



Dear Parent/s and Carer/s,

A belated welcome back! It has been good to catch up with many of you on the playground (despite the cold!) and find out how you spent and enjoyed the Christmas holiday. We are back at full pace at school and the children are already working extremely hard in and out of class.



Happy New Year

It was wonderful to see the different Christmas performances at the end of last term and your children made us so proud with their skill, enthusiasm and confidence. We have now welcomed in the new year so I'd like to wish a happy and healthy 2025 to all our community. We discussed making new year's resolutions in our assembly last week and some of the children were inspired to make some of their own. Although we can't promise they will all be taking full responsibility for the tidiness of their rooms, the preparation of dinner or being ready for school in the morning, maybe they will have slightly more appreciation for all that you do at home!



Parking



I need to remind everybody that the roads around the school site do get extremely busy before and after school. The ideal solution is for people to park a little further away and then walk the final part of the journey. However, with everybody leading such busy lives, we appreciate that this is not always possible. Unfortunately, this rush before and after school has all led to a few incidents of careless driving and inconsiderate parking. We have had situations recently where cars have mounted the pavement (where young children are walking) to turn around or have blocked homeowners' cars on their driveways. Neither situation is safe or respectful. Please try to be considerate and leave enough time to arrive, park and walk safely to the school site. Thank-you



Furniture

Having spent some of our recent Inset day clearing some unused furniture from the site, we have a couple of items going spare if they would appeal to anyone.



We have a wooden effect computer desk that is no longer used but could be suitable for someone at home. We also have an electric piano that we do not use in school. The piano is very heavy and is currently stored in the hall. Please let the office know if you would like either of these items before we find other ways to dispose of them.



School Grounds



We hope that the small sections of site-work that were completed over the holidays have eased some of the congestion around the school. Within the school day, it is now safer for moving large numbers of children before and after play, as well as during fire drills. The removal of the low wall (though I know many liked to balance on it!) removes a serious trip hazard as well as making the whole area wider. We will continue to work on developing our outside areas and making all parts of the site more accessible.



Bikeability

Please be aware that Year Six pupils have their Bikeability course during the week beginning the 27th January. On that Monday, all Y6 pupils will be bringing their bikes into school. They will be kept in various locations around the junior playgrounds so that they are accessible for the sessions. Y6 pupils will be reminded that they are to wheel, rather than ride, their bikes within the school grounds. We would be grateful if you could encourage younger pupils to stay away from the bikes on their way into and out of school. Thank-you.



Year Six Prefects

A new term means a new set of Year 6 prefects! We would like to thank our autumn term prefects for their dedication to the role and welcome those who take over for the spring term. We are delighted to inform our community that the following pupils will be taking on the role of prefect for the spring term.

Y6 Mulberry	Y6 Whitebeam
Lyla D	Archie A
Felicity D	João F
Sebastian J	Charlie W
Jada J	Christopher S
Omer K	Isabella B
Shayden Q	Scarlett R-B
Linus R	Sophia P
Pietro R W	Bea D
Thea T	Ellen C

Our prefects really do support us in a whole variety of ways within the school. We are always grateful for the way they handle the responsibility and the pride with which they complete any duties or requests.

Good luck prefects!

After school clubs

Thank-you to all the teachers who have offered up their time to support the pupils by offering a wide range of clubs again this term. To find that extra time and enthusiasm within a busy, demanding job is impressive and makes a big difference to the pupils. With karate, Kicks Dance and the additional offer from Sports Stars, we have a variety of interests covered! Hopefully, there is something for everyone again this term.

Lost Property

We have lots of pupils' jumpers, coats and belongings in our overflowing lost property basket. Please feel free to come and have a look after school any day if you are missing items and we will display it on the infant playground from 3:10pm next Monday (20th January).

Please do try to name all items that your children bring into school as they are obviously all very similar!

North Heath at Sunrise

One of our parents sent in this lovely photo taken of the school early in the morning. I'm sure everyone who was up early enough saw the amazingly vibrant colours that morning. It looked quite unnatural but really very beautiful and it seemed a shame not to share it with you all.



Thank-you to Mrs Wilson for sending us the photograph of a very different-looking North Heath.

