



January
2024

Hillary Herald

Welcome back to the new school term. We have all sorts of important developments going on in the school. A lot of them are to do with systems and procedures as we change all of our operational management over to the Trust's systems, but this term also sees some reinvigoration of the ways we communicate and engage with you as Parents and Carers.

Good Bye to Paul Stockton- Site Manager

We hardly had chance to say goodbye, but Paul moved on to a new position much closer to his family home just before Christmas. He had been serving the school since 2017 and we will miss his reliable presence in school.

Parent Curriculum Consultation

Thanks to those that completed the Curriculum Consultation on line. From those who responded, things that you seemed to really love were:

- How we teach children relationships, caring and develop children's characters
- That we really rate reading and getting children into books
- That we are not obsessed with Sats and tests
- The Themes of Sustainability, Valuing Workshop and Being Courageous were really appreciated as aspects that make us distinct

Aspects for us to develop:

- Communication about what is being taught
- Strengthening our use of the three themes above
- Deepening our maths learning and provision

All these will go into our Academy Improvement Plan and some of them you should see some progress on quite quickly as they were already things we had considered needed re-addressing or re-invigorating. We've made a little infographic of the curriculum and put it on the end of this term's Herald- see below.

End of Day Disturbances in Office

A reminder that the school day finishes at 3.30pm. We have been very concerned by the number of children being taken out of the school at the end of the day and cannot quite work out why this is happening. Just as in the morning, the end of the day is crucial for children as they embed some learning or have important end of day routines and reminders, and class times together. Taking children out at this time means they miss opportunities to reflect on their learning, listen to essential stories, hear important messages for the following day. The staff in the office are finding that they cannot attend to parents needing to do business with them as they are often around school finding children from classes.

Older children bringing in phones unnecessarily also has an impact on the amount of traffic at the office at the beginning and end of the day.

Please respect the hours of the school and try and make appointments outside of school hours.

Census Day Lunches

Census Day is on its way- please plan for your children to have a school lunch on Thursday 18th January.

In explanation: - One of the oddities of school funding is that we are given the portion of our funding for Universal Free School Meals (Dinners for Reception and KS1) based on the numbers eating a meal on a single day (Thursday 19th Jan) rather than as an aggregate of dinners actually served over the year. This has meant that in some years we have run at a loss as the day the government appointed to take the figures was a day when fewer children were taking dinners. **So it really helps that as many children as possible, especially FS2 & KS1, have a school meal.** It is a simple step that can have an effect on our school budget that can run into the thousands. We will send a text to remind you.

Sports Partners

We are always on the look out for community partnerships with local coaches to help establish a healthy activity link in and out of school. If you are engaged in any way in sporting activities in the community with coaches who may be interested in coming in and doing sessions in school, we would be really pleased to hear from you- or them! Mrs Newton prepares the timetabling of coaches and it would be great to include some fresh faces. Please ask around and put us in touch with each other.



Top Ten by the School Council

Our amazing School Council did a Survey across the school and found out what the best things about our school are. They presented this in assembly just before Christmas. All the children will receive these in a leaflet over the next few weeks, so you can read about these in more detail there- but for now, here is the Top Ten:

1. Trips & Residentials
2. Friends (no bullying)
3. Teachers
4. Providers
5. Lunchtimes
6. Breaktimes
7. Special Events
8. Lessons
9. After School Clubs
10. Assemblies

Drop-off zone

This is an especial plea to parents and carers dropping off for Nursery in the morning. The Drop Off Zone is only to be used for older children who can manage themselves on to the front play ground. Drivers must not leave their seats. Fines are given if the Camera Car sees there is no driver in the driver's seat. If you are wanting to come on to the play ground or have younger children that need settling in, you must park away from the school and walk in. Obviously, the more walking to school the better. Thank you.

Find us on Facebook, plus others

Joining the Academy has prompted some changes to our communications. Partly because of the direction of Twitters' new business model it doesn't quite sit comfortably with a school environment, so we stopped posting to our Twitter. The Trust is keener on using Facebook, so we will build on our Nursery communications Facebook Page. Getting a sustainable page up and running has been tricky but we hope to have that sorted this half term.

This New Year will also see a revitalising of Marvellous Me which has dropped off since the Covid return, but is a valuable way of letting you know how well the children are doing and also some adhoc messaging. Make sure you re-download the app and if you have lost your logins- we will be distributing them out again.

Pantomime

Thanks to the Friends for organising yet another delightful night out at the Panto. I've heard so many lovely reports of the fun you all had- *oh yes you did!*

Winter Weather Closures

Whilst the long term forecast is looking relatively positive with regards to our chances of getting sufficient snow to close the school, an outside chance of a shedload of snow or a boiler breakdown can never be ruled out. We know that if the Site Manager can get here then we can make the school site safe enough; our most significant issue after that is having the right number of staff here to operate. A reminder, then, about how we will inform you if we do need to close the academy follows: -

- **Please don't ring the office-** you will only be told, "We will make a decision by 8.00am." We need phone lines open for staff.
- Any decisions are usually finally made between 7.45 and 8.00am once we are sure how many staff can be on site to ensure the correct adult/ pupil ratios are in place.
- No news is good news- so if you don't hear anything then we're open as normal.
- Listen to local radio especially the BBC
- We will send a text by 8.00 am if there is any doubt.
- Children arriving for breakfast club- if we do close we will look after your children until lunchtime. We are confident that we can have sufficient staff to be on site until then.

