



January Newsletter 2024

Welcome Back Everyone – Please Help!

I hope your family had a happy Christmas and New Year break. Here at school, we ended the year on a high. The children in lower school performed three amazing Nativity shows, children across the school sang Christmas songs and the choir sang at the Hunslet Xmas Light Switch. That is a lot of singing!

As it is the start of a new year many of us will be making resolutions. I have kept last year's resolution and I have been learning Spanish for 250 day in a row on the app Duolingo. I am sure there are things you will be trying to change this January.

There are three things I would like to ask for your support with at the start of this year.

Number 1 – Please bring your children to school every day. Every day that your child is not in school, they are not keeping up with the rest of their class. Children can make up two or three days over the course of a school year but we have some children missing one or two days a week and their friends are now much further ahead than them. If you want to give your child the best start in life, you should bring them to school every day.

Number 2 – Please bring your children to school on time. When children arrive late they have missed the start of the day. They will often feel embarrassed walking into a quiet room where all the other children are sat ready and they might have missed some information which means they won't understand the lesson. Plus being on time is an important skill for when the children grow up and need to catch a train, or get to an appointment.

Number 3 – Please collect your children on time. At the end of last year, a large number of children were being picked up late. This is upsetting for the children as they often worry something bad has happened to their parents. It also causes lots of disruption for the staff.

Please make sure there is someone to collect them at 3.20 pm and we have your most up-to-date contact phone numbers.

Staffing Update

This January, Mrs Maguire is joining us as a teacher in Reception. She will be teaching alongside Mrs Whitfield and will teach the class that Mrs Lindsay used to teach. Mrs Maguire has taught in a number of schools in Leeds and enjoys working with the little ones. I am sure you will get a chance to meet her on the playground when dropping the children off.

Mrs Maguire joins Miss Leary (Nursery), Miss Voisey (Year2/3) and Miss Musetti (Year 4) who all joined the school in November and December last year.

Elsewhere in school, we said goodbye to Miss Ahmed, who supported in Year 6 and has left to focus on starting a family. We want to thank her and wish her all the best for the future.

We also welcome Miss Kausar (Reception) and Miss Cooke (Year 3) who are joining us to support the children with their learning and have already made a big impression.

Now some important information about upcoming events:

After-School Clubs

All of our After-School Clubs will begin again next week – **Monday, 15th January**. Mrs Gibbons will be sending out all the information you will need to see if there are any clubs your child would be interested in. You can sign up to clubs using the school's Arbor app.

Early Years and KS1 School Meal Taster day – Thursday, 18th January

On Thursday, 18th January we are encouraging children in **Early Years or KS1** to try one of our delicious school meals **free of charge!** Children can choose a free meal from a range of tasty options that day. (Vegetarian and halal options are also available)

We know some of the kids might be fussy eaters, so if you are worried about them not liking the school meal you can still send them with a packed lunch, but we are confident there will be a school meal which they will like.

Children in Reception and KS1 are entitled to a Free School Meal every day, regardless of their parents' income. By taking up this offer, families could save over £500 a year!



Year 6 Kingswood Residential Trip meeting – Friday, 9th February

Many of the children in Year 6 will be going to Kingswood on their residential trip on Friday, 8th March. To give parents and carers the information they need ahead of the trip, there is a meeting after school on **Friday, 9th February** in the Year 6 classroom.

Spring mid-term holiday

We break up for the half-term break on **Friday, 9th Feb** and re-open on **Monday, 19th Feb**.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday, 7th March and as usual the children will be able to come dressed up as their favourite book characters on the day.

Please don't buy any costumes unless you want to. These can cost £10 and more. When money is tight, I am sure there are better things you could use it for. Children could use the clothes in their wardrobe to come as characters such as Charlie from the Chocolate Factory. Marcus Rashford has two books so they could wear their football shirt and say they have come as him! (Although please don't wear a Man Utd shirt to school!)

Parent and Carer School Survey

As we start 2024 we are looking at what we do well and what we need to improve.

For example, we think we do pretty well at giving the children a wide range of experiences such as visit to places or people coming into school. We also know we need to improve how we communicate with parents and carers about events happening in school.

Now we need to know from your point of view how we can improve. We are using the questions that Ofsted use when they visit schools. This way we will be able to compare the results to 2022 and to the National Average results. To take the survey all you need to do is use the QR code below, which will open a link to our school's survey.



Twitter

For more information and to see photos from these events follow us on Twitter @HCPSLeeds or look at the Twitter feed via our website www.hunsletcarr.co.uk

Questions and Information

If you would like to speak to someone about things that are happening in school, there is always a member of the leadership team on the playground before school or you can make an appointment to see someone in the office or email martin.lumb@hunsletcarr.co.uk.

Kind Regards Mr Martin Lumb



Governors' News

Happy New Year and welcome back to school after what I hope has been a very good festive break for you all.

I've now been chair of Governors for a full year and it has been an eventful year. There have been many great activities taking place within the school and many more are planned for 2024.

A big focus for the school in the next year is to improve overall attendance, so I would reiterate Mr Lumb's comments about how important it is for children to be at school, on time, every day.

Even missing a single day of school can affect a child's progress and everyone at the school, including the governors, want our children to get as much as they can from being part of Hunslet Carr.

I would also like to welcome our new Vice Chair of Governors, Clare Davidson to the role. Clare has been a valuable member of the governing board for a number of years and I'm looking forward to working with her in her new role.

Finally, if any parent or carer wants to understand more about what the governors do to support the school, feel free to get in touch with me by emailing sarah.gardner73@ntlworld.com.

Kind regards,

Sarah Gardner

Chair of Governors

School Council News:

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a great Christmas break and New Year celebrations. We are looking forward to starting a new year in school. This year we are going to be leading more assemblies to the whole school. Personally, I am looking forward to this challenge as I like to speak to everyone in school.

Recently, we have been helping Miss Roberts with Hot Chocolate on a Friday afternoon. It is lovely to meet some of the hard-working children in our school and I think it is really important to celebrate their hard work.

Thank you,
Elsie Linnecor.
Head Girl.