

HURSTHEAD INFANT SCHOOL

Newsletter No.4

January 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

Happy New Year to you all! The children have returned to school full of their Christmas holiday news. We are now settled back into the school routine and looking forward to a fun and exciting term.

1. Spring Term dates

Monday 23 rd January	Reception Sea Life Centre visit – Class 9
Tuesday 24 th January	Reception Sea Life Centre visit – Class 8
Wednesday 25 th January	Year 1 visit to All Saints Church
Wednesday 25 th January	Anne Cresswell Parenting Evening 6pm
Thursday 26 th January	Reception Sea Life Centre visit – Class 7
Tuesday 31 st January	Year 1 visit to Macclesfield Heritage Centre
Tuesday 31 st January	Year 2 Mosque visit – Class 2 and half of Class 3
Tuesday 31 st January	Reception Learning Review Meetings
Wednesday 1 st February	Reception Learning Review Meetings
Thursday 2 nd February	Reception Learning Review Meetings
Thursday 2 nd February	Year 2 Mosque visit – Class 1 and half of Class 3
Friday 10 th February	PSA Slumber Parties
Thursday 16 th February	8-40am – 8-55am Thumbs Up Time
Thursday 16 th February	Individual pupil photographs
Friday 17 th February	Birthday Assembly (birthdays 13/2 to 26/2)
	School closes
Monday 27 th February	School re-opens
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day – details to follow
Monday 13 th March	“Toys in School” for Year 1 pupils
Tuesday 14 th March	“Toys in School” for Year 1 pupils
	Year 1/Year 2 Parent Consultation afternoon
Wednesday 15 th March	Year 1/Year 2 Parent Consultation afternoon
Thursday 16 th March	Year 1/Year 2 Parent Consultation afternoon
Friday 24 th March	Red Nose Day – details to follow
Wednesday 29 th March	3-15pm-4pm Open Afternoon (for current parents)
Thursday 30 th March	Year 2 Musical Festival
	Birthday Assembly (birthdays 27/3 to 16/4 inclusive – please advise school if you would prefer a different date)
Friday 31 st March	9am Easter Assembly – led by Reception (Reception parents invited)
	Year 2 climbing wall
	Year 2 “Next Steps” sent home (Year 1 “Next Steps” sent home w/c 17 th April)
	School closes for Easter

Please note: the Infant School will be closed on Thursday 4th May as it will be used as a voting station for the Greater Manchester Mayor Elections. The Junior School will remain open.

Also, please note: the PSA disco date has changed from Thursday 23rd March to Thursday 27th April. Letter and details will follow.

2. Thank You

Thank you all for the parental help and support given at the end of term which made the Christmas productions and parties so successful for everyone. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and grandparents who help in school from washing fruit, to helping in classes and on school visits. Your time and support is greatly appreciated.

3. Curriculum First-Hand Experiences

As detailed in the 'Spring Dates' for your diary, school will continue to be a busy and thriving community with a variety of opportunities for the pupils. The Reception classes will be enjoying a morning at Sea Life Manchester to support and enhance their creative curriculum theme of 'Water'. The Year 1 pupils will be walking to All Saints Church and exploring first-hand the different parts and uses of the building explained to them by Reverend Bacon. They will also visit Macclesfield Heritage Museum where they will enjoy a day discovering the lives of working Victorian children both at school and at home. On March 13th and 14th Year 1 will also be visited by 'Toys in School', which will introduce them to toys from the past and help them to make their own toy out of wood. Year 2 pupils are visiting the Cheadle Mosque during the week commencing Monday 30th January and their creative curriculum theme of 'Mighty Mountains' will conclude with the opportunity to scale a static climbing wall on Friday 31st March, a great way to end the term!

4. Pupil Progress Opportunities

There will be another 'Thumbs up time' on Thursday 16th February 8.40 – 8.55am. This is an opportunity for parents to informally come into school and share, with their child, their books and work and a time to celebrate your child's progress. Allied to 'Thumbs up time' you will receive your child's "next step challenges" on the week commencing Monday 30th January. The "challenges" are the individual targets your child is working on to progress their learning. For Year One and Year Two pupils the challenges will be sent home on Friday 3rd February, for Reception they will be given to parents at the Learning Review Meetings during that week. We hope both initiatives help you to support your child's learning at home.

5. PSA Succession Planning

The current PSA Chairs and PSA Treasurer have informed school and the PSA that they will be stepping down at the end of this academic year when their Year 2 children will be leaving the School. Enormous gratitude and thanks are offered to them for the commitment and time they have given to the School's PSA over the past two years. We are therefore seeking volunteers to undertake the role of Chair(s) and Treasurer in order for the School's PSA to continue. The PSA is a vital part of the School's community and has ensured through the fun events organised, including discos, bingo nights as well as the fairs, that the School is given funds which are spent directly on projects benefitting the children, such as the School's new outdoor play area, known as 'the Hill', and the development of the School's central quad into a 'calm garden'. If you are interested in volunteering please do either contact myself or the current two Chairs – Mrs Wrigglesworth (child in Class 1) and Mrs Scoltock (child also in Class 1). If you are unsure of undertaking the role of Chair please note that the last three committees have been led by two Chairs working together which has proved very successful.

6. Midday Assistants

We have been delighted to recruit some new midday assistants onto our friendly and committed team, providing care and structure for the pupils at lunchtime. We do still have vacancies, the hours are 12.00 – 1.15pm daily, term time only and can be on a part time basis (ie 3 days a week) although 5 days is obviously preferable. If you are interested please do approach myself or contact the school office.

7. Lego Club

The Year 1 & Year 2 classes have been enjoying participating in a Friday lunchtime Lego Club on a sequential rotating basis. It is unfortunate, however, that some volunteers for personal reasons are unable to continue. Thanks should be extended to all those who have enabled the club, much enjoyed by the children, to be maintained. We are now seeking parental volunteers to ensure the club is able to continue this calendar year. If you are able to volunteer school between 12.00 and 1.15 on a Friday (please note: volunteers are rotated so that it does not need to be every Friday) please contact Mrs Susie Garside 07884 190892.

Thank you to all that have and continue to support this club.

8. Sport / P.E Footwear

As mentioned in the September newsletter we are recommending that pupils wear Velcro training shoes rather than black pumps for outdoor games due to the extended sports provision that pupils have been enjoying. Please can parents bear this in mind if replacing out grown pumps in the near future.

9. Water Bottles

We continue to encourage children to drink plenty of water through the school day for health and concentration reasons. Please can parents ensure that water bottles are brought into school daily. The school policy is for water only, not fruit juice.

10. School uniform

During the school year uniform, including school book bags, can be purchased online from www.zenithchildrenswear.co.uk or by completing a school order form which is available from the school office or the school VLE. Orders are returned to school for dispatch directly to your child.

We are all looking forward to a successful and enjoyable 2017 and wish you the same.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in regard to any queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Driscoll
Headteacher