Everybody has different circumstances and you need to make your own risk assessment as to whether it is safe for you to get out.

Different areas around Worksop have different issues. It takes longer if you are walking so do not worry if you are late. Snow brings exceptional conditions and children are not penalised in terms of attendance figures.

Donation

We had a very kind donation of £500 from Brunton Shaw. Paul Dixon from the company came to school and presented School Council with a cheque. He used to come here as a child, so it was great to see an ex pupil! This will support expanding the reading stock in KS2 – so thanks to them, indeed.



Uniform Reminders

A reminder that there should be no jewellery worn and long hair should be tied back whilst in school. A lot of necklaces have been appearing. Analogue watches are allowed- but no communication devices or ones with cameras. With the current trend for fashion nails we are needing to remind children that nail polish is not part of uniform and so, even less so, are acrylic extensions!

We only allow small studs for ear-rings. Children must not wear ear-rings for sports & therefore should be self-managing in taking them in and out- especially swimming. Teachers do not do this and we do not 'tape them over' either.

We have already noted some non-uniform footwear. **Black Shoes- no trainers, please** And a reminder that there are no plans to change the uniform over the next year/18months.

New Phone for Christmas?

Remember that the children should not have phones in school – we only make an exception where children might have alternative home time arrangements- staying at Grandma's for instance. These need written requested permission and being handed in at the office (see note about 'Office Traffic' above) We believe some children are just using this as an excuse to be on their phones with each other after school rather than if they need to contact you and therefore



Autumn Term

Attendance: 94.7%-

Our target is: 96%

And this week we were at 96% as a school with several classes on 99% AND Miss Anson's class on 100% - so double break for them!

Thank you to those parents who have taken note about whole Academy attendance. We are really improving- but clearly have a long way to go to be back on track.

Children's attendance has seriously been compromised by the pandemic and the subsequent hurdle of getting our immune systems back up to speed, so it still needs to be a priority.

Well done for persevering through the coughs and colds of this winter season. Bizarrely, it's all part of actually being healthy.

Parents Evening

Parents Evenings will be **after half term**. Look out for the letters via pupil post to make sure the appointment system can be organised. They will be **Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th March**.

Marvellous Me!

We are reviving the Marvellous Me communication system so you'll be re-receiving your login details. Download the App and High Five your kids!

Let's get back to the 100% sign up we used to have.

SnapChat TikTok Issues & E- Safety

We have been quite taken aback by the current number of children on SnapChat and Tik Tok. These are sites where you should be 13 or older - and for good reason. Some children have seen highly inappropriate material through anonymous friends of friends adding them to groups - even though their parents have set their contact list to only known friends. The same thing can happen in Whatsapp as well.

We have to take the view that 'friends of friends' are 'Groomers' because there is no evidence that they are anything other. We are warning you of this because we have experience of it happening -even to the most unlikely children.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S PROFILE; the content, the settings, and their contacts and groupings.

For older children who are less supervised set up a regular reminder on your own phone to do a random check on their's – don't let it slip. Be regular, and it sets a boundary that they know they will be safe within the safety net that you are creating.

The best thing that you can do is not allow your child on Social Media Sites as they are not mature enough to handle these environments even with supervision; they will say/send , hear/ receive things that they would not do in real-life.

Please maintain age guidance and when children protest "But my friends..." the answer is '*shouldn't be on it either*' and uphold the age related advice and not allow them to participate. There are loads of age-appropriate ways for children to enjoy internet based services; concentrate on these.



Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Nottinghamshire's Local Offer: Supporting families with children & young people with SEND aged 0 - 25

If you've ever struggled to find the right information or service for a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), then check out the SEND Local Offer website.

The Local Offer brings together information across education, health, social care and the voluntary and independent sectors and is designed specifically for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.

Use the Local Offer for ideas for things to do; details of Nurseries, Academies and colleges; help with getting around; advice and access to health and social care; employment and training; advice on Independent Living, and more.

It's free and impartial and will help you find information about what services are available, or signpost you to somebody who can provide you with the information you need, through one easily searchable web site.

Visit www.nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk
Accessible through a PC, tablet or smartphone.

Diary Dates

These dates are when we currently plan to do certain events within the Academy calendar and may be subject to change.

8 th February	- Valentines Disco
12 th February	- Half Term holiday
7 th March	- World Book Day
18 th & 19 th March	- Parents Evenings
29 th March	- Closed for Good Friday
3-10 th April	- Easter Holiday
6 th May	- Bank Holiday
13-16 th May	- Y6 Sats
24 th May	- Summit Day
27 th May	- Summer Half Term
6 th June	- Class Photos
3 rd July	- Inset Day
26 th July	- Last day of school
4 th Sept	- Children Return (to be confirmed)

And don't forget to update us with any changes of address, contact details or medical information!

SEHPS seeks to make any reasonable adjustment for any access needs that you may have. Please inform us if there is any way in which we can better arrange access for you and your family.