A Safe School Site

I need to give a quick reminder about before and after school times. Firstly, even though we love pets, we do not allow any dogs on site (even carried!) As the site is particularly busy, we ask for no bikes or scooters to be ridden as they are more likely to cause accidents – unfortunately, this also includes speedy pre-school age pupils. Finally, pupils should already be aware that they cannot play ball games before or after school on any of the playgrounds. We are losing quite a bit of equipment to this which leaves us even more under-resourced at playtimes. Stray balls at this time can also cause accidents or injury and we are working hard to minimise the risk. As ever, we thank-you for your support with this.

New Family Members

We are aware of one of our pupils who recently became a 'Big Brother' in his family. As a school, we would like to celebrate these important events in children's lives so please do let us know (through class teacher or office) if and when your family grows! It is easy to miss these things when school is so busy but obviously, they are hugely important, and life-changing, to those directly involved.

We have our parent consultation evenings this term on Tuesday 4th February and Thursday 6th February and the online booking forms are open so please make sure you sign up to find out more about your child/children's progress. Any other queries you have, please come and find me on the playground or book an appointment. In the meantime, we look forward to ever increasing hours of daylight and the hope of warmer weather to come!

Yours sincerely

Nicky Chesshire (Headteacher)

Upcoming dates

New dates in blue

JANUARY			
Monday	20	Lost Property displayed outside school	
Monday	27	All day - Y6 Bikeability begins	All Y6 pupils
		4:00-5:30pm netball team	Y5/6 netball competition at the Bridge
Tuesday	28	9am-10am	YR parent class visits (please sign up)
Thursday	30	9am-10am	YR parent class visits (please sign up)
FEBRUARY			
Tuesday	4	9am-10am YR 12:45-2:45pm Y6 3:40-6:10pm YR-Y6	YR parent class visits (please sign up) Y6 Cross Country Team competition Parent Consultation Evening 1
Thursday	6	9am-10am YR 4:00-7:00pm YR-Y6	YR parent class visits (please sign up) Parent Consultation Evening 2
Monday	10	8:50-9:15am Y4 Larch	Y4 Larch + parents – Stay and Read
Wednesday	12	8:50-9:15am Y4 Lime	Y4 Lime + parents – Stay and Read
Friday	14	All pupils	Last day of half term
Half Term Holiday			
Monday	24	All pupils	Pupils return to school
Tuesday	25	12:30-2:45pm Y4 Rugby Team	Y4 Tag Rugby competition at HRFC
Thursday	27	Y4-6	Young Shakespeare visit
MARCH			
Monday	3	All day – Y3 Hazel	Y3 Hazel visit to Warnham Nature Reserve
Tuesday	4	All day – Y3 Willow	Y3 Willow visit to Warnham Nature Reserve
Wednesday	5	All day – Y2 9:30-12:00pm – Y5 team	Y2 Australia Day Y5 Racquet sports at the Bridge (selected team)
Thursday	6	All day	World Book day – details to follow
Friday	7	9:00-9:30am Y5 Hawthorn	Assembly for parents/carers
Tuesday	11	All day – Y4 6:15-7:00pm – Current Y5	Y4 Viking Day Y5 parents – Fairthorne Information Evening
Thursday	13	9:00-10:00 Y1 Cherry + Chestnut	Assembly for parents/carers + Reading Cafe
Tuesday	18	1:30-3:15pm – Y3 Hazel	Y3 Hazel parents invited for sewing activity
Wednesday	19	10:00am-1:00pm – Selected Y4	Indoor athletics at the Bridge
Thursday	20	9:00-9:30am Y2 Elder + S.Birch	Y2 Assembly for parents/carers
Friday	21	Whole School	Comic Relief - Red Nose Day
Tuesday	25	All day – Y6 1:30-3:15pm – Y3 Willow	Trip to the Natural History Museum Y3 Willow parents invited for sewing activity
Thursday	27	9:00-9:30 Y5 Rowan	Assembly for parents/carers
Friday	28	9:00-11:00 – YR Apple + Cherry	Mothers' Day Assembly for parents/carers
APRIL			
Tuesday	1	12:15-2:45pm Y6 rugby team	Y6 Tag Rugby competition at HRFC
Thursday	3	9:00-9:30 – Y4 Larch & Lime	Assembly for parents/carers
Thursday	3	Pupils' last day	
Friday	4	EASTER Holiday begins for pupils + INSET DAY for all teaching staff	
Tuesday	22	All Pupils back to school	