



# Heacham Junior School Newsletter

## October 2023

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# Newsletter

Dear Families,

The pupils have made a great start to this year and we are very proud of them. Term has flown past with plenty of opportunities already undertaken at school to promote learning, behaviour and personal development. We were so impressed with the number of pupils who applied to take on additional roles and responsibilities in September – helping to keep up the grounds, being eco friendly, promoting reading, supporting emotional wellbeing of peers – the list goes on! Your contributions at home have made a tremendous difference and we thank you for your help. Promoting good reading habits, using times tables rock stars, setting a daily routine for homework, maintaining good attendance really benefit your children and increases their resilience. This enables them to feel confident which helps promote happiness. So important!

Furthermore, in 2023 our pupils attained some great results in national assessments. In May, pupils across the nation sit Y6 tests called SATS. We are delighted that at Heacham Junior School, our pupils' attained excellent results with 70% achieving the reading, writing and mathematics standard across subjects. This is 11% above the 2023 national average, which was only 59%. In addition, in Y4, our pupils completed the national multiplication test. Results in this test were also significantly above national outcomes by nearly 20%. This means pupils leave our school well prepared for High School and ready for their next steps in life. We aim to sustain these good outcomes and pupil attitudes in future years.

All of us have times when we struggle- as children and as an adult. Therefore, support for learning and wellbeing is also very important to us – we have dedicated pastoral care, forest School sessions, trained assistants and a SEND team that can help you. Please contact us if you have any concerns. We will send a parental questionnaire to you after half term and encourage you to complete it so we can learn about your views and build on these.

Finally - Good news as Ellie Jones has welcomed a beautiful baby boy called Charlie born last week. We send her family all our love and best wishes.

Enjoy the half term break!

Best wishes

*Louise Jackson*

Executive Headteacher

Love of learning, bright futures, happy memories!

## Our Learning

### Year 3 – Oystercatcher

Year 3 have settled well into their new school and have been working incredibly hard! We have been looking at place value and have moved onto addition and subtraction. We are continuing to work on our times tables - any practice you can do at home will help the children enormously. In English, we have written warning tales based on Icarus and are now working on persuasive texts. Whilst in history, we have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians including the importance of the River Nile and being historians understanding hieroglyphics and artefacts. In geography, we have learnt all about special sense including reading compasses and grid reference, which links to our PE topic OAA. The children have also enjoyed starting their new learning in French, as well as creating their own rangoli patterns and baking some Hindu sweets to help us understand Diwali.

### Year 4 – Avocet

Avocets have had a fantastic and settled first half term. In Geography, we have been exploring our local area and developing our map skills such as finding the scale and working out the distance between two places. We also compared modern maps and historic maps; discussing changes we can see. In Art we have been learning about light and dark. We have been drawing still life objects using the 'chiaroscuro' eyes technique to see shadows. We have mixed colours and thought about adding tint, shade and shadow to make our paintings look like real life photographs. Well done for a great start to the year Avocets, keep it up! Looking forward to next term learning about Henry VIII and the Tudors in History and Mediterranean Europe in Geography- we even get to try some of their cuisine!



## PARENT MEETING FOR THE PTA

**THE FRIENDS OF HJS** raise funds throughout the year to pay for fun activities, rewards and gifts for our pupils. Their numbers are very low and we would very much like to see our PTA grow and continue.

We want to invite you to come to our next meeting just to see what's involved. We are keen to welcome members from families in our school. It requires very little commitment **but makes a big difference** to our pupils.

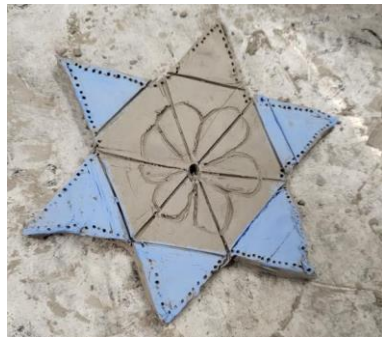
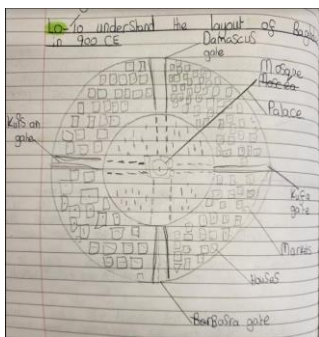
The next meeting will be in the school hall on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 2.45-3.25pm. Please do come along for a taster.

If you would like more information please email [kelly.hall.1@talktalk.net](mailto:kelly.hall.1@talktalk.net) or speak to Mrs Bridge in the office.

