



HEMPSTED C. of E. PRIMARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



"Growing Together in God's Love"

September 2018

Dear Parents, Governors and Friends of the School,

Welcome to the start of the 2018/2019 academic year. The school was quiet during the summer, with no alterations or additions to the premises taking place (for a change!) To those of you new to the school, I wish you a warm welcome. Newsletters are usually distributed at the start of each month – please always take the time to read them as they contain lots of information on what has happened, and is going to happen in school, as well as any other important things that you need to know. Another source of reference for you is the school website – a few people commented in the parental feedback forms that they would like more advance notice of events and we will endeavour to do this through the calendar section of the school website.

START OF YEAR SERVICE AT ST SWITHUNS CHURCH

Once again, we enjoyed a special 'start of the year' service at the church with Rev Nikki Arthy.

Pictured is Year 6 pupil, Leo Powell, dressed in a suit of armour – the armour of God. Nikki talked to the children about how the 'armour' helps us to stand firm against all that is wrong, and stand up for what is right and good. The shield of faith will protect us and the sword of the Spirit is the word of God.

The children finished the service by singing "If I were a butterfly" and we all prayed together for a safe and successful year.

Thank you, Nikki, for the service and we look forward to our church/school partnership supporting our community this year.



RECEPTION CHILDREN'S CHURCH SERVICE

If you have a child in Reception class, then we would love you to join us for a 'Start of Year' church service specifically for the youngest of our pupils. This will be on Wednesday 26th September at 2.15pm. A letter with further details will follow.

CHRISTIAN VALUE FOR THE TERM

This term we will be looking at the value '**SERVICE**'. Words relating to 'servant' and 'service' are central in Christian teaching. Some of the most important prophecies in Isaiah speak of the coming of the 'Servant of the Lord' and his role as a 'suffering servant.' That is why Jesus said that he 'came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.' As a school, pupils and staff will be exploring how they can demonstrate this value in their daily lives. We will consider how we can use our own special talents to serve

others, how serving others helps us to receive as well through the building of relationships, and also how, when we do serve others, it shouldn't always have 'strings attached'!

OUR EXPECTATIONS

Most children thrive in the achievement culture at Hempsted. We aim to create opportunities for all children to achieve their potential. The joy of teaching is to see children adopt values and attitudes, as well as develop skills and learn knowledge. Every year is important from the firm foundation in Reception to the secondary school preparation in Class Six. One aspect of good teaching is to keep each child just outside their 'comfort zone'. Being in your comfort zone can lead to complacency and boredom, whilst too far outside leads to negativity – stress and resistance.



Teachers endeavour to plan learning that is challenging and interesting. But nothing great was ever achieved without self-discipline and enthusiasm. We expect everyone to learn to the best of their ability and in accordance with codes of conduct.

The start of the school year is always a good time to revisit the school 'Golden Rules'. The staff and children wrote these together. We believe that they are good rules for life and we refer to them throughout the entire school year. The Golden Rules are:

- ✚ We always tell the truth
- ✚ We treat everyone with compassion and respect
- ✚ We listen to each other
- ✚ We try our best and persevere
- ✚ We look after our world

Each class also has its own set of class rules, written by the class, for the class. Children are taught that rules are there to keep everyone safe and happy.

We have a number of positive behaviour systems in place to encourage our children to make the school a happy place. One of the central features to this is our house system. Every child is in a 'house', namely Raikes, Kyneburga, Beale and Whitefield. Siblings are placed in the same house and the house that receives the most house points in a term receives a special prize. Last term it was a magic show!



HOME/SCHOOL AGREEMENT

A good partnership between home and school can reap great success. We think that we have a very positive relationship with our school community and, from the response from the recent parental questionnaire, the vast majority of parents feel this too. The annual 'Home/School' agreement was recently sent out and was returned by most very quickly – thank you!! If you haven't returned this, please do so as soon as possible.

OPEN CLASSROOMS

On **Monday 17th September**, you will be able to pop in to school to briefly meet your child's teacher and to see the classroom where your child will be based. For Years 1 to 6 (and afternoon Reception children) this will be from 3.20pm to 3.45pm. For morning Reception children it will be at 11.30am. It is a super chance to say 'hello' and to help everyone put names to faces! Please avoid discussing specific concerns during this – it is worth noting that Parents' Evening this term will be on 15th and 17th October – details to follow.

COFFEE AND CHAT MORNINGS

Whilst on the subject of home/school relationships, please don't forget that we hold weekly coffee and chat mornings. This is proving to be increasingly popular and provides a great opportunity to chat with fellow parents and staff about a whole range of issues regarding family life. The coffee mornings are usually every Tuesday between 9am and 10am in the Lyson's Hall, although there is one in school every 4 weeks.

