

AUTUMN TERM - NEWSLETTER NO. 1

Welcome Back

I have particularly enjoyed taking up my usual position at the gate this week and seeing all your children returning to school looking ready for the year ahead. I hope you have been pleased with our new look boundary fencing which, as well as replacing our aging wood fence, gives added security to the children. Many thanks to Kim Buckingham and Brian Hodgson for making this procedure go smoothly. Hopefully the replacement paving outside the school will also make life easier.

My door, as always, remains open and if you have any concerns, things you want to talk about or need any help, do drop in to see me.

Cycle Helmets

We are fortunate at Hazel Wood to be able to accommodate bikes so children can ride to school if they wish. If your child does this please make sure that they wear a cycle helmet. Remembering to do this now when they are young will make it part of their cycling routine and could prevent a serious injury.

Thank You Friends of Hazel Wood

I would like to thank the Friends of Hazel Wood for their fantastic fundraising events last year, which have enabled us to have our new playground markings and picnic benches. The children enjoy using these at playtimes and also for curriculum activities.

Curriculum Meetings

We have planned a workshop to keep you up to date with how we teach phonics at Hazel Wood. This will take place on Thursday 24 September between 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

You will hear an overview of what we do at the school and then be able to go to your year group base to see the types of activities the children do at school and have advice on how to help at home.

New Children

We would all like to extend a special welcome to our new children and families in Year R. We are proud of our school and hope you will be too. Also a warm welcome back to Mrs Libby Wyatt. Libby has returned as our Deputy Headteacher after her maternity leave. Libby will be teaching across the school as well as undertaking her leadership role.

New Staff

We are pleased to welcome Miss Jo Hine to our Foundation Stage team and hope that she will be extremely happy with us. Jo is an experienced teacher and will be leading the development of ICT teaching and learning at Hazel Wood.

Reading Books

We are currently assessing the children to ensure that they have the most appropriate level of reading book to share at home. As such, do not worry if you have not yet received a book. You will notice that we have introduced 'new look' Reading Diaries. Many parents have explained that they struggle to find the time to write lengthy comments in the Reading Response books. To address this, the staff have agreed that the Reading Diaries should be a simple record of which books the children have read with an opportunity for the children to comment if they wish. **Please sign or initial if you have read with your child so that we know when to change books and, of course, still add a comment if you wish.**

The children will be encouraged to change their own colour-banded reading books as and when they need to. The children in Year 1 will also take home Oxford Reading Tree books. Class teachers will manage the exchange of these once it is clear that they have been read to an adult, so please sign or initial so that we know they have read the book at home with an adult. This scheme then continues into Year 2.

Dates for the diary

We will be attaching a list of key dates for the year ahead to our next newsletter. I hope this will be helpful.

Attendance and Absences

Our school gates open at 8:30 and close at 8:45. Please ensure your child is at school within these times ready to register and begin their school day. The children all start their learning programmes as soon as they enter school so if they are late they are missing out. The front door is for children who have had to be late for a particular reason and you will need to sign them in. **Please accompany your child through the main door to sign them in.**

Keeping your children safe is of utmost priority to us. If your child is absent, for whatever reason other than authorised holidays, please telephone the office by 9:00 a.m. If we have not received a message we will, out of courtesy, telephone you to check that all is well. Our new phone system has an absence line for you to leave a message on, please give an indication of how long they will away. If they are still ill after three days please phone again.

Our Curriculum

Our first whole school topic this year is "Getting to know you". You will receive further information about what each year group is doing soon. We will be continuing to use our fantastic outside area as much as possible. As such, please ensure that your child has named waterproofs and wellies in school every day. If you have any problems don't hesitate to see your child's teacher.

ParentMail

Our ParentMail database is currently being updated and as soon as it is complete we will resume sending out communications in this way, whenever possible. If you do not use this at present but would like to, please collect a form from the school office.

Parent Support Advisor.

Louise Evans, our local Parent Support Advisor will be in school every Monday afternoon from 2:15. Do join her for a cup of tea and a chance to chat about anything you need any help with. You will also be able to meet other parents.

BAT Club

For your information, the car park outside the BAT Club is now closed. This could have an impact on local traffic.

Cathy Davies

Cathy Davies
Headteacher

✂ -----

Curriculum Meetings - Reply Slip

I/we* will be attending the Curriculum Meeting on Thursday 24 September, from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Name/s _____

Child's Class _____

* Please delete as appropriate