## Our Learning (cont'd)

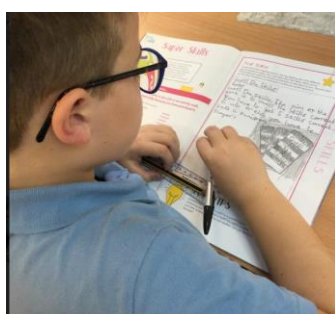
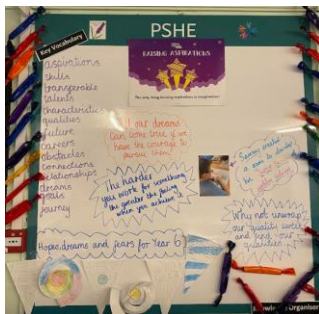
### Year 5 – Albatross

We have had a very busy first half term in Albatross Class learning about some fascinating topics in all of our foundation subjects. In history, we have been learning about the Islamic Golden Age and the creation of the progressive 'City of Peace' Baghdad in 972 CE where scholars would travel from all over the world to learn study and share ideas before being destroyed by the Mongols in 1258. In RE the children now have a great understanding of the importance of Muhammad to Muslims and why the Muslim holy book, the Qur'an is so precious to all followers of Islam. These have linked perfectly with our art unit where we have learnt about the intricate nature of Islamic architecture. The children have designed and created their own clay tiles influenced by the geometric and vegetal patterns in the Islamic style we have been studying. We have completed an exciting class book called 'Wolf Brothe'r where a young boy (Torak) befriends a wolf, forming an unbreakable bond on their quest to find the Mountain of the World Spirit. The children have consistently demonstrated excellent learning behaviors and presentation across the entire curriculum. We are so proud of them for all their hard work during this first half term. We cannot wait to see what exciting things we will get up to next half term!



### Year 6 – Royal Tern

Year 6 have made a great start to the year. This half term in English we have been studying the book 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan which is a beautiful and very moving book with no words. It follows the story of a man who is an immigrant and how he builds a new life for himself and his family! In Art, we enjoyed learning about William Morris and 'decorative arts'. Children designed and printed their own wallpaper using reduction printing techniques. In History, we have been learning about World War One, the causes, how it was fought and the consequences of the war. They have learnt all about the periodic table in Science and conducted an experiment using an air freshener! We have also been taking part in the Positive Footprints scheme where we have been learning about our own qualities, skills and talents and how these could be transferable in our future career aspirations. It has been great to not only see them identify their own qualities and skills but also the qualities their friends have.







## **AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS**

Next half-term we will be offering the following after-school clubs (see times below). Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Clubs run by school staff are free; Clubs run by visitors may be chargeable (see below).

***ALL CLUBS START W/C 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 (except Digital Skills which resumes 31/10/23)***

### **TUESDAY 3.30-4.15pm**

Digital Skills (Parent/Child) with Mrs Hunt and Mr Agate - open to all x 20 spaces (started 17/10/23)

Y34 Christmas Singing with Mrs Clemente – x 16 spaces (starts 14/11/23-12/12/23)

### **WEDNESDAY 3.30-4.15pm**

Y56 Forest School with Miss Morgan – x 12 spaces (starts 15/11/23 – 13/12/23)

Y56 Indoor Climbing with Mrs Enters – x 10 spaces (starts 15/11/23 – 13/12/23)

### **THURSDAY 3.30-4.15pm**

Christmas Crafts with Miss Kissock – open to all x 12 spaces (starts 16/11/23 – 14/12/23)

Clubs end at 4.15pm. Pickup is from the back playground. If your child is unable to attend any sessions, you must inform the office by email or telephone beforehand. We are not able to accept messages via the child.

***To apply for a space please email [office@heachamjunior.co.uk](mailto:office@heachamjunior.co.uk) and state the following:***

**I give permission for (Child's Name) to attend the following clubs**

**Club Names:**

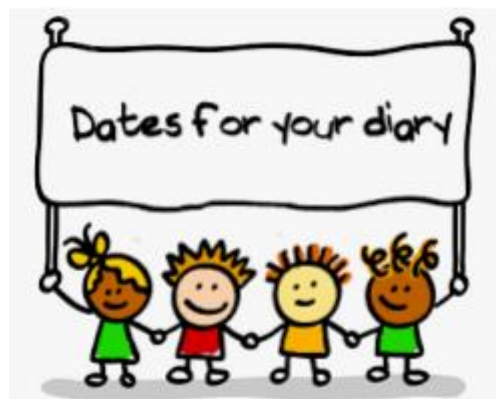
**Medical Conditions:**

**Emergency Phone:**

**Name of parent giving permission:**

**My child will be (select one): Collected or Walk home:**

***Please note that children in Y34 must be collected by an adult***



Swimming every Wednesday morning  
Music Tuition every Monday afternoon  
Please check PE days with your class teachers

