening. This term we will be running a Maths Workshop for all our BHHIS parents/carers on **Monday 4th March at 5pm** so please save the date. The presentation will be useful for all year groups.

Attendance and Punctuality

Securing good school attendance for all children continues to be a priority for us as a school. You will have received your child's attendance certificate for the Autumn Term. Pleasingly, our attendance figures were positive for the Autumn Term with a significant number of children achieving a 100% attendance certificate in our final Celebration Assembly. As a Local Authority school we work closely with an attendance officer who monitors our whole school attendance and the attendance of individual children.

If you are unsure about whether your child is well enough to attend school then the NHS has provided some useful information on their website. Here is the link-

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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 3.10pm (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.

Learning does begin for children from 8.40am. If your child is in early they will receive more learning! Do try and get your children into school as early as possible so that they can benefit from our morning activities.

Rainy Day bags

A rainy day bag is used in school when the weather is too bad to play outside. It contains a small number of toys/resources that your child brings in from home that they can play with during

playtimes. If your child hasn't got their own rainy day bag in school please can you send one in. Ask your child's class teacher if you are unsure about the contents. You may also want to ask your child to bring their bag home to replenish or replace some of the toys.

PE days for this half-term

On PE days children should 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 - Yr2

Wednesday- F1

Thursday - F2

Friday - Yr1

Diary dates

Please find below the key dates for this term.

January

- Tuesday 9th January- Children return to school
- Thursday 11th January -Year 1 trip to Liverpool
- Thursday 18th January- EYFS Reading and Phonics workshop @5pm
- Monday 22nd January- Year 2 NSPCC Stay Safe workshops

February

- w/c Monday 5th February- Children's Mental Health Week
Wear a piece of clothing inside out on this day.
- Tuesday 6th February - Safer Internet Day
- Friday 9th February- Chinese New Year Workshop (Year 2)
- Friday 16th February – Non Uniform Day (£1 donation to school fund)
Children finish for half-term
- Monday 26th February- Children return to school

March

- Monday 4th March- Maths Evening for parents/carers@5pm
- Thursday 7th March World Book Day (Children dress up as story book characters)
- w/c 18th March Parent/Teacher Week
- Thursday 28th March – Easter Bonnet Parade and finish for Easter Holidays

April

- Monday 15th April – Children return to school

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris
Headteacher