

Hexton JMI School Newsletter

Spring 2023: Issue 1

Headteacher's message

It's the end of our first full week back and what a fantastic week it's been! The weather has been dreary at times, but it hasn't stopped the children from smiling and they have all been so busy every time I've dropped into classes.

On Thursday, I carried out maths visits. I looked at books, chatted to pupils and joined lessons. There is a lot to be proud of in our maths offer at Hexton! Children are taking a much more active role in maths lessons, they are using practical resources to help them to access their learning and they are engaging in daily reasoning. Learning behaviours are much stronger too, with pupils more able to accept mistake-making as part of the learning process. Books are well-presented, and teachers plan and teach 3 lessons concurrently so that everyone is working at the appropriate level for their age. Next, we will further develop oral reasoning, enhance our differentiation for our more able pupils and plan further opportunities for our children to work independently. I am so pleased to share with you the strong curriculum offer in maths that teachers are working hard to develop all the time.

Our classrooms have been undergoing some improvements this week, too. I will make sure to get some pictures to share with you on social media!

Today was our first 'Frothy Friday.' Thank you to all the parents who stopped for a coffee and a chat. After today's success, I will make sure we have a tasty treat to go with our coffee for next week. Do come and pick up a takeaway drink next week if you don't have time to stop.

This week's letters

Cool Milk letter and leaflet, Winter health update.

Dates

* £1 donation optional

Date	Event
Sun 15 th Jan	Deadline for application to primary schools
6 th -12 th Feb	Children's mental health week
Tue 7 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Fri 10 th Feb	HPA Valentine's Disco 3:15-5:15
13 th -17 th Feb	Half term
Mon 20 th Feb	INSET day (no school)
27 th Feb-3 rd Mar	Book week
Sat 29 th Apr	Spring Fayre 12-3
Thurs 2 nd Mar	World Book Day*
13 th -17 th Mar	STEM week
Fri 17 th Mar	Red Nose Day*
Thu 30 th Mar	Sponsored walk & Easter Egg Hunt
3 rd -14 th April	Easter Holidays
Mon 17 th Apr	INSET day (no school)
Mon 17 th Apr	Primary School Allocation Day
Mon 1 st May	Bank holiday
Mon 8 th May	Bank holiday
Fri 26 th May	INSET day (no school)
Sat 27 th May	HPA ball TBC
Sat 10 th Jun	HPA Mad Hatter's Tea Party TBC

Foster Caring

At Nexus Fostering based in Ampthill, we're looking for **local people like you** to become foster carers. By providing a loving and stable home environment, you can support the increasing number of children and young people in Hertfordshire who cannot live in their family homes. Not all children require long-term care. We also need foster carers for short-term placements, respite care, and to provide temporary homes to support young parents and their babies. So, if you have a spare room and are ready to change lives, come to our FREE event on Saturday 21st January with special guest Safari Stu! It's the perfect opportunity to find out how you can help a child in your area. To reserve your space call 0800 389 0143 or email Rebecca on rebeccar@nexusfostering.co.uk.



Mighty oaks from little acorns grow...



Golden Ticket Winners

Congratulations to our 'Golden Ticket' winners for showing the school values. These children will have a tea party with Mrs Squires every Friday afternoon.

Acorn class: Oliver
Oak class: Freddie, Joe



Please send in any achievements outside school so that we can celebrate them each Friday.

Weekly Sports Star

Congratulations to our sports stars:

Acorn: Lily
Oak: Ed



Both showed some of the Hex 6Rs in their PE lessons this week. Mr Miah has been very impressed with Hexton pupils since starting with us this term.

House Points

Each week children collect house points in school. Our target is 750. The total number collected so far this term is **219!** Only 531 to go until a whole school reward...

HOPE Study

The University of Cambridge has carried out a study on the impact of SEND provision in schools on health outcomes for children and young people. The results have now been published and, for anyone interested, can be found [here](#).

100% Attendance

Congratulations to all the children who have achieved 100% attendance this week, coming to school every day, on time.

Ed, Oliver, Finley, Freddie, Nancy, Grace, Jack, Evie, Lily, Joe, Carter, Eliza, Iris, Hugo, Roman, Ben.

Whole school attendance this week: **93.5%**

Governor snapshot: Karen Ireland

My name is Karen Ireland. I am a governor at Hexton school, I am retired and live in Shillington. I'm really enjoying the fact that retirement allows me to spend more of my time walking our dog.

I have been in primary education all my working life, and at one point was headteacher at Hexton for seven years.

I enjoy being outdoors and have a (scruffy) allotment in Shillington. I like swimming and walking. Next year my husband and I are going skiing again for the first time in three years, so we are excited about that. Let's hope the knees hold out!

Timetable

There have been a couple of changes to our timetable this term, to enable teachers to fit more maths and English into their morning sessions. PE days are now Mondays and Fridays, and Daryl from SFCF will be with us on Thursday afternoons.

Outdoor learning

We plan to offer outdoor learning to all children every week, whatever the weather this year! As a result, we would like all children to bring a change of shoes to school. Wellies are great if you have them, with indoor shoes for them to change into. We do not expect you to buy new wellies, so old shoes are fine, as long as you are happy for them to get wet and muddy. Children may come to school in their outdoor shoes and leave their indoor shoes at school.

Curriculum

This week, children have started their new topics, using our global curriculum resource, Dimensions. Acorn class's topic is 'Children's Champion: The Story Of Thomas Barnardo.' Oak class's topic is largely science based this half term and is called, 'May The Force Be With You.'

Teachers are currently working on curriculum newsletters, which will be sent out with next week's newsletter. These will outline what children will be learning this half term. New long term plans will also be on the school website by February half term, which will outline a 3-year cycle in Acorn and a 4-year cycle in Oak. Please do chat to us about Dimensions if you would like to know more.



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