### 23/10/23 HALF-TERM

30/10/23 Music Tuition resumes  
31/10/23 Parent Meeting PTA Taster 2.45pm  
31/10/23 Starter Band resumes  
31/10/23 Digital Skills resumes  
06/11/23 Parents' Evening  
08/11/23 Parents' Evening  
10/11/23 Hilltop Installment Due  
15/11/23 Y5 Remembrance Rehearsal @ Springwood AM  
15/11/23 Y5 Remembrance Performance @ Springwood  
16/11/23 KLTFB Boys' Cup  
17/11/23 KLTFB Girls' Cup  
17/11/23 Children In Need (details to follow)  
20/11/23 Cross Country Finals this week date TBC  
22/11/23 Music Performance to parents @ Smithdon  
27/11/23 Last Music Tuition this year resumes in Jan  
27/11/23 Tag Rugby  
27/11/23 Y6 Chemistry Kitchen  
08/12/23 Panto Performance at HJS

### 21/12/23 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

03/01/24 Staff Inset Day  
04/01/23 Children return to school  
02/02/23 Hilltop Installment Due  
12/02/23 Professor Pancake PSHE Performance

### 19/02/23 HALF-TERM

28/03/24 Staff Inset Day

### 29/03/24 EASTER HOLIDAY

12/04/23 Hilltop Installment Due  
15/04/24 Children return to school  
06/05/24 Bank Holiday

### 27/05/24 HALF-TERM

03/06/23 Hilltop Final Balance Due  
24/06/24 Hilltop Residential 3 days

### 22/07/24 SUMMER HOLIDAY

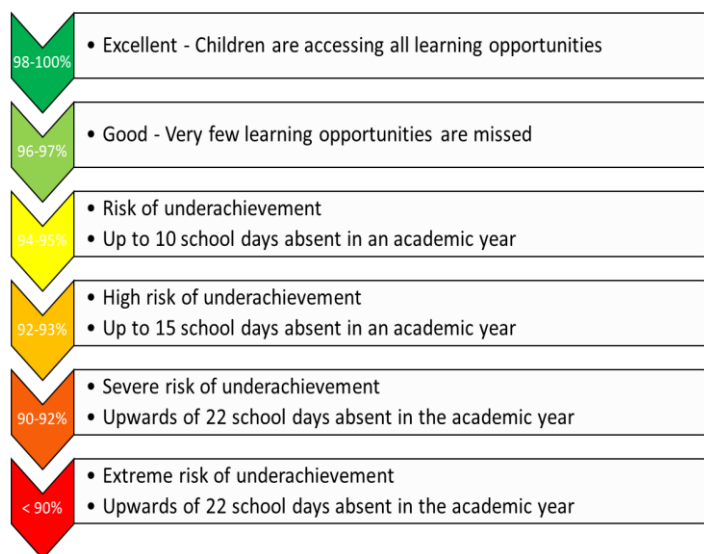
Copies of any menus, trip letters, previous newsletters can be found on our website <https://www.heachamjunior.co.uk>

## The importance of good attendance

The Government strives for **every pupil to achieve 97% attendance**. Every day away from school is a day away from learning and this can have an impact on a child's education and future accomplishments.

We want every child to enjoy school and achieve their potential in education and life beyond. We are always here to talk through any issues and help find solutions. Parents are always a phone call away if a child is too ill to continue their day, please encourage them to try to give the day a go, children often feel much better once they are in class.

The Government has issued new attendance guidance and targets to all schools, you may receive regular texts informing you of the number of days that your child has been absent in a term/year. The Government hope that this personal approach will make parents more aware of how the odd day adds up and help keep you informed.



