

Hexton JMI School Newsletter

Spring 2023: Issue 2

Headteacher's message

This week our feet have barely touched the ground at Hexton JMI!

On Monday, we started off by learning about Chinese New Year, which will be celebrated on Sunday 22nd January. Children learnt where China is, some of its prominent features and how New Year is celebrated each day.

On Tuesday, the KS2 staff went to see a maths lesson at another school as part of their 'Teaching for Mastery' training. This was very motivating and they came back buzzing with ideas. The EYFS and KS1 team have been to see two effective EYFS settings to give them ideas how they can develop their environment even further. They are a very dynamic team and have, again, come back with lots of ideas for how to facilitate active learning in all three year groups.

I enjoyed spending a morning teaching each class this week. It is so lovely to see the progress they are making and how their confidence has blossomed since I was last in each class.

In Oak class this week, the children have started their new texts, 'The Secret of Black Rock' for Y3/4 and 'The Arrival' for Y6.

In Acorn, they have designed their own monsters to write an alternative version of the Gruffalo and have made shoe box foster homes as part of their 'Barnardo's' topic.

This week's letters

Curriculum newsletters (Acorn and Oak), Family Lives Spring programme, Hitchin Netball club.

Dates

* £1 donation optional

Date	Event
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*
Fri 24 th Mar	Reports out to parents
Mon 27 th and Tue 28 th Mar	Parents' Evenings time TBC
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

Age-appropriate content

There was an incident reported this week involving one of our children having access at home to content that is rated 15. Ratings apply to films and games, and often hint that there may be violence, swearing or sexual content. Please do regularly check your children's devices so that you are sure they are accessing only age-appropriate content, and talk to them about what to do if they come across something that scares them. Some of the conversations that arose from the content being watched has frightened some of the younger children in classes. Our teachers are covering this in PSHE, but it is always good to have open conversations about this at home, too, so children know we are all on the same page.



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: Carter
Oak class: Evie, Finley



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

Weekly Sports Star

Congratulations to our sports stars:

Acorn: Gracie
Oak: Clark



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.

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, Isla, Grace, Jack, Lily, Joe, Carter, Clark, Eliza, Iris, Lillie, Roman, Ben.

Whole school attendance this week: **91.9%**

House Points

Each week children collect house points in school. Our target is 750. The total number collected so far this term is **445!** Only 305 to go until a whole school reward...

Curriculum

Alongside this newsletter, you have received Acorn and Oak's curriculum newsletters which outline what your children will be learning in their new topics.

This week I looked at children's English books. I talked to the children about their learning and they told me what they liked about their learning. Generally, book are well-presented and success criteria are well-used. We will be increasing our grammar focus this term to help children embed it in their independent writing.

Skills for Parent & Carers of Children with Eating Disorders

First Steps ED are offering 4 week 'Skills for Carers' workshops, they are full of practical tips, scenarios and case studies. This series is designed to help carers develop self-reflective, caregiving skills to role model confidence, compassion and courage. The aim is to offer attendees the knowledge and ability to be an important part of supporting a loved one. Sessions are delivered online (via Zoom) over 4 weeks and following the first session, the team will close the group to ensure that the parents and carers in attendance can develop a positive peer group through the entire four-week programme. These courses are Free of Charge.

To self-refer, click [here](#) or contact info@firststepsed.co.uk for more information.

Indoor shoes

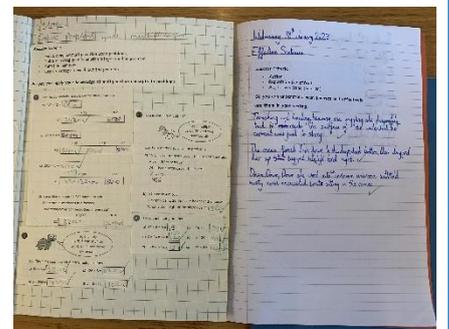
A reminder please, to provide a pair of indoor shoes or plimsolls for your child so that they can spend time outside whatever the weather without getting their shoes all muddy. If your child wears indoor shoes to school, please provide old shoes, boots or wellies that are ok to get muddy outside.

A week in photos



In Acorn class, they have lots of lovely activities planned for their busy fingers session when they first come into school (left).

Examples of Oak class math and English (right), which are both beautifully presented.



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