

HPFS Primary Newsletter

Friday 7th April 2017



Happy Easter to you all! We have had a busy term, with lots of hard work going on. Recent assessments have shown a lot of progress from many of our children, a testament to their hard work, the involvement of you as parents and carers and the dedication of the staff. Well done to everyone!

Growth Mindset:

As you know, we have been discussing Growth Mindset, including "the power of yet" – we can't do it YET! Children have been encouraged this term to be as positive as possible about their challenges. After Easter we will be going back to the idea of a weekly value that we will introduce at the beginning of the week in assembly and reward on a Friday.

Recruitment:

Some of the children will have come home over the last week or two and talked about being taught by a new teacher for half an hour or so, or being involved in asking questions to grown-ups. As a growing school, we have started to look at our staffing for the next academic year, in order to get the best members of staff. This is going well, and I will keep you informed as contracts are signed. If you know of any families who are thinking of moving children to our school in September, into Years 1-5, please ask them to get in touch with me on rhughes@heyfordparkfreeschool.org as it will really help my planning to know how many new children to expect!

Thank you...

...to Shaan's Mum and Dad, who are both dentists and who came to talk to Years 3 and 4 about their teeth. The children asked some interesting questions (although I gather there was rather a lot of interest in the idea of singing dentists!) and were fascinated by the discussions. Our visitors have left us some teeth which have been submerged in various solutions (including coca cola) for us to see what happens to them.

Attendance...

...for last week was 97.5%. Well done to everyone!

Nursery Update:

On Wednesday and Thursday this week I sent out information to any families that I know of on our register of interest for Nursery. Families will have received a letter, a booking form and a copy of the Nursery Admissions Policy (if you haven't, please let me know in case there's a problem with the address I have for you.) The next step is for families to return these to us so that we can get children booked in to our Nursery. We are attaching a letter with information, a booking form and a copy of the Admissions Policy to this email – if you know of anyone else who is interested, please do pass this on to them. We have set up a specific Nursery email address for enquiries which will be managed by myself and Jen Walker:

nursery@heyfordparkfreeschool.org

Uniform Reminders:

- Long hair must be up at all times
- Summer uniform may be worn after Easter. This is grey shorts to replace trousers or a green gingham summer dress. The shorts must be proper uniform fabric, not sports shorts. Winter uniform can still be worn all the way through the year, but must be smart.
- Thank you to those of you who have made an effort with uniform recently, especially sports uniform. Please remember that the sports jumper is a black jumper with a school logo.

Maths:

Years 3 and 4 and also some of the Year 2 students took part in some Maths activities on Thursday. This was led by the Happy Puzzle Company and children had the chance to work in groups to solve puzzles, tackle problems, play games and develop their strategic understanding. Children really enjoyed their time doing this, and it fed into the idea of Growth Mindset – we can do it, even if we can't do it yet. Thank you to the Friends of Heyford Park Free School for paying for this, and therefore by extension to all of you who have supported the FoHPFS events. Thank you too to Mrs Handley for organising the day.

Reception parents:

Over Easter, Mrs Walker asks that you gather some evidence of independent writing – a letter to thank a relative for an Easter egg, a postcard if you go away, a shopping list, a story... You might want to ask children to write what they remember about the Easter story – you might be surprised what they remember!

Art Aprons:

We are very short of aprons for Art. When we painted last week, a couple of children got paint on their shirts, for which we apologise. Over the break if you could locate an old over-sized t-shirt or shirt that can be worn over uniform, please send one in so that we can make sure that all children are covered during painting activities, not just our youngest pupils. Thank you.

Movie Night:

A huge thank you to all the volunteers from FoHPFS and to the staff who stayed to for the movie night last night. The children enjoyed "The Secret Life of Pets" and the popcorn and hot dog provided for them. This event raised over £500 for the school. Thank you all for your support.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 7th April (today): Last day of this term. Wraparound finishes at 4pm.
Teacher Training Day (pupils not in school): Monday 24th April
Tuesday 25th April – school re-opens for pupils
Wednesday 26th April – Reception Trip to Woburn Safari Park

Have a lovely break and a good rest! Mrs. Hughes