Herons Dale Primary School

NOVEMBER 2024

Our Vision Statement

"Enabling, valuing and empowering all, in our positive, safe and happy school. "

Welcome to Our Latest Newsletter!

We're thrilled to share with you all the exciting things happening here at school. From wonderful learning achievements to memorable experiences, our students continue to make incredible progress, and we're so proud of all they've accomplished so far. Here's a glimpse into some of the highlights:

Celebrating Learning and Progress

Our pupils have been working hard and making great strides across all areas of their learning. It's been fantastic to witness their determination and enthusiasm as they tackle new challenges. We're incredibly proud of their achievements, both big and small, and we're excited to see what they'll accomplish next.

A Visit from Some Special Guests

This week, we had some special visitors at school – some adorable hedgehogs! Our pupils were absolutely fascinated by these wonderful creatures, and the experience offered a unique opportunity to learn about wildlife up close. It was an educational moment that many will remember!

Brilliant Food and Service at 'Hungry Herons'

A big thank you to everyone who has been supporting our school café, *Hungry Herons*. The food has been absolutely delicious, and the service is as warm and welcoming as ever. Our students and staff love enjoying tasty, freshly prepared savoury and sweet goodies, and it's been a real highlight of the school week. A special thanks to the staff who make this possible.

Wonderful Play and Interactions on the Playground

Our playground continues to be a lively and joyful place where pupils engage in meaningful interactions and fun play. It's amazing to see how much they support each other, whether they're playing games, making new friends, or just enjoying some fresh air. These moments of connection are so important to our school community.

Weather

As the weather has certainly turned colder, please remember to send your children with warm coats, hats, and other cold-weather gear. We still aim to get outside as much as possible to let off some steam and enjoy the fresh air.

Christmas Performance Practice in Full Swing

As Christmas draws nearer, our pupils have been enthusiastically getting stuck into rehearsals for our upcoming performance. The songs are sounding fantastic, and everyone is enjoying being part of the show. It's shaping up to be a wonderful celebration of the festive season, and we can't wait to share it with you all!

Preparing for Christmas

With Christmas fast approaching, we're excited for the festive season but also mindful that this time of year can be challenging for some of our pupils and families. Changes in routines, as well as different sounds, smells, and foods, can sometimes be overwhelming. To support you, we've provided several helpful resources that offer advice on recognizing when children may be struggling and strategies to help them cope during the holiday season. You can find these links below:

https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/additional-needs-disabilities/support-home-school/send-christmas/

https://www.theschoolrun.com/surviving-festive-season-parents-tips-sen-kids

https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/seven-tips-calm-christmas-children-special-needs/

https://www.teachwire.net/news/are-your-send-children-coping-with-christmas

We will also continue to update our Facebook page with additional resources as we find them. Please know that we're here to support you in any way we can, whether through social stories or other helpful tools.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for your ongoing support, and we look forward to sharing even more exciting news with you in the future. Keep an eye on the newsletter and our social media for updates on upcoming events, performances, and other special moments. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events detailed in this newsletter!

Thank you for being part of our school family!

Staffing News

A warm welcome to our new members of staff:

Betty

Emma

Leon

Dietary Requirements:

If your child requires a special diet, please contact the school office and ask for a **SPECIAL DIET FORM**. West Sussex County Council are committed to supporting the provision of a balanced school meal with special dietary requirements whenever required, and possible. This referral form is essential to provide West Sussex County Catering Services the information to support the process of ensuring that a safe special diet is planned for pupils who have a medical condition or an allergy / intolerance.

The form must be completed by the Parent/Carer and include supporting medical evidence.

Drop-off and Pick-up

A gentle reminder that here is a speed limit of 5mph on our drive.

There have been reports from neighbours that some parents are driving too fast in the surrounding roads.

Please take care.

Polite Reminder

To all Parents/Carers and Drivers/Escorts and Visitors:

When collecting a child, please remember to put your mobile phone away.

