



21.9.26

Howitt Primary School Newsletter no.2

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well.

Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils following their enjoyable taster day at Heanor Gate Secondary School last week. The children took part in a wide range of exciting and engaging activities and particularly enjoyed spending time in the exciting Science Department. It was wonderful to hear that Heanor Gate staff were very impressed with our pupils and praised them for their excellent conduct throughout the day.

Well done, Year 6! We are extremely proud of the positive attitude, enthusiasm and maturity you demonstrated. You were fantastic ambassadors for Howitt Primary Community School.

Remember coats; As we move into the cooler and more unpredictable weather, please can I ask all parents and carers to ensure that children bring a name labelled coat with a hood to school every day. We want children to be able to enjoy outdoor play as often as possible, and having a coat in school helps us make this happen whatever the weather (unless stormy). Please also note that umbrellas are not permitted on the playground, as they can accidentally cause injuries when children are playing and moving around.

Adults' mobile phones; Just to remind everyone that school is a mobile phone-free zone. This means that **parents and carers should not have their mobile phones** visible while on the playground or inside the school building please. We appreciate that this may be inconvenient; however, it is a measure that schools have in place to help safeguard and protect all children. Thank you for your understanding and support with this important matter. We would be grateful if you could pass this message on to any grandparents or others who come onto the school premises to collect children etc. Thank you.

Attendance including Nursery children; an important part of our work in protecting children involves attendance monitoring. Thank you for always letting school know asap, if your child cannot attend and the reasons why. **We would like to ask our nursery children's parents / carers to begin to do the same please; simply call the office on 01773 713217 by 10am and leave a message with your child's full name, that they attend nursery and why they are absent.** If we do not know why any pupil is absent, we do have to call you and then your emergency contacts to try to find out, as this is part of our safeguarding duty. We may even have to alert the local authorities if we are uninformed or concerned. Thanks very much for always letting us know, we appreciate it!

Junior choir; we have invited all year 2 pupils to join the after school junior choir (new members from years 3-6 are always welcome to join too!) Please return the slip if your child is interested in joining on 23 September. Mrs Webster has lots of exciting events planned.

Parents/Carers Evenings; bookings for parents/carers evenings on 6 and 8 October for pupils in reception – year 6 will be available on Arbor. Please log onto your child/children's Arbor account to book an appointment at 7.00pm on Wednesday 23 September. More information will follow regarding nursery appointments.

Please remember that we are always here to help. If you have any concerns, questions or feel that your child or family needs support, do not hesitate to get in touch. We value our partnership with families and are always happy to listen; *a problem shared is a problem halved.*

Finally, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of the parents, carers and children for making me feel so welcome at Howitt. I am settling in very well and already feel part of this wonderful community. I am feeling extremely positive about our future and look forward to the exciting journey ahead as we continue the Howitt journey together. Thank you for your continued support.

Dates for your diaries;

24 SEPT	Air Ambulance Visit assembly
6 OCT	Parents evening 1 of 2, 3.30 to 6pm. Bookings on Arbor soon!
8 OCT	Parents evening 2 of 2, 3.30 to 6pm
9 OCT	Year 5 and 6 trip; World War 2, Rowsley
15 OCT	Year 5 Parents or carers invited to a Harvest Breakfast , 9.15 to 10.15, our school hall. More details to follow.
Thurs 22 OCT	Last day of term 1 for pupils
Fri 23 OCT	INSET Day, school closed to pupils
Mon 2 NOV	Pupils return to school for term 2
13 NOV	Tough Rower (sports event). Details to follow
16 NOV	Anti Bullying Week
20 NOV	CHILDREN IN NEED DAY – bring or wear Pudsey accessories. Matt Crawford Trust Leader visits our school.
18 DEC	Last day of term 2
4 JAN 2027	First day of term 3

Best wishes

Mrs Alison Spencer, Headteacher

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