



# HURSTHEAD INFANT SCHOOL

*We care, we learn, we belong*

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Dear Parents

I'm finding it hard to believe that I am coming to the end of my second term as Headteacher. In some ways it seems like I have only been here a short time, but in others I feel like I have never been anywhere else! I have been busy showing prospective candidates around school for the new Deputy Headteacher role and it has been a pleasure to hear the positive comments about our children. I am grateful every day for being part of the Hursthead Infant community. The hard work, enthusiasm and sense of humour of our children and staff makes me smile even on the toughest of days.

As ever, there is lots to update you on and celebrate.

## **Comic Relief**

Our non-uniform day raised **£219.86** for Comic Relief. Thank you to everyone who donated. It was great to see so many imaginative red noses!

## **Hursthead Infant School's Presentation @ Headteacher and Senior Leader Day**

The main focus of our School Development Plan this year has been inclusive practice and we have invested heavily in training for all staff. Stockport's School's Improvement Service asked HHIS to present at their leadership day on our journey so far, in order to share best practice across the authority. It was a great end to the term to hear Mrs Crawshaw summarise to Headteachers and Senior Leaders in Stockport what our dedicated and skilled staff have achieved in a short space of time, for the benefit of our children. Thank you to Mrs Crawshaw who really demonstrated her fantastic presentation skills. Not easy in front of a room of Headteachers!



## **Year 1 Curriculum**

Year One are coming to the end of a unit of work on the Victorians which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. During our Victorian focus day children learnt more about what life would have been like as a child in those times, including experiencing what a lesson in a Victorian school room would have been like. Our teachers loved being in role - I have never seen our staff look so stern!

### **Jam the Dinosaur**

Last Friday Reception had an exciting visit from a very life-like dinosaur called Jam. The team at Teach Rex taught the children that T-Rexes were predators and moved like flightless birds. They had powerful jaws like alligators and very heavy tails. The children also got to see some baby dinosaurs (puppets) up close. They were worried one of the dinosaurs might eat our teachers but everyone is still safe and well!



### **Mighty Mountains**

As part of our Year 2 our 'Mighty Mountains', we enjoyed a visit from a local mountaineer, Ben Heason. He told the children stories about his many expeditions around the world, including climbing Angel Falls, and showed them the different equipment he used. The children were fascinated and asked lots of interesting questions.



On Friday, as an exciting end to our topic, Year 2 had the opportunity to be like Chris Bonington on The Old Man of Hoy and become real life climbers. After harnessing up, the children attempted to scale the 25 foot climbing wall. They all had a go and were incredibly brave!

### **Tri Golf**

Over the Spring term, all classes across the school have enjoyed golf sessions with David Myers, a professional who runs our Tri-Golf after school club. After practising their putting skills, Year 2 took part in an intra-school competition. Well done to Class 1 who won! David was impressed by all the children's behaviour and golfing enthusiasm. He is looking forward to seeing the children again at the Tri-Golf club.

### **Poetry Assembly**



On Wednesday all the children in our school learnt a poem to perform for the rest of the school. We all enjoyed listening to each class or year group and it was wonderful to see lots of children working together to perform. Maybe you could ask your child what poem they learnt. Or if they could recite it back for you. Well done everyone!

### **PSA**

Thank you so much to our PSA who work tirelessly to support school, without which, we would not be able to offer all the wonderful opportunities we currently do. Some examples of what the PSA fund are:

- weekly French & Ukulele lessons for all children,
- Visit to Reception by dinosaurs
- Easter celebration at Ford's Lane Church for Year 2

The PSA are looking for new recruits. I know everyone is so busy but many hands make light work, so if you can spare anytime and would be able to join this important team, please get in touch by emailing [hurstheadinfantpsa@gmail.com](mailto:hurstheadinfantpsa@gmail.com).

### **Healthy Snacks**

All schools have a duty to promote healthy eating and we provide fruit for all children at playtime. Children are also welcome to bring in a snack of their own. Please can parents ensure these are healthy snacks and do not contain nuts.

### **Earrings**

Stockport's Public Health Strategic Lead sent the following communication to schools in March regarding jewellery:

*All personal effects including jewellery must be removed for PE lessons and activities. If items cannot be removed, staff need to take action to try to make the situation safe. In most cases, this may mean adjusting the activity in some way. **All jewellery, including earrings, must always be removed before a pupil engages in competitive activity. Taping is not suitable in any activity where contact (with either another person or equipment) is highly likely to, or will, occur.***

With this in mind, to ensure children can engage in all activities, and in line with our School Uniform Policy, jewellery is not suitable for children in school (religious items should not breach health and safety regulations). Thank you for your support with this.

### **Roblox**

We are increasingly hearing children chatting about playing on Roblox. Please note that the game is age 13+. There is a public forum on Roblox where children could potentially be exposed to people they do not know. The safety card for Roblox and for other apps and games can be found on our website: <http://hurstheadinfant.co.uk/page/e-safety-resources/118117>

### **Personal belongings**

It is great to see so many children cycling and using a scooter to travel to school. I have also seen many children with Fitbits. Please remember to label personal belongings with your child's name, this avoids mix ups with items that are potentially identical. Parents are welcome to lock scooters and bikes at the scooter park. If an item is precious or expensive, please consider carefully before sending it into school. Children become very upset if items are misplaced, especially if the item is unnamed as it may not find its way back to them.

### **Playground Safety**

Recently I have seen two young children being knocked over by children scooting across the playground at high speed. Please can parents ensure that children are not riding their bikes or scooters on school grounds, instead they should be pushed to the scooter park.

The playground is a very busy place at the end of the school day. For safety reasons, children should not play on the playground equipment after school, enter the forest or climb the trees on school grounds. This includes children who walk around from the Junior School. Elm Cottage cannot utilise

the playground for afterschool club until they are able to lock the gate. With this in mind, please can parents collect children promptly at the end of the school day. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Farewell to Mrs Lee**

I'm very sad to let you know that Mrs Lee, a member of our Year 2 support staff team, will be leaving us and taking up a new post after the Easter holidays. Mrs Lee has been a valued member of the Hursthead Infant Family and she never fails to welcome everybody with a smile - she will be missed. We all wish her luck in her new role.

### **Recorder Performance**

We are excited to be celebrating recorder club by performing two songs to parents at 9:05am on Thursday 20 April. We shall be showing parents what we have learnt and how much fun we have been having!

### **School closed-Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

We have been informed that on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May the Infant School will be closed to staff and children in order for the building to be used as a polling station. I am sorry for the inconvenience. We will be using this opportunity to take all staff to the Early Excellence National Centre for bespoke training. This really is a rare and unique opportunity for teachers and support staff, and we are excited for things to come.

**Please find below some dates for your diary:**

Thursday 20 March 9-05am - Recorder Performance

Thursday 4 May - Polling Day

Monday-Wednesday 15-17 May - Reception's visit to Reddish Vale Farm

Karen Grant  
Headteacher