



Headteacher Newsletter 22/23 - Summer term

June 2023

Welcome back

I hope you had a lovely half term break. Welcome back to the final half term of the year! It seems scarcely believable to me that we are now in June, this year more than any seems to have absolutely flown by.

Online Safety information for parents

The online safety of our pupils is a very important focus and priority for all of us at HCJS. Please can I remind you, as advertised in my last newsletter - we have subscribed to **National Online Safety**, which as the name suggests, provides some useful resources for all parents and carers covering a huge range of topics, including:

Online Relationships, Online Bullying, Screen Addiction and Age Inappropriate Content to give just a few examples.

At the time of writing, only a small handful of you have registered, this seems a real shame and a missed opportunity:

To create your account, please follow

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/haddenham-junior-school> and complete your details. When you're set up, you'll be able to set 'Parent/Carer' as your user type.

You may also recall, that I also said last time, that I would send out PDF guides on particular topics via this newsletter.

This time, I've attached 2 to this message, What parents and carers should know about...Social Media & Mental Health, World of Warcraft and Spotify.

A very busy 7 weeks.

Not only is this the final half term of 2022/3 but it is also the busiest. There is so much to be packed into our remaining time in school before the summer break; including two residential trips, our end of year production and School Games (Sports) day to name just three.

Please have a look at the updated calendar at the end of this newsletter - One or two things have been added since the last version, although most have been previously advertised via Weduc.

The most pressing reminder to give, relates to our **HCJS ARTS FESTIVAL** taking place tomorrow (Friday 9th June) from 5:45 until 8 pm. Originally planned to take place every 2 years, this is the first edition of the festival since the disruption of the 'Covid' years. Mrs Duncan has done a fantastic job of putting together an event that showcases and celebrates what wonderful talent we have in our school. There will be art work to peruse, music and singing to enjoy, a craft table for little ones, a raffle and a bar for the adults. We hope to see as many of you as possible on Friday.

Reach More Parents - Weduc Newsfeed.

I've mentioned this before, but a quick scroll through Our (Reach More Parents) Weduc newsfeed really is the very best way to keep an eye on all the wonderful things that go on at HCJS. Our staff strive hard to provide curriculum enrichment and learning that takes our pupils beyond classroom based learning. By way of example, between Easter and the end of the last half term our pupils took part in a '**Wizz Fizz Fest**' art workshop, a '**Roundnet**' day, '**Monarchy**' drama workshop during the coronation celebrations, a **Shakespeare workshop** (on Hamlet), and zoom calls with an anatomy expert on the circulatory system and a marine biologist (from the Smithsonian in California). In addition, we hosted our first ever **Board Games Cafe** and Year 6 children gave two amazing performances at the Haddenham St Mary's **School Dance Festival**. For pictures and information about all these events - check out the Weduc feed at your convenience.

Premises News

You will, no doubt, have found it hard to miss the new gates and fencing at the front of the school. The security system for the gates will go live within the next week and when that happens, you will need to buzz the school reception via the intercom at the main

pedestrian gate if you require access to the site during school hours. We will ensure the gates are open during drop off and collection times, to allow unhindered entrance and exit during our busiest periods of the day. The gate will be shut at all other times.

The car park gate will remain closed at all times, as access to the school car park is now reserved for staff, visiting professionals, deliveries and those parents and carers requiring emergency access only. If you are one of those few people who currently sneak in to drop off or collect your child - please be aware that this will no longer be possible going forward. I realise this may be a minor inconvenience at first, but I'm sure we will all adjust quickly - it will, of course, be familiar to those of you whose children attended either of the Haddenham infant schools.

The bungalow conversion project is nearing completion and will be available for us to use from September.

And... we have (with significant support from our brilliant PTA) installed a new covered shelter/gazebo in the main quad - This is intended to be used for quiet reading / small group work (on fine days) and a calm, quiet space for pupils to relax in at lunch time. Look out for some pictures on the Reach More Parents - Weduc newsfeed.