WELCOME

We have welcomed a new teacher into our staff team. Mrs Bickerton will be job-sharing in Class Four from Wednesday to Friday. She is covering Mrs Hill's maternity leave and will be with us for most of this academic year. I am also happy to tell you that Mrs Hill and her new daughter, Elsbeth, are both doing well!

STAFFING – SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)

For those of you new to the school, the SLT consists of Mr Waller, Mr Davis and Mrs Middleton. As well as teaching, Mr Davis has some non-contact time dedicated to his school leadership role. We work closely with the staff, Governors, pupils and parents to try to make our school the best it can be. We aim to be as open and approachable as possible, and welcome any parent who has any constructive comments about how we can improve the school for the benefit of the pupils and the community.

THANK YOU

A huge 'Thank you' to the parents of last year's class of Year Six who very kindly gave us a new photoboard for the outside of the school. It looks super!

PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the parental questionnaires. Once again, there was a very good response. Overall, the responses were extremely positive. The Governing Body will make a detailed analysis shortly and this will be available to parents on the website. At first reading, there does not appear to be any large areas of concern, but I will work with Governors to address any 'issues' that may have been raised. A phrase used a number of times was how 'staff go the extra mile'. It is lovely to hear that and I have passed on those comments.

RECEPTION CLASS 2018

Our new Reception children begin in groups and on a part-time basis until home and school believe they can sustain the full school day with all its social, emotional and academic demands. Our expectation is that most of the Reception children will be full-time starting from Monday 24th September.

COMMUNICATION

If you're new to the school, and even if you aren't, please remember to read each newsletter carefully. The newsletters will aim to let you know what the classes have been up to, and inform you of any dates or other information that you need to know. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you, please let the office know. We also have our website www.hempsted.gloucs.sch.uk where further information, including current and past newsletters can be found.

In addition,

- Our curriculum outlines provide a synopsis of your child's learning that will take place during the term ahead. Please take time to read them – there may be some activities or visits related to the topic that you could do with your child. Please note that we are no longer sending paper copies of these home – they are available via the class pages on the school website.
- If you need to speak to us, the administration office is staffed from 8am until 4:30pm. The telephone is usually answered but if the telephone is in use it automatically goes to answer phone. Please leave a message, as these are checked regularly throughout the day. Messages for staff will be passed on.
- Emergency messages (eg school closure) and reminders are sent through a text messaging service. Please ensure that you keep contact numbers up-to-date.
- A member of the School Leadership Team (SLT) is usually in the playground in the mornings and at the front of school at the end of the day. The latter is also a time teachers may come out and talk with you.

Please avoid engaging in lengthy conversations with teachers before 9:00am. The teachers must focus on the children who are ready to get to their classrooms and start the day. If you need to talk with the teachers it is best to phone up or call in to arrange a mutually convenient time.

BUMPED HEADS

Still on the theme of communication, if your child receives a bumped head during the day, we will always aim to let you know. In most cases, this will be verbally either at pick-up time, or by telephone. Usually this is simply to make you aware, just in case there are any delayed complications. As an additional safeguard, we may send you a text message as well, just in case we don't get to speak to you later. Please don't be alarmed by the message!

If your child has received a bumped head, then we ask that you look out for the following symptoms:

- headache
- nausea (feeling sick)
- dizziness
- blurred vision

If your child develops these, you should then seek medical advice.

In the case of more serious knocks to the head, we will contact you straight away.

*****CONTACT DETAILS*****

If you have changed your contact details – mobile numbers, land lines, emails – it is vital that we have that information. Please ensure that you let us know!

CLASS COLOURS

Each class is allocated a specific colour of paper which is used for letters which are class specific for example: curriculum outlines, trip information and homework details.

RECEPTION	pale pink	Class 3	red
Class 1	dark blue	Class 4	peach
Class 2	sun yellow	Class 5	orange
		Class 6	green

START OF THE DAY

From 8:50am there is a member of staff on duty. At 9:00am the whistle goes and the children are asked to walk to their lines to begin the school day. **With so many parents/carers on the playground, as well as children, we ask parents/carers to stay on the green carpet area or netball court** so that when the whistle goes the children can walk safely to their lines. **Please do not stand in the line, or amongst the line with the children!** This also allows there to be a clear definition between parental responsibility, 'saying goodbye' and staff commencing their duties. Please keep the yellow hatched 'KEEP CLEAR' area clear so that classes can safely walk to their classrooms.

We always welcome parents into school and we enjoy the interaction that takes place. However, when there are so many of us on the playground (school children, pre-school and adults), we must all ensure that we keep the children as safe as possible.

I appreciate everyone's co-operation with this. Thank you. ☺

ABSENCE / PUNCTUALITY

The vast majority of parents have continued to be conscientious about both. Overall our attendance rates are excellent. We are very proud of this and we strive to maintain these high standards with your ongoing support. Thank you very much.

