



“To enable, encourage and equip all children to achieve their best through an inspiring and nurturing environment.”

01 February 2024

General update and important reminders

Dear Parents,

February has arrived and it has been an excellent start to the year so far. We have had several visits this term from prospective parents interested in joining the Hemington family, as well as visits from school governors and Trust staff. All have commented on what a warm environment we have and how well-mannered and pleasant children are to speak to. Please continue to spread the word about what a wonderful school we are!

Fundraising update

Following our Christmas Gift Shop event, we managed to raise £150, which will go towards buying a selection of exciting new library books. Thank you to all who supported this and donated gifts.

The Dorothy House Elf Run raised just over £200, which will be greatly appreciated by the charity. Well done to all the children for taking part, including preschool!

Homework expectations

It is important that children develop the habit of practising key skills, ‘little and often’. This is especially important for reading and maths. We rely on support at home to give children sufficient practice. Fluency in reading and numeracy is critical to childrens’ confidence and ability to access the rest of the curriculum. We encourage children to read to an adult (or independently once very fluent) as regularly as possible: aim for 3-5 times a week. Please simply initial and date your child’s reading record. Reading records are checked daily.

Likewise, we use Doodle Maths to develop children’s fluency and confidence in maths. The programme adapts to each child’s attainment in maths and provides just the level of challenge needed. Please try to ensure children practise this just 10 minutes a day, ideally 2 or 3 times a week as a minimum.

Uniform expectations

Just a little reminder that on non-PE days, children should wear school uniform and black shoes. Please ensure that long hair is tied back. Children are not allowed to wear jewellery other than plain ear studs or to use nail varnish.



Hemington

Primary School

School drop off

The school day is from 8:45am to 3:15 am. The school gates open at 8:35. The register is taken at 8:45am. Please ensure that your child is in school on time to start lessons at 8:45am. If a child arrives after 8:45am, this is marked on the register as late.

Thank you for your help with parking, which has been greatly eased by the rolling drop-off for children that are confident enough to go into school independently. Please do NOT park outside Jubilee Cottages as this blocks access for residents and can result in large vehicles being unable to pass.

School forum

Our children and staff meet in our 'school forum' each term to discuss how we can improve the school. This year they have already chosen what they wish to aim for as their whole school reward for earning 'Dragon Tokens' and chose the playground equipment that we purchased in the autumn term. Last Thursday the children suggested the formation of 3 community groups:

- The Wombles: whose mission is to tidy and pick up those things 'everyday folk leave behind'.
- The Herbs: gardening enthusiasts to look after our flower pots and flower beds.
- The Toy Box Tidiers: who make sure all our playground games and equipment are put away tidily at the end of each week.

Our community groups are now up and running - and very enthusiastically looking after our school site.

Upcoming events

5th - 11th February: Children's Mental Health Week. The theme of the week is '**My Voice Matters**'. We will take part in a range of activities based around the book *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst.

Tuesday 6th February: Safer Internet Day

Thursday 8th February: Express Yourself Day. As part of Children's Mental Health Week, children (and adults) are invited to come dressed as they wish. Yes, children can dye their hair/ wear nail varnish! But please make sure it can be washed out/ removed for school the next day.

12th - 16th February: Half Term

27th and 28th February: Parents Evenings - KS1 and KS2 (preschool staff will be in touch with parents to arrange a separate opportunity to meet)

Thursday 7th March: World Book Day

Best wishes,

Alun Randell
Headteacher