



Hundon Community Primary School Newsletter

Wednesday 20th December 2023

Laying the foundations for a bright future



Website link: [www. htpfederation.co.uk](http://www.htpfederation.co.uk)

A little note from Mrs FitzGerald...

Well, the end of term is upon us and here I am writing this, the last newsletter of the Autumn Term! I cannot believe how quickly the last few weeks have flown by.

It was lovely that so many of were able to come to our 'Carols on the Playground' on Monday, I hear the children were very enthusiastic and did a great job!

As I close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing team across the Federation for the incredible job they continue to do, always giving their best efforts and putting the children at the heart of everything. I also want to say well done to all the children for working hard in their learning to make progress, both academically and personally.

We all hope you have a fantastic time over the winter holiday and we look forward to seeing and working with you all in January when the children (and us) return refreshed and recharged!

Warmest regards, Mrs FitzGerald

SEVERE WEATHER

Every effort will be made to keep the school open in severe weather. The school would only close if it is no longer safe for staff and pupils to travel to school and be on site.

We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Therefore, we will make every effort to prepare for severe weather.

Information about school closure will be posted:

- **Class Dojo**
- **ParentMail**
- **Via the Suffolk County Council website: <http://schoolclosures.suffolk.gov.uk>**
- **Facebook**
- **Local radio**

MORNING SPORTS CLUB AND AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

Morning Sports Club resumes on the children's first day of the spring term which is **Thursday 4th January**. These sessions start from 8am and cost a nominal cost of £2, which must be paid for in advance.

Our after-school club starts on **Wednesday 10th January**, running until 4.15pm and again at a nominal cost of £2 per session. In both instances please pay for your sessions using this link: [Online Payment Link](#)

SWIMMING

Just a reminder that our children in Years 4 and 5 will be swimming at the Abbeycroft Leisure Centre in Haverhill in the new year. Parents with children in Oak Class and Hawthorn Class please look out for a ParentMail and Dojo message when term starts for more details.



HUNDON AND THURLOW PRIMARY FEDERATION

Laying the foundations for a bright future



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Governors' Newsletter, Autumn Term 2023.

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Federation Governing Board! We hope to provide our families and friends with a termly update on the work we undertake to support the Federation community and particularly, the learning and well-being of all our children.

With the exception of the two staff governors, we are all unpaid volunteers. Every governor undertakes the role to make a difference to the lives of the children at the two schools. At the moment, we have eleven governors bringing a wide range of experience and different skill sets to the Board. Have a look at the Federation website to find out a little more about us! We currently have just two vacancies on the Board and would particularly welcome a member of the Thurlow local community where we are underrepresented.

This term, we have had two meetings of the full Governing Board and our two committees (Finance and Personnel; Premises, Health Safety and Welfare) have also met. A panel of governors held the performance review of the Executive Headteacher, just one of our many important responsibilities. Individual governors have undertaken a number of visits. For example, Rev'd Giles met with Lizzie Allin, our new leader of the Beliefs, Religions and Values Education (BRAVE). The Vice-Chair, Sue McKeogh, met with Emily Budinger to find out more about the current provision for children identified with SEND. Laura Masters-Stonehouse is our safeguarding governor and met with office staff to ensure that records of staff safeguarding checks are fully up to date. As Chair, I have met regularly with the Executive Headteacher; our discussions are always wide-ranging and this term we have talked about everything from asbestos to the reading curriculum! Governors have attended events at the schools, including celebration assemblies and the Nativity performances. Several of us also thoroughly enjoyed joining the children for their Christmas lunch!

We have held one 'face to face' full Governing Board meeting and one 'remote' meeting this term. Having online meetings during the winter makes participation much easier for those governors who live further afield. Discussions in our meetings are always very wide-ranging and have included approving new and updated policies, Federation finances and the new Federation Development and Improvement Plan. We have received reports from the two committees and from individual governors with specific responsibilities such as safeguarding. We have also had a very informative briefing from the teacher who leads on the Federation provision for Relationships, Sex and Health Education. It is an important part of our role to have a good understanding of curriculum provision. We undertake training both as individual governors and as a Board. This term, the Board updated their safeguarding training. There was an important emphasis on ensuring children keep safe online and as a result, we have asked a governor to oversee the Federation's 'monitoring and tracking' of the children's online safety.