Please ensure that your child is at school, on the playground, ready for when the whistle blows at 9am.

If your child arrives after the class has entered school they should come into school via the main door and the late book in the office must be completed.

If your child is away through illness, school should be notified after 8am and before 9:30am. Any other kind of absence must be requested in advance and in writing. ***As you know, I am no longer able to authorise any holiday absence during term time.***

Persistent absence and/or lateness have a detrimental effect on a child's education. Such cases will be referred to Education Welfare and may **result in a penalty notice being issued.**

EXHIBITIONS

We are starting the new academic year with an empty display cabinet in the entrance hall! Over the years, we have really enjoyed the children's displays in the entrance hall cabinet. The exhibition can be of any collection that your child has. Over the years we have had a rich variety of exhibitions including various football teams, favourite pop groups, postcards, pandas, cats, loom bands, Dr Who, fridge magnets and fossils. We are looking forward to a

variety of collections this year. **If your child is interested in producing a display, please encourage them to write to Mr Waller.**

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We expect all the children to wear school uniform. We are very grateful for the encouragement and support we receive from parents. Our children's appearance is often praised by visitors and when children participate in class trips. It is important that the children take a pride in their appearance. The uniform is simple and practical. Please ensure that your child wears a **Hempsted school sweatshirt/cardigan**. They are royal blue with the Hempsted logo on. During the day **shoes, not trainers** must be worn.

All children MUST HAVE:-

1. BOYS - grey/black trousers or shorts, white shirt or polo shirt.
Grey, white or black socks.
GIRLS – Winter: grey skirt, grey pinafore dress or grey/black trousers, white blouse or polo shirt.
- Summer: blue & white striped or checked dress.
Grey, white or black socks.
2. School jumpers (round or v-neck) or cardigan with school logo.
3. White T-shirts, white or black shorts and daps for P.E.
4. Draw string bag for P.E. clothes.
5. Book bag with school logo.

Caps are recommended in hot weather.

Key Stage Two children (Class 3, 4, 5 and 6) require a change of clothing and trainers suitable for outdoor games (no jeans or **strappy 'vest' tops**).

- The blue jumpers / cardigans / book bags / PE bags with school logo and other uniform items are on sale at Trutex Gloucester, 99 Northgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2AA, Tel 01452 413339 and online from tesco.com/ues. Trutex holds a good amount of stock, whereas Tesco needs to be ordered. However, the school receives 5% commission from Tesco.

LUNCH BOXES

It is always really good to see healthy snacks and balanced lunches. The children are very knowledgeable about the importance of '5 a day', a varied/balanced diet from the different food groups and not too much sugar or fat.

We have a few rules about what should be provided. Please note:

1. We expect that children will be given food that they normally eat.
2. We do not allow sweets, fizzy drinks or chocolate bars.
3. Children must ask to leave the table and we expect all/most food to eaten.

*****Just to remind you that nuts (including foods containing nuts) are not allowed in school because we have children who suffer from allergies. *****

All Key Stage One (Reception, Class One and Class Two) children have a piece of fruit provided for their snack through the government's 'Free Fruit and Veg Scheme'.

All Key Stage Two children need to bring their own fruit for snack time.

HAIR AND JEWELLERY IN PE

A number of pupils have had earrings over the summer holidays. Firstly, a reminder that only one pair of plain stud earrings is allowed. Earrings should also be removed for PE. If your child is unable to remove their earrings, then you must send them to school with a roll of micropore tape. Also, if your child has hair that obstructs their view when they look down, then this must be tied back. Please send in a hair bobble.

HEMPSTED'S Parent Teacher Association -THE FRIENDS AGM

on Tuesday 2nd October (TIME - 7:00pm) at school.

Once again, the Friends' provided a varied and exciting range of activities last year. This year's Summer Fete was very well attended, including people from the local community and several ex-pupils! All events were enjoyed by many and a substantial amount was raised. We are always looking for extra support and new ideas. Please try to attend the Friends' AGM and think about whether you would like to join the committee.

*****Don't forget to buy your tickets for the circus on Saturday 15th September!!!!*****

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Our Breakfast and After School Clubs are both ready for the year ahead. Both are very popular. If you are interested in your child attending, you must initially contact the school office so that we can add you to the register. Booking of places is now done online via the School Money website, though it is still possible through the school office. The club is located in the 'Blue Room', which is accessed from walking around the Key Stage One side of the building and onto the playground. All communications regarding the club should preferably be made with Mrs Subryan via email(afterschoolclub@hempsted.gloucs.sch.uk) but urgent messages can be relayed through the school office if need be.

