



Hurst Green C of E Primary School & Nursery  
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## HURST GREEN NEWS

### FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

It is great to see you all after the summer break as we begin another academic year. We have welcomed the new Reception children to Willow Class and the first week has flown by. All clubs are running and we have settled in to the Autumn term very happily.

We would like to say a big thank you for all the gifts and cards we received from you and the children at the end of the summer term, it is truly appreciated.

The gate opens every morning at 8.40 and closes at 8.55, all children should be in school by this time. Nursery collection time is 3pm, 3.10pm for Willow and Silver Birch and 3.20pm for Maple and Oak class. Please keep drop off and pick up times to a minimum to help keep the car park as clear as we can.

#### Attendance

Over the course of the past few academic years, there has been a growing trend in low attendance nationally amongst pupils in primary education. Reviewing our attendance figures and tracking individual absences, I would like to express my concern at the number of children last year who were absent from school on a regular basis and the number of withdrawn from learning requests relating to avoidable absences such as family holidays during term time.

Whilst we do understand and empathise with the reasons provided for such absences, we are unable to authorise such requests as only exceptional circumstances can be considered for authorised absences and these are extremely rare. Where such absences are unauthorised, it is likely that a fine will be incurred as well as involvement from ESBAS (East Sussex's Education Support, Behaviour and Attendance Service).

We are sensitive to the fact that there are individual stories and contexts behind attendance data and that we understand that it is perfectly normal for children to be unwell and remain off school on occasion. We will always strive to work to support families in improving attendance in any way that we can together.

Over the coming weeks, we will be monitoring the attendance of all children in the school, especially those whose attendance fell below 90% (officially classed by the Department for Education as 'persistent absenteeism') last year and those who were at risk of falling below 90% and into the category of 'persistent absentee' (those under our targeted attendance figure of 95%). If your child's attendance continues to be of concern, a meeting will be arranged with myself and the class teacher to discuss ways to support you to improve your child's attendance.

#### **Why does school attendance matter?**

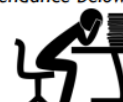
*Missing school can lead to social isolation, weaker social skills and poor mental health.*



*Missing even one day can leave children without the 'foundation' they need to build upon in future lessons as learning is sequential.*



*Statistics show a direct link between long-term under-achievement and attendance below 95%.*



*Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.*

**A child not attending school is considered a safeguarding matter.**



### **Inset Days**

We have staff training days on the dates and the school will be closed to pupils:

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

### **School lunches**

Lunches must be paid for in advance (this does not apply to children in Willow and Silver Birch). If you do not have money on your child's account, the kitchen will provide lunch for one day and then you will be asked to bring a packed lunch until the debt is paid. To put a balance on the account, please follow the instructions below. Please note you need to have a zero balance before you can add money to the account, so all outstanding balances need to be cleared first.

Log in to Parentpay. Select VIEW beside HGCE Primary meals / Choose payment amount / Add to basket / Go to trolley / Pay by debit card. Each time a meal is provided for your child, the kitchen will deduct £2.85.

NB: Lunch boxes must NOT contain nuts; we have a nut free policy at the school.



**PE Days – your child should come in wearing their PE kit on their PE day:**

Willow: Friday / Silver Birch: Thursday / Chestnut: Wednesday / Oak: Monday

**If your child needs to wear PE kit on another day, we will notify you.**

### **Reader Percentages**

Each week, we check reading records to see how many children in each class have read at least 5 times during the week. Please make sure you have completed their records and helped your child achieve this.

Willow have not started yet but will join when they are able to read 😊

**Silver Birch:** 96%

**Chestnut:** 65%

**Oak:** 85%

**We Are Readers**



### **Wraparound Care**

We are full in Breakfast Club almost every day. We have spaces in After School Club on some days, please email the office if you need any sessions and we will do what we can to accommodate.



### **Dates for your Diary for Term 1**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September – School photos

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October – INSET day

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October – KS1 Movie Night

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest assembly

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Non uniform day

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October, HALF TERM.

# WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

## Nursery

It has been really lovely to be back and settling in with all the children. We have had great fun playing in the sand and water, despite it being too hot for us all. We have been reading 'The Waves' and talking about our holidays. Just a reminder to bring a change of clothes in a bag and make sure children have fresh water in their water bottles every day (no squash/juice).

## Willow

We have had a great week settling in and getting to know each other, the transition from nursery to school has been very smooth. The Year 1 children have been excellent role models, showing the reception children how to use our classroom. We are looking forward to the year ahead.

**Head Teacher Award:** All the children in the class for a fantastic first week!

## Silver Birch

We've had the best first week ever in Silver Birch! The children are all classroom monitors and we have settled into our class routine really quickly. We have started our class book 'The Magic Faraway Tree' and have used the adjective word bank to help us with our descriptive writing. In maths we had fun learning about the value of a number and what the parts of a whole number are. Almost everyone read at home every night this week. Well done, keep it up!

**Head Teacher Award Yr 1:** Wilf for excellent effort in Maths and reading.

**Head Teacher Award Yr 2:** Curtis for amazing concentration in lessons.

**Reader of the week:** Freddy

## Chestnut

A fantastic start to the year! In English, we have started writing an adventure story based on the book 'The Stone Age Boy' and are enjoying our class text 'The Wild Way Home' by Sophie Kirtley. We can't wait to read what happens next. In Maths, we have been learning about place value, representing and partitioning numbers up to 10, 100, 1000 and 10000. In History, we have learnt what the Stone Age is and that it is separated into the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic eras. In Science, we have started our topic Rocks and Soils and discussed where rocks come from.

**Head Teacher Award Yr 3:** Imogen for her fantastic attitude towards all her learning.

**Head Teacher Award Yr 4:** Oscar for presenting all of his work beautifully.

**Reader of the week:** Abigail

## Oak

In Maths, we have been learning how to read and write Roman Numerals. We have also been practising halving and doubling numbers to 500. In English, we have talked a lot about the importance of reading; the children have chosen books that they are keen to read and most have read 5 or more times this week - well done. Don't forget to sign the reading records by Friday as that is when they are checked. In Life skills, we have been learning about road safety which is particularly important as some children are walking to and from school alone now. In French, we have been learning how to say the date and re-capping on days of the week and months of the year.

**Head Teacher Award: Yr 5:** Amber for her excellent attitude to her work.

**Head Teacher Award Yr 6:** Fergus for an excellent attitude and for reading 5 times this week - keep it up!

**Reader of the week:** Maddie – who has read ALL summer. Well done!