If you have a child in KS2, you have probably heard about the Governors' Telescope Competition! The telescope was donated to the Federation and we do hope you will encourage your child/ren to take part in the competition. We'll be announcing the winner during January.

We welcome comments about what we do and what we could be doing better. If you would like to contact us, please do so through either school office or email vphillips@htpfederation.co.uk

It just remains for me to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2024!

Val Phillips, Chair of Governors.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Other dates will follow but I know lots of you will want to get these onto the calendar as soon as possible. The team and I will be adding to our schedule of special days, visitors and trips, including some additional 'share' opportunities - keep checking this list!

SPRING TERM 2024

Wednesday 3rd January ~ PD DAY

Thursday 4th January ~ FIRST DAY OF THE SPRING TERM FOR THE CHILDREN

Friday 19th January ~ Hawthorn Class Family Celebration Presentation at 2.45pm

Parents of children in Hawthorn Class only are invited.

Friday 25th January ~ Oak Class Family Celebration Presentation at 2.45pm

Parents of children in Oak Class only are invited.

Monday 29th January to Friday 2nd February ~ National Storytelling Week

There will be lots of storytelling learning and activities underway across the school this week. At 2:15pm in the afternoon on Friday 2nd February we will be hosting 'share' sessions and parents and carers are invited to attend. Join your child and share their learning as part of this week.

Tuesday 6th February ~ Safer Internet Day ~ more details to follow

Friday 9th February ~ Willow Class Family Celebration Presentation at 2.45pm

Parents of children in Willow Class only are invited.

Friday 16th February ~ Cherry Class Family Celebration Presentation at 2.45pm

Parents of children in Cherry Class only are invited.

FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY ~ END OF HALF-TERM

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 19th February ~ Friday 23rd February

Monday 26th February to Friday 1st March ~ UNICEF Fairtrade Week ~ more details to follow

Thursday 7th March ~ World Book Day ~ more details to follow

Monday 11th March to Friday 15th March ~ British Science Week ~ more details to follow

Tuesday 19th March ~ PARENT CONSULTATIONS for Cherry Class & Willow Class

Wednesday 20th March ~ PARENT CONSULTATIONS for Oak Class & Hawthorn Class

Find out how your child is doing in class with their academic targets.

Thursday 21st March ~ World Poetry Day ~ more details to follow

Thursday 28th March ~ LAST DAY OF THE SPRING TERM

AS BEFORE: SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

We continue to be very concerned at further reports received regarding the behaviour of a small number of children, likely to be under 10, in and around the village, unsupervised.

We have received further worrying reports of children with vapes as well as behaving inappropriately at the park and village shop. This is in addition to the recently highlighted concerns about young girls and boys, cycling and scootering unsafely on the roads and pavements, putting themselves, pedestrians and drivers at risk.

We are compelled to share this with you; we are very concerned about this, not least the safety of these children as well as the possible trouble they could find themselves in with the police for anti-social behaviour or worse.

Please read this guide if you have a child who stays home alone or goes out alone:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/3271/home-or-out-alone-guide.pdf>

AS BEFORE: URGENT: START OF THE SCHOOL DAY

It has been brought to our attention that we have a **number of children** being **dropped off outside the school** and **left unsupervised** first thing in the morning. This is before the start of the school day. Please note children **remain the responsibility of their parent/carer until** they are 'handed over' to their Class Teacher at **8.45am** when **the school day begins** and not before.

Children must not be left without a supervising adult. Parents/carers are responsible for anything that goes wrong in their absence. It is an offence to leave a child alone if it places them at risk.

As a school, we recognise and sympathise with the often-complex pressures faced by families in balancing work and childcare. It is why we offer childcare provision first thing in the mornings from 8am for the nominal cost of £2.00 per session within our Morning Sports Club run by qualified staff from Prestige Sports. We urge parents/carers to make use of this facility and book sessions to support childcare needs with Mrs Mitson in our School Office.

Additionally, we also recognise the challenges of parking around our school site so we politely ask parents to consider their child's safety and welfare ~ arrive a few minutes early, park a little further away and walk your child into school. Stay with them and set them up to have the best day!

Thank you for your cooperation and support in this matter.