Phones should NOT be used on our school site.

WANTED

Can you help with :

Men's long-sleeved shirts – For Art Club

Raffle prizes for the Winter Raffle

Advertising

Advertise in our Newsletter

If you wish to advertise in our Newsletter the cost for 11 issues is: £50 Quarter Page or £100 Half Page.

Our newsletter not only goes to parents of the school, but to many individuals and companies that have helped us. Please tell your family and friends to contact the school office if interested.

Emergency Contact Details

Have you got a new Phone? Moved house ? Changed your job ? Have you told us?

It is really important and is a legal requirement that contact details for our pupils and family members are kept up to date. Please remember to let us know if you change your mobile or move house.

Parent Communication—Earwig

Herons Dale School has now added Earwig to the suite of educational software that it uses to improve outcomes at the school.

Earwig provides school staff with the facility to capture, in photos, video and documents, the many achievements and special moments which make up a school day for each of our pupils in the classroom, during activities and on school trips.

These images and video clips are tagged with a brief commentary by teachers using their Earwig app. The result is a vivid, image-based continuous record for each pupil, in the form of their personal timeline. This provides evidence of progress and enables more accurate assessment decisions. You can find out all about how it works at www.earwigacademic.com

Earwig also provides access for parents and guardians, who can log in to see child records, from any computer or handheld device. It offers a dramatic and regular window into the daily experiences and achievements of your children at school, with class teachers releasing a new record each week.

If you are having any issues with accessing Earwig, please contact the school office or let the class teacher know .

HEDGEHOG VISITORS

Recently we had a visit from Graham who helps to rehabilitate hedgehogs. He brought in Henry and Harry who he has looked after since they were hoglets. He will keep them looked after over winter and then they will hopefully be ready to be released again.

We are very grateful to a Rio parent who held a coffee morning to raise funds to allow this visit to go ahead. Rio, Aspire and Seoul class took up the offer and came along to meet Graham and his hedgehogs.

Teacher Kadi from Seoul class said – 'It was such a calming and regulating experience for the whole class. It was great to see them all engaged in their own way and it create a great focus for learning back in the classroom. They were very engaged in their writing and fine motor tasks based on the experience later in the day'.

Teacher Abbie from Aspire class said – 'Aspire children absolutely loved the hedgehog visit. It was lovely to see how the children responded to the request of being quiet so they didn't scare the hedgehogs. Jack particularly enjoyed sharing his knowledge when asked if he knew what hibernation and nocturnal meant. To quote Bobby "he is so cute" meaning Henry of course ☺

Teacher Vicki from Rio said that 'Rio class were very excited when shown a hedgehog puppet and a now and next board with 'hedgehogs in the hall' on it! Pupils transitioned to the hall calmly. All pupils were interested and inquisitive, peering up at Henry the hedgehog who greeted us in the hall! Graham showed us Henry the hedgehog whilst we felt pine cones to safely explore the spikey texture associated with hedgehogs! We looked and felt with interest. When transitioning back to class, Leah said 'h, h, h, hedgehog, hats on heads, h, h, h" linking the initial sound 'h' in hedgehogs, with our song of sounds phonics song! Well done, Rio Class! Thank you for such an amazing opportunity.

My Hedgehog's name is
Harry

My Hedgehog's name is

online safety- November

Throughout the autumn term, we have had a number of pupils discussing content on the Netflix streaming service. Unfortunately there have been occasions where this content is age restricted, yet pupils have been able to access. To ensure that your child is not exposed to age inappropriate content while using the platform, please see the advice below.

Free school meals

With the onset of Universal Credit, many more parents than ever are now entitled to Free School Meals.

If you are claiming Universal Credit or any other benefit, please apply for Free School Meals for your child/ren.

Even if your child does not choose to eat a school lunch, by claiming this benefit you are helping the school.

