

HCJS Newsletter

Aiming High, Celebrating Success

7th September 2018



Welcome back one and all!

Hello everyone and a warm welcome to HCJS for the 2018/19 academic year. We have been back for two days now and the summer holidays already seem a distant memory—for me at least!

I'd like to start by offering an extra and particularly big welcome to all those of you joining us for the first time. We hope you and your child enjoy being part of our school family and that our time together is happy and successful. Our new year 3 pupils certainly seem to have begun their journey with us in exactly that fashion.

It has been a very busy summer break behind the scenes in school— As I hope you will soon see (and hear from your children) there have been significant improvements to the school environment made during the last 6 weeks. We have 4 super refurbished and enlarged classrooms with the latest interactive screen technology and impressive built in furniture. Lockers for every child, refurbished cloakrooms, an amazing new library space in what was formally the SEN room and a new garden area outside the South area exit door.

It has been a challenging period, particularly at the end of last term when the mess and dust was everywhere yet we were still trying to run the school. My huge thanks go to our fantastic caretaker Mr Thompson who has coped amazingly well with all the disruption and stress. He has hasn't lost his cool once! But in all seriousness, he and Mrs Sharpe in the School Office have been a massive help and have given up far more time than they probably should to help us get the project to completion.

'Pop-in' afternoons

This year, 'Pop-in' afternoons will look a bit different to those of the past. They were always intended for a quick catch-up with the teachers but now that teaching staff are available on the playground each day at 3.25pm, it was felt that the 'Pop-in' as we know it was no longer fit for purpose.

Once during each half-term, where a Parents Evening is **not** taking place, you will be able to come in to view your child's books and wall displays. Please note that these new style 'Open Books' sessions will be informal and merely a chance for you and your child to share what they have been doing. The school will be open from 3.25pm until 4.00pm. The dates for these 'Open Books' sessions are:

Wednesday 17th October 2018

Wednesday 23rd January 2019

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

If you wish to share your child's work with them on any of these days, please enter the school via the main entrance.

School smartness

I would like to respectfully remind you of the school dress code. Please ensure that your child is following the school uniform guidance as written in the Home/School agreement. A quick précis is:

Shirts tucked in (so many children arrive at school with their shirts hanging out)

Suitable school shoes (not trainers or boots for indoor wear)

Long hair tied back

No jewellery (Unless worn for religious reasons) No friendship bracelets or festival bands

P.E. kits must be in school containing shorts, t shirts for summer, plus dark tracksuit trousers and the warm school PE Hoodies for winter. No tights should be worn under shorts during P.E.

No nail varnish or makeup

Your support in this is very much appreciated.

'Gold' success in the Green Tree School scheme

I am delighted to say that we have been awarded a gold award by the Woodland Trust in recognition of our 'green' activities including tree planting, reducing carbon emissions and recycling.

The Green Tree Schools initiative, which has seen almost 10,000 schools sign up since it was launched in 2008 offers the opportunity to bring the great outdoors, wildlife and green issues into the classroom. We are the new owners of a lovely wooden plaque which we have been given as a result of achieving this award. My huge thanks and congratulations to all involved, but particularly to Miss Phillips, our Learning outside the classroom co-ordinator and Mr Rankin, our amazing volunteer who gives up so much time to help the tree wardens improve the school grounds.

Meet the Teacher evening

We would like to invite you to come into school and meet your child's teacher on Wednesday 19th September 6.30–7.30pm. It will be a great opportunity for you to see your child's classroom and find out more about the curriculum we have planned for this term.

PTA

Sadly as the older children move on to new schools, a number of our PTA members have moved on this year too. A huge thanks to all of them particularly Julie Coombs, Rachael Bamford and Karen Sweetman for the time they have spent on the committee. We now have vacancies for a Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. We will also need lots of general help to run our exciting events like the Festive Fayre and Family Bingo. Please do have a think about whether you have time to offer, it doesn't have to be a huge commitment. If you would like to join our PTA please email haddenhampta@gmail.com.

After School Clubs

We have an excellent selection of lunchtime and after school clubs available again this term. A full schedule will be sent out next week and most clubs will commence week beginning 17th September.

Key dates for your diary

Tuesday 11th September	Secondary Transfer Prep Test
Thursday 13th September	Secondary Transfer Test
Wednesday 19th September	Meet the Teacher Evening 6.30–7.30pm
Friday 21st September	Jeans for Genes day — Wear your jeans to school for £1 (full mufti)
Monday 21st— Weds 26th September	Year 5 PGL Residential trip
Friday 28th September	Macmillan Cake Sale
Friday 12th October	School Nurses in school—Flu immunisations
Tuesday 16th October	HCJS Open Morning :9—11am for Y2 parents HCJS Open Evening 6—8pm for all parents
Wednesday 17th October	Open Books afternoon