## Attendance Matters



## Equality and Diversity Pledge

**H - Heacham Junior School's Equality & Diversity Pledge**

**J - Justice for all students**

**S - Skin makes no difference**

**P - Prejudice will not be tolerated**

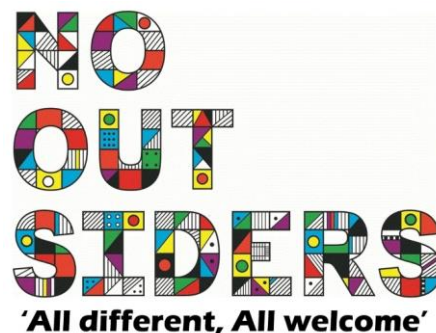
**L - Let everyone have equal rights**

**E - Everyone should be respected and treated equally**

**D - Differences are important and should be respected**

**G - Grow together**

**E - Everyone is always welcome**



## Parents' Evenings

Our autumn term parents' evenings will take place on Monday 6th and Wednesday 8th November between 3:30PM and 6:00PM. These will be face to face by appointment in the hall.

Please message the staff listed below on Class Dojo to say whether you prefer a meeting between 3:30-5pm or 5pm-6:00pm and on which day. We will do our very best to accommodate your preferences.

Please message:

Year 3 Oystercatcher Miss Kissock

Year 4 Avocet Miss Cornwell

Year 5 Albatross Mr Agate

Year 6 Royal Tern Ms Enters

Teachers will allocate you a time and send you this information in a Class Dojo message during w/c 30th October.

Meetings will take place in the hall, please come to the main entrance and make your way through to a seating area in the hall. Teachers will be able to share English and Maths books.

\* Subject to changes \*



## PRIMARY SCHOOLS - Term Dates 2023-2024

September 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Key: White dates – school open to pupils  
 Orange dates – pupil holiday  
 Purple dates – staff training day  
 Red dates – bank holiday

Staff training days are – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 as whole training days.  
 Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 is disaggregated.

## Swimming Rota

May be subject to further changes

SWIMMING 2023-2024						
Wk No.	Date	Class/Year		Wk No.	Date	Class/Year
7	01/11/2023	Albatross		19	13/03/2023	Avocet
8	08/11/2023	Albatross		20	20/03/2023	Avocet
X	15/11/2023	CANCELLED		21	27/03/2023	Avocet
9	22/11/2023	Albatross		X	03/04/2023	Easter
10	29/11/2023	Albatross		X	10/04/2023	Easter
x	06/12/2023	Pool Closed		22	17/04/2023	Avocet
x	13/12/2023	Pool Closed		23	24/04/2023	Oystercatcher
x	20/12/2023	Xmas		24	01/05/2023	Oystercatcher
x	27/12/2023	Xmas		25	08/05/2023	Oystercatcher
x	03/01/2024	Xmas		x	15/05/2023	SATS - NO SWIM
11	10/01/2024	Albatross		26	22/05/2023	Oystercatcher
12	17/01/2024	Albatross		x	29/05/2023	Half-Term
13	24/01/2024	Albatross		27	05/06/2023	Oystercatcher
14	31/01/2024	Albatross		28	12/06/2023	Oystercatcher
15	07/02/2024	Avocet		29	19/06/2023	Oystercatcher
16	14/02/2024	Avocet		30	26/06/2023	Oystercatcher
x	21/02/2024	Half-Term		31	03/07/2023	Royal Terns
17	28/02/2024	Avocet		32	10/07/2023	Royal Terns
18	06/03/2024	Avocet		33	17/07/2023	Royal Terns

Swimmers leave at 11am and return for lunch at 1pm. They need a one-piece swimsuit/trunks, towel, waterproof bag (hat and goggles are optional). Earrings must be removed.

**The children would benefit from a good breakfast and a morning snack on the days that they swim.**



## **Vouchers for Free School Meal Eligible Pupils – April 2023 to March 2024**

**Support has been extended until March 2024** for pupils eligible for means-tested Free School Meals (FSM). Families who are eligible for Free School Meals will receive Edenred vouchers for April to August next month and then more in September. The Vouchers can be spent at many major retailers including supermarkets.

**Families in hardship and needing wider support** In addition to the offer of FSM vouchers for eligible families, there is support available for families who are facing hardship and need support. Anyone experiencing hardship may be able to receive support through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS), which may be able to provide support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items to families experiencing hardship. Families may get in touch with NAS via their website which includes an online application form, or they can call **0344 800 8020**.

**<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-for-living-independently/money-and-benefits/norfolk-assistance-scheme>**

### **Have your circumstances changed recently? You may be eligible for Free School Meals.**

The school receives funding for each child who comes under Pupil Premium (including free school meals), so it is worth applying even if you don't have school meals!! You can apply online

<https://fiso.norfolk.gov.uk/synergy/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx/>

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk?fbclid=IwAR181hWbnsrWnVeC-KZ31j-HfjFmGLwKL7zsv9QVbkEfY1uKETvz0cDSlcQ>