Pencil cases and stationery. Help required please.

During the Covid period of restrictions, we took the decision to provide pencil cases and items of stationery to all our pupils, this was for hygiene reasons and was not something we had previously done. Although we no longer provide pencil cases, we have continued to provide many items of stationery since the return to school post pandemic, but the cost of this policy is starting to bite, and given our significant spend on such items, your help would be much appreciated.

With the summer holidays ahead, to prepare for next academic year, I thought it would be useful to share with all of you the information recently sent out to our new Year 3 starters for September:

Could I ask respectfully that if possible you provide the following items for your child. We will continue to provide all items for those unable to purchase them (if this is the case for you, please contact the School Office).

Your child will need a small, plain, zipped pencil case with the following items:

- Writing pencils, colouring pencils & a pencil sharpener.
- A Pritt Stick and a pair of safety scissors. (optional but very useful).

- A suitable handwriting pen (with blue ink) which can be used with agreement from the class teacher.

Please ensure that all items are named.

We ask you not to purchase large, bright or distracting pencil cases such as those sold in Smiggle. If your child brings in an unsuitable pencil case we will ask them to take it back home with them and will ask you to provide a more suitable one.

Uniform

I'd be very grateful if you could please refresh your memory as to our school uniform requirements (link below). Your support on this is much appreciated.

<https://www.haddenhamjun.co.uk/web/uniform/249756>

I've copied the following paragraph directly from a previous newsletter. I felt it was worth a reminder!

We have a very large supply of previously owned uniform, which we can pass on to you at much reduced cost. Please contact the school office for further information if you feel this would be helpful. One of the main reasons why this is the case is that many lost items are not named! If this is the case they simply can't be returned and so after a set period of time we add them to our 'to be sold' pile.

More in hope than expectation!

In anticipation of some warm weather in the weeks ahead:

At Haddenham Junior School, we acknowledge the importance of sun protection and want staff and pupils to enjoy the sun safely. Please apply sunscreen to your child before they come to school on hot days. The long lasting protection types are recommended. It is also advisable to provide your child with a sun hat on hot days and we will encourage children to sit in the shade as needed and drink plenty of water. You may wish to send in an additional water bottle for them to use throughout the day if the temperature does rise.

And finally...

Miss Amelia Lucas, one of our Lower school Teaching Assistants, is leaving us tomorrow after almost 2 years in her role. On the one hand, I'm sad about it because during her time with us at HCJS, she has become a much valued and highly respected member of our team and someone our pupils often turn to for support and encouragement. On the other hand I'm delighted for her because she's off on a big adventure to the United States and Canada, where I know she'll have a great time and continue to build her skills and experience for the future.

Good Luck Amelia - we all wish you well!

I'll be in touch again before the end of the year with my final newsletter of the year, but I hope to see lots of you at the many school events happening between now and July 21st,

Until then,
Best wishes
Mr Leach

Summer 2- 5th June- 21st July 2023	
Friday 9th June	Arts Festival
Monday 12th June	Open Books 3.30 - 4.00pm
Friday 16th- Monday 19th June	Year 6 residential trip (Willersley Castle)
Monday 26th June 6pm	Secondary Transfer Information Evening (Year 5 parents only)
Wednesday 28th - Friday 30th June	School Games Days Parents are invited to join us on the afternoon of Friday 30th June from 1.30pm
Friday 30th June	PTA Summer Fete
Monday 3rd July	Open Books 3.30 - 4.00pm
Tuesday 4th July	Bucks transition day
Monday 10th - Wednesday 12th July	Year 4 Woodrow trip
Tuesday 11th (1.30pm) Thursday 13th July (6.30pm)	Year 6 production
Wednesday 19th July (9.15am)	Leavers' assembly
Friday 21st July - 1.30pm	School closes for the summer