

Newsletter 5

16th November 2018

Mental health and wellbeing - A key priority at HCJS

Schools are facing challenges like never before. Ever changing curriculums, exam standards, inspection standards all require us to do more with less. Yet, I believe schools and the people within them have the most important job in the world, teaching and supporting those who will one day go on to run it.

One of our key aims for 2018/19 is to create a sustainable, long-term wellbeing ethos in our school; one that is passed on from every pupil, staff member and even you our parents and carers!

I am sure you are aware from the media, the UK is facing a mental health crisis amongst its young people:

One recent report called the problem a “silent catastrophe” while a survey of teachers labelled it an “epidemic”. But, whatever the language deployed to describe the scale of mental health challenges facing Britain’s young people, it has to be addressed immediately.

Personally, I believe that a fundamental rebalancing of the education system is needed. Wellbeing should be as much of a priority for schools as test results. I have seen at first hand, both in my 20 year career and as a father of a son about to sit GCSEs, the ever rising pressure placed upon our young people in this increasingly demanding and competitive world. We are not immune from the effects here at Haddenham Junior School...

We are seeking a ‘wellbeing’ partner /sponsor to help us with delivering improved provision in this important area. If you work for a business or organisation that has a CSR budget and you would like to consider helping us fund this vital work - please get in touch for a no obligation conversation.

By supporting our work with pupils, staff and parents, you can change the lives of our young people. By embedding resilience and positive habits into their lives, pupils will feel happier and will attain better results.

Be part of a ripple of positivity that will extend throughout our school and out into the wider community!

NO NUTS!

Please remember never to send ANY nuts in to school. We have noticed children bringing in pots of nuts as a snack this week and we really cannot risk the health of our children with nut allergies. There are plenty of other healthy choices for snack time. We cannot reiterate enough how serious this is.

New Willow dome in the pond area

The observant among you may have noticed that a mysterious new structure has appeared in the pond area at the front of the school.

Earlier this year, we were lucky enough to receive a donation from our friends at JNP Estate Agents. With additional support from our wonderful PTA we have used this to pay for a wonderful new willow dome. The dome was constructed by Julian Arkham from Water Willows, Milton Keynes. Their willow is the only Soil Association recognised, organically grown willow in Europe. I’m sure you’ll agree, the dome looks fantastic in the school’s pond area and, because it is a living structure, our pupils can look forward to seeing it change from the beautiful woven artwork it is now, to a mass of new shoots and green leaves come March.

The school's Tree Wardens had a fantastic morning learning about how willow is planted, harvested and woven. They all contributed to the construction and their enthusiasm and behaviour was fantastic. Julian fed back to staff that the group were a credit to the school.

My massive thanks to Miss Phillips who has once again gone above and beyond the call of duty and given up lots of her own time and energy to further enhance our outdoor space.



PTA Quiz evening

Wow what a night! Thanks to all those of you who came along to participate in this event. Competition was stiff, and standards were high. Unfortunately our staff team lost its 'crown' having been triumphant last year. Congratulations to 'Team Happy Birthday' who were worthy winners. We were just a little short - mainly due to my inability to recognise a 'cosmopolitan' or know the difference between a Boost and a Kit Kat Chunky. The evening raised a fantastic £700! All of us at HCJS are, as ever, very grateful to Julie Coombes and her fantastic team of PTA members who organised the whole thing. Well done on a great job.

And finally a massive thank you to Mr Alex Giles who was a truly brilliant quizmaster - providing just the right balance of 'intellectual challenge' and fun! Thank you Alex, we enjoyed it immensely - even if Mrs Tibbs is still cross about being asked to reveal her age!

Parent Consultation Meetings

We hope you have all found our new parents evening booking system a success. Just a reminder that if you have not yet booked an appointment to see your child's teacher, please visit the following link:

<https://haddenham.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>

Bucks Football finals

A couple of weekends ago I accompanied our Year 6 football team to the schools' county football finals in Beaconsfield. The boys did us proud! A narrow semi-final defeat meant that we did not make it through to the regional stage but none the less I was proud of their sportsmanship, commitment and teamwork. Well done to all of the boys who played and thank you to the parents for giving up their Saturday morning.

Year 5 Dodgeball Competition

The Year 5 Dodgeball team had great success at the Sports Partnership competition on Wednesday, coming first place with an undefeated record. With 5 other teams from neighbouring Aylesbury schools, Haddenham set to work to come home with the title. The team used all the tactical skills they had picked up from their extra Stenning Lee practice sessions to strike fear in the opposition. It was a joy to watch the teamwork, communication skills and overall game awareness that all the children showed as well as the respect they showed the opposition and John Colet playleaders.

Thanks as well to Mrs Goldsmith and Mrs Peel who were lucky enough to come along and watch the dodgeball masterclass.



Bucks CC Transport consultation

I know from many conversations with parents over the last couple of years that home-to-school transport for secondary school is a big concern for many of you. Depending on the school that a child attends, the system as it is at the moment benefits some but not others.

Buckinghamshire County Council have launched a consultation to seek your views on some proposed changes to the service

This consultation covers:

- Changing how school transport is provided - Bucks CC are aiming towards a greater integration of school bus services with public bus services
- Only providing free home to school transport to the nearest eligible school, withdrawing historic, non-statutory transport arrangements in Ivinghoe and Ewgham (Iver)
- Introducing transport charges for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 16+

The Council is seeking your views on the draft policy in order to inform a cabinet report in March 2019. It is proposed that if the draft policy is adopted, all new applications will be processed in line with the new policy. The consultation also seeks your views on whether the policy should be phased in for students who already receive transport under the current arrangements.

Please follow the link below to have your say:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=8420>

Naming belongings

Every day we are finding lost items of clothing, water bottles and lunchboxes with no name tags. Please remember to name your children's belongings.

Safety issues

Please ensure that younger siblings do not play on the outdoor play equipment at the end of the day. We have also seen children climbing and walking along the target wall. This is not safe and we would hate to see any children hurt themselves on school premises.

We would also ask that you do not drop your child off in the bus stop in the mornings. This is really dangerous for the children and other road users.

Toilet Usage

Please could we ask parents to refrain from coming in to school to use the toilets at drop off and pick up times. Whilst we realise that sometimes it is an emergency, we have a large number of people regularly coming through to use the facilities at one of our busiest times of day. Thank you for your understanding.

Year 4 Badminton Competition

On Wednesday the Year 4 Badminton team showed off all the skills they've been learning in PE at the Bisi Badminton Competition. Their brilliant performance earned them a place in the regional finals at the end of the year. Well done!

Children in Need

What colourful children we had in school today! Thank you to everyone who gave donations to Children in Need. The children have had a lovely day.



Warm PE Kit

Please ensure that your child has warm PE kit in school as the temperatures are going to start to drop next week. They should have their navy school PE hoodies and navy blue tracksuit bottoms. Thank you for your support with this.

Learners of the Week



Friday 9th November



Friday 16th November

Key Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 20th November 2018	Parent Consultation meetings
Wednesday 21st November 2018	Young Shakespeare Company Visit (Year 5 / 6) Parent Consultation meetings
Thursday 6th December 2018 5.30 - 6.30pm	PGL Meeting for Year 4 parents
Friday 7th December 2018	PTA Jolly Jumper Day PTA Festive Fayre 6pm - 8pm
Tuesday 11th December 2018 1.45pm - 2.45pm	Year 3 Music & Mince Pies event
Wednesday 12th December 2018 6.30 - 7.30pm	Year 3 Music & Mince pies event
Wednesday 19th December 2018	Pantomime trip & last day of term
Monday 7th January 2019	School opens for Spring term