If you feel you are entitled, and have not yet claimed, please contact the school office in total confidence or click here https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/free-school-meals-online-application-form/

For children in Year 3 and above - **West Sussex have advised us from 2nd September 2024 the price of a paid school meal will increase from £2.75 per meal to £2.85 per meal (£14.25).**

A POLITE REMINDER ABOUT PARKING

Only parents with a school 24/25 parking permit should be driving into the school grounds at drop-off and pick-up times. **If you have a parking permit please do not drive onto the school site before 8.45am in the morning**. If you need to drop your child off before this time, please park in the surrounding roads and walk onto the school site. This is to ensure that we can accommodate parent/carer requests for a parking permit where necessary and the school transport buses. When parents/carers drive down before 8.45am there is not enough space in the car park to accommodate their cars and the school transport buses; this has caused delays in the children being collected from school transport.

In addition, if you have a car park permit, please ensure that when collecting your child you have vacated the school car park by 2.40pm.

FIRST AID

Head Injury

Responsive casualty
What it is:
Any head injury must be treated seriously as it is potentially life threatening and can cause impaired responsiveness. A head injury can result in:

- damage to brain tissue
- a bleed inside the skull
- A fracture of the skull

Always assume that a casualty with a head injury also has a neck injury and treat accordingly (see 'Spinal injuries' in **Bone, muscle and joint injuries**).

Head injury
What to look for:

- Recent blow to the head
- Wound to the head
- Brief loss of responsiveness
- Increased drowsiness
- Worsening headache
- Confusion, memory loss, strange behaviour and nausea
- Weakness to a limb
- Speech difficulties
- Dizziness, seizures or balance problems
- Sight problems, including double vision
- Clear fluid or watery blood leaking from the nose or ear

What to do:

1. Help the casualty to sit down in a comfortable position
2. Apply a cold compress to their head injury
3. Monitor breathing and level of response regularly. Keep a close eye on the level of response in case it deteriorates
4. When they have recovered ask a responsible adult to look after them
5. If they were playing a sport when it happened do not let them return to play until they have been fully assessed by a medical practitioner
6. Seek medical help if any of the following apply:

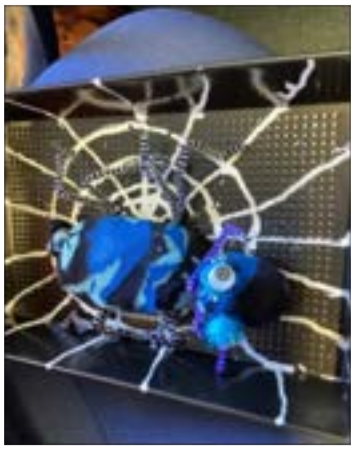
- worsening headache
- difficulty in speaking or walking
- vomiting
- double vision
- seizure
- over 65 years old
- previous brain surgery
- they are taking anti clotting medication
- they are intoxicated with drugs or alcohol
- there is no responsible adult to look after them

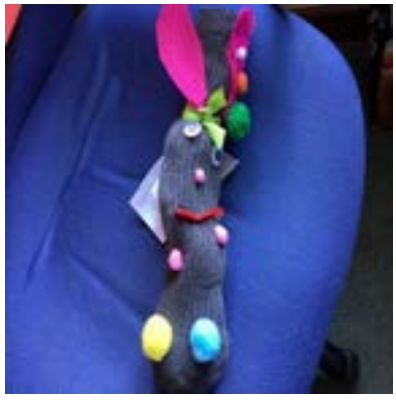
The Friends of Herons Dale Primary School

What We've Been Doing and Thank You !!!!:

Silver Socks a Go-Go:

Congratulations to the winner of this year's socks go go won a £10 Amazon voucher. The entries sent in were all amazing and a lot of work had gone into them. The total raised was £159.10, which will go towards Christmas experiences for every child.





WINNER!!

WINNER!!

