



January Newsletter 2025

Welcome Back Everyone – Please Help!

For those that celebrate it, I hope your family had a wonderful Christmas and to everyone I hope the New Year was a time of rest and celebration. As ever, school was a wonderful place in December. Children in lower school performed Nativity shows, the choir sang at the switch on of the Hunslet Christmas lights, as well as visiting care homes to cheer up the residents. There was also a Christmas Fete that raised £1000 for the school fund and Santa visited all of the children to give them a gift from the school.

With a new year, many people make resolutions. I continue to learn Spanish on Duolingo, a resolution from 2023, and have a 610-day streak (610 días y todavía no puedo hablar muy bien). 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 your child is not in school, they are not keeping up with the rest of their class. In primary school children learn new things every day. A new phonic sound, a new word to spell, a new way of adding up larger numbers. We have come up with this table to show you the impact missing days from school will have on your child's education. You will have seen it on the walls outside our cloakrooms. Even if your child has missed several days last term, it is not too late to help them catch up by bringing them to school every day.

The effect of of absence on progress					
A whole year has 365 days; a school year has 178 days. That leaves 187 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.					
No absence	9 days absence	11 days absence	18 days absence	27 days absence	36 days absence
100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80%
Very Good		Worrying		Serious Concern	
Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start.		Less chance of success. Makes it harder for your child to make progress.		Your child will find it very difficult to make progress	

Number 2 – Please bring your children to school on time – be in the line at ten to nine!

When children arrive late they miss the start of the day. They will often be embarrassed walking into class late and they will have missed the start of their crew session. Plus, being on time is an important skill for when the children grow up. If they arrive late to their job when they are older, they will find themselves in trouble and may lose their job.

Number 3 – Please collect your children on time.

This week already there have been between 5 and 10 children picked up late every day. 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.**

Cold Weather Update

Thank you to everyone who has brought their children into school this week, despite the cold weather. Staff in school, particularly Miss Tracy Hezlewood, our premises manager, to ensure the building and paths around the school are safe and warm. It has been wonderful to see the children learning in their classrooms with their friends after the New Year break.

Parent/Carer Governor Vacancy

Clare Davidson, who has been on the school governing board for several years as a parent governor, can no longer have that role, as both of her children have now left the us. She will be staying on the board as a co-opted governor. This means we are looking for a parent or carer to join our governing board. Please look out for a letter with more information.



Now some important information about upcoming events:

After-School Clubs

All of our After-School Clubs will begin again next week – **Monday, 13th 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, 16th January

On Thursday, 16th 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). You don't need to sign up on Arbor or do anything different next Thursday. Children will choose their meal during the morning register and be given it free of charge at lunchtime.

We know some children are fussy eaters. If you are worried about them not liking the school meal, send them with their normal packed lunch, to eat as well as the free meal.

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!

Spring mid-term holiday

We break up for half-term on **Friday, 14th Feb** at 3.20 pm and re-open on **Monday, 24th Feb**.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on **Thursday, 6th 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 2025 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 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.

It appears as if the snow wanted to join us at the start of the new term, and I know how hard all the staff worked to keep the school open, so the children didn't miss any days. I said in the last newsletter how important attending school every day is, so I want to thank all the staff for everything they did to achieve this.

We may encounter more cold days during this term, and I know that everything possible will be done to make sure the school stays open, so please try to make sure your children attend every single day that they are able to. There will be so much going on in school that we want all our children to have the opportunity to get involved.

As Mr Lumb has mentioned, we do have a vacancy for a parent governor and Lindsey Kemp, our parent governor, would be happy to talk to you about her experiences since joining the board and if you want to find out more from me, feel free to email me at 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.

We have lots to look forward to this year, including our annual trip to the Leeds Youth Summit at Leeds Civic Hall where we get to meet other School Councils and the local councillors. We are also hoping to book our annual trip to the Houses of Parliament with the whole of the School Council in the summer.

We are looking forward to continuing to lead School Council meetings so that we can help make sure that our school continues to be a happy, healthy and safe place for all of us. Make sure that if you ever have any concerns that you speak to a member of the School Council so they can bring it to the meeting.

Thank you,
Ella and Ryan.
Head Girl and Head Boy.