*****IMPORTANT: IF YOU EVER NEED TO CONTACT THE BREAKFAST OR AFTER SCHOOL CLUB DURING ITS OPENING HOURS (FOR EXAMPLE YOU ARE DELAYED AT PICK-UP TIME), PLEASE DIAL EXTENSION 38.*****

There was some concern that we had raised the prices for both of these clubs. Please be assured that we gave this a lot of thought before doing this. However, the club has to be self-sufficient, as we are unable to use our delegated budget to fund it. Unfortunately, with the changes in National Insurance contributions and other staffing 'on-costs' the club had started to lose money. Therefore, to enable it to stay open, we had no choice but to raise prices.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The School Council at Hempsted is a very important part of our school. It consists of 8 pupil members from Years 3 to 6, all of whom are elected by their own class. They provide a strong and meaningful link between the children and the staff, and is a formal route where the pupils can make requests and identify any concerns that they may have. Another key role they play is with fundraising. With their classes and your support, a super amount of money for the school charities – Little Princess Trust and Noah's Ark Animal Rescue was raised.

We now need to hold an election for the new Council. Children in Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 who have not been elected onto the Council before can stand as candidates.

Each candidate needs to produce, at home, an 'election campaign' poster. Posters are brought into school, shared with the candidate's class and then displayed. Posters need to be completed and in school no later than **Friday 14th September**.

Election Day is on **Tuesday 18th September**.

Every member of class 3, 4, 5 and 6 is able to vote for one boy and one girl to represent their class on the Council. Staff do not select children to be candidates and they do not vote. The School Council candidates are voted for only by pupils.

For this year, the previous School Council will work alongside the new council for the first few weeks. They had been doing a great job but did not get the chance to finish off their projects because of my absence. Therefore, they will help induct the new councillors and get their project finished.

CLUBS

I am very proud of the number of clubs that the school offers – most of these are offered free of charge by the staff in their own time. However, often parents are not aware of what is on offer because many of these happen during the school day. Below is the list of clubs offered now **or** in the near future. If your child expresses an interest in a club they will receive a letter containing further details.

Further clubs, such as maypole, netball, dance and cricket will be offered during the year. Not every club runs every week. Children will request/receive details before the club starts.

Club	Person in Charge	Day/Time	Where?	Year Groups
Music (Singing & Percussion)	Miss Hughes and Miss Price	Friday lunchtime	IT suite	Y3,4,5,6
Gardening	Mrs Knight	Tuesday lunchtime	Nature Area	Y4,5,6 (Y3 in spring)
Worship Team	Mrs Middleton	Wednesday lunchtime	IT suite	Y3,4,5,6
Recorder Club	Miss Quick	Monday lunchtime	Reception Classroom	Y2
Sewing	Mrs Bickerton	Thursday lunchtime	Y4 Classroom	Y3,4,5,6
Origami	Mrs Price	Thursday lunchtime	Y3 Classroom	Y5,6
Boys Football	Mr Davis	Friday after-school	Field	Y5,6
Knitting	Mrs Dickson	Tuesday lunchtime	Y3 Classroom	Y3,4
Multi - Skills	Atlas Sports	Thursday after-school	Playground	Y2,3,4
Art	Mrs Boulton	Tuesday lunchtime	Y6 Classroom	Y4,5 (max 12)
Science	FizzPop Science	Wednesday after-school (from 14 th November)	Y4 Classroom	Details to follow
Secret Garden	Miss Hughes and Mrs Smith	Thursday after-school	Outdoor Area	Y2
Parachute Club	Mrs Robinson	Monday after-school	Hall	Y1,2

Apologies for this newsletter being a bit 'wordy'. I hope to bring you more of what the children have been doing in the next newsletter! As ever, I look forward to working with you throughout this academic year to ensure that, together, we achieve the best we can for the children at Hempsted.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Waller', with a small flourish at the end.

Mr R Waller
Head Teacher

Important Dates for your Diary

<u>SEPTEMBER</u>			
Saturday	15 th		Grammar School Test day Happy's Circus (gates open 12.30pm)
Monday	17 th	3.20pm	Informal Open Classrooms (Reception morning children at 11.30am)
Tuesday	18 th		School Council elections
Wednesday	26 th	2.15pm	Church service for Reception children and families
<u>OCTOBER</u>			
Tuesday	2 nd	7pm	Friends AGM
Wednesday	3 rd	2pm	Harvest Festival at St Swithuns Church
Monday	15 th	pm	Parent / Teacher Consultations (except Y4)
Wednesday	17 th	pm	Parent / Teacher Consultations
Thursday	18 th	9.20am	Class 2 Assembly TERM 1 ENDS (FOR PUPILS) 3.15pm Parent/Teacher Consultation (Y4 only)
Friday	19 th		INSET DAY – STAFF ONLY
Monday	29 th	9am	Term 2 Starts
Wednesday	31 st		Deadline day for Secondary School Application forms (Y6 pupils)



*eyebrow threading
boutique*

NANCY BHANDAL

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