Spooky Disco:

Some of our pupils getting ready for our Spooky Disco!!

The total raised was £ 238.34 and this will go towards future experiences for every child.

Asda Cash Pot for Schools:

This has now finished and the total you've help to raise will go towards a new minibus. The total will be confirmed to us in time for next months Newsletter.

Winter Raffle – 13th December

A huge thank you to Worthing Theatre, who have donated 4 tickets for our Winter raffle, to Robin Hood at the Connaught Theatre.

Raffle tickets are now on sale at £1 each. Raffle tickets were sent home for sale or you can buy them online on the link below. An email will be sent with your ticket numbers.

https://the-friends-of-herons-dale-primary-school.sumupstore.com

Non School Uniform Fridays:

Thank you for all the donations over the past few weeks. Once again you've shown huge support for the school, and we can make up a few hampers to use as prizes for the Winter Raffle. All money raised by the raffle will be going towards a new minibus.

Upcoming Events:

Winter Raffle – To be drawn on Friday 13th December

Letter from Father Christmas - £3.00 each.

The money raised will be going towards the ongoing fund raising for a new school minibus.

Ways You Can Support The School.

Your School Lottery - £1.00 per week.

You will be entered into the national weekly draw for a chance to win £25,000.

The last Saturday in the month, you'll be entered into the Super Draw, which is a Harry Potter Bundle.

Theres a weekly draw, just for people who support Herons Dale, that gives them a chance of winning a guaranteed cash prize.

To sign up please go to www.yourschoollottery.co.uk or scan the QR code on the poster.

To our dearest parents / carers,

We are so excited to invite you to
Herons Dale's
production of

the Twinkly Nativity

Here's everything you need to know about our nativity performance!

DATE: 17/12/24 & 18/12/24

TIME: 17th -13.30 / 18th -10.30

ANY EXTRA INFO: Please contact the school office to reserve your ticket!

Please bring your **loudest** round of applause and your **biggest** standing-ovation shoes...

We're gonna bring some twinkle to your toes!

Winter Fund Raising

Raffle Tickets - -£1 each

Food and Drink Hampers, Family Theatre Tickets and many more prizes to come.

Letter From Father Christmas - £3.00

Please fill in the information required and the letter will be sent home in an envelope.

Letter From Father Christmas Information:

Childs Name -

Accomplishment this year -

Age -

Teachers name -

A gift they are getting/would like

Please return this form , with payment, in an envelope or scan the QR code to pay via our online store and return the form with the details.

Herons Dale Governors

Becky Dunne
Chair & Parent

Ian Porritt
Vice Chair & LA Governor

Lizzie Leeson-
Safeguarding

Meg Palmer

Link

Cath Collins

Co-opted

Isabel Robson

Headteacher

Anne Ingoldby

Co-opted

Richard Salloum

Parent

Ian Wainwright

Co-opted

A message from IsabeI - Headteacher

I first joined Herons Dale in January 2011 as a class teacher. I'd previously worked in mainstream settings but, alongside this, I'd also worked for many years at Kangaroos Playscheme and fell in love with supporting pupils with Special Education Needs.

Since being here, I've worked as a Class Teacher and then Deputy Headteacher, before taking on the role of Head in 2016. I am beyond proud to be part of the Herons Dale team and am always in total awe of all that both the pupils and staff achieve. It genuinely feels a privilege to be part of this special place.

Outside of school, my time is fairly well occupied with my own 3 children (11, 4 and 2!) and what feels like never ending housework etc. We enjoy trips to the beach, dog walks and lots of family time.

Term Dates 2024-25

Autumn Term 2024	
Christmas Break	Monday 23rd December to 3rd January 2025
Return to School	Monday 6th January 2025
Spring Term 2025	
Half-term	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025
Break up for Easter	Friday 4th April 2025

We Can Do Anything !

All personal data/special category data herein are processed in accordance with UK data protection legislation. Further details are available from the Organisation.