



# HURSTHEAD INFANT SCHOOL

*We care, we learn, we belong*

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## Newsletter No.1 - 8 September 2023

Dear Parents

Welcome back! I hope you had an enjoyable summer. I am looking forward to seeing you all and wish everyone all the very best for the new school year. A special welcome goes to all the new children and families joining us in Reception. Thank you to everyone for following the school uniform code, the children have all returned to school very smartly dressed.

Newsletters are emailed on a half termly basis and any further information is also emailed to keep you up to date so please do regularly check your inbox. Our website also includes Class and Year Group curriculum information. Each year group will also use the Seesaw app to communicate messages, news and homework. Apologies for the long first newsletter. I wanted to send updates and reminders so everyone was fully informed.

### Organisation of staff 2023/24

The members of staff are as follows:

Headteacher	Karen Grant (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Deputy Headteacher	Rebecca Crawshaw (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Class 1	Sarah McLennan
Class 2	Matthew Thornley (Year 2 Lead)
Class 3	Caitlin Parvaz
Class 4	Hannah Simpson (Year 1 Lead)
Class 5	Chloe Hartley
Class 6	Lucy Jones
Class 7	Jess Newson
Class 8	Amy Wickens
Class 9	Kathy Prescott (EYFS Lead)

Teaching Assistants: Liz Tully, Sue Lewis, Lisa Care, Jane Hyland, Sue Tubb, Jill Templeman, Emma Rossell, Rachel Anthony, Bethan Hollowood, Sarah Lee

School Business Manager:	Fiona Haskayne
Admin Officer:	Sarah Huxley
Caretaker:	Dan Jones
SENCO:	Rebecca Crawshaw

### Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 13th September	PSA Meeting 7 (details below)
Thursday 14 September 6-8pm	Welcome Meeting - Years 1 & 2 (parent only event)
WC 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Virtual parent consultations for all year groups. (Information to follow)
Friday 20 October	Next Steps sent home (see below)
Friday 20 October	School closes for half term
Monday 30 October	School opens

## Building Works

School has been extremely busy over the holidays. Our 7 projects began on July 26<sup>th</sup> and are still being completed.

We have:

- replaced the heating system.
- began work to install a new fire alarm system which will be completed in October half term.
- changed the staffroom into a classroom which is now class 9. This has included installing new toilets for the children, sink area, new flooring and the installation of IT equipment. The change will allow all Reception classes to access the outdoor provision.
- Reconfigured class 9 so we now have a PPA/meeting room, staffroom and SENCO room. This has included stripping back the room, installing three new walls, a kitchen, redecoration and new flooring.
- Installed a digital lunchtime system ready for our new provider Dolce.
- Extended and upgraded the Reception outdoor provision which has involved installing a fence, canopy and redesigning and installing lots of additional equipment.
- Installed a fence around our forest school area - this is to ensure the health and safety of our children.

It really does feel like a new school and I am sure everyone can appreciate how much time and hard work this takes from all the team. Mrs Prescott has spent time over the holidays moving classrooms in order that it is ready for the children, she even persuaded her family to help, and Mrs Crawshaw has prepared the new SENCO room. We have had over 20 workmen in over the holidays and up until the end of last week school still looked like a building site. Every room had been impacted by the works which not only takes focussed project management, but also causes lots of disruption and mess! All the team including teachers and teaching assistants came in to help get school ready for the new academic year, and we have filled two skips! I am so grateful to everyone for their dedication to school and their support in being ready for the children.

Our hero has been Mr Jones who has worked tirelessly to ensure the work is completed. He has given up almost his entire summer and dedicated his time to school. He has worked over and above what is expected, including weekends. We cannot thank him enough and we feel extremely privileged to have such a skilled and dedicated caretaker. The Hursthead Infant Family really pulled together to make our vision a reality in just 5 weeks. Thank you everyone!



## Dolce – School Lunches

We are very excited to welcome our new lunch provider, Dolce. All parents will have received an email from SchoolGrid, the software provider for Dolce. Please set up a SchoolGrid account as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so, to order your children's lunches. Please visit <https://www.dolce.co.uk/> and have a look at Dolce's website too!

## Tours for perspective parents

Please see tour dates below for prospective parents for September 2024. Remember applications for reception places will close in **January 2024**



### Dates of tours:

Wednesday 1 November 9:30am

Thursday 2 November 1:30pm

Tuesday 7 November 9:30am

Friday 10 November 1:30pm

## Our Amazing Results

We are so proud of our children who have worked extremely hard and made excellent progress over the year. Please see our published results below in reading, writing and maths where you can see how we compare with other schools nationally and locally. In some cases, our results are triple the national average. This is credit to the children, our wonderful staff who have high expectations for all, and to the adults at home who support the children and school. Well done everyone, and thank you!

Year 2 End of Key Stage 1	Meeting the expected standard		Working at the greater depth standard	
	National Average (2023)	Hursthead Infant School	National Average (2023)	Hursthead Infant School
Reading	68%	90% (+22%)	19%	48% (+29%)
Writing	60%	88% (+28%)	8%	30% (+22%)
Maths	71%	90% (+19%)	16%	47% (+31%)

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check	National Average (2022)	Hursthead Infant School	Stockport Authority
Pass	79%	99% (+20%)	80%

Reception GLD (Good Level of Development)	National Average (2022)	Hursthead Infant School	Stockport Authority
Pass	67%	86% (+19%)	68%

### **Tesco Competition - a reminder to vote!**

We are delighted to let you know that we were successful in our application to the Tesco Community Grants Scheme! Our project of developing the EYFS outdoors will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores. Voting has commenced and you can vote until the end of September 2023. The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive £1,500.

### **What happens next?**

Please see below a list of stores taking part in the voting on our project:

- Stockport Extra SK1 2BT
- Cheadle Stockport Rd Exp SK3 0PW
- Heaton Moor Stockport Express SK4 4DU
- Hazel Grove Stockport Express SK7 6DT
- Cheadle Wilmslow Express (Handforth) SK8 1DW
- Heald Green Express SK8 3QA
- Gatley Church Rd Express SK8 4ES
- Cheadle Hulme Express SK8 7AB

To check the location of any of the above stores, please go to the Tesco website here: <http://www.tesco.com/store-locator/uk>

### **Voting**

**This is where you can help! The more votes we receive, the more likely we are to win. Please share with your family, friends, workplace, neighbours...**

**To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive tokens in order to cast your vote in store.**

### **Next Steps**

School sends home, at regular intervals, individualised "Next Steps" for all pupils in literacy, maths and the thematic work undertaken in each year group. These will inform you of particular areas of learning that will benefit your child.

### **Seesaw**

Teachers use a computer app called "Seesaw" to communicate with you, give you more details about our curriculum and to issue homework. The system is currently being updated so that your child is linked to their new class and we hope that this will be completed by the end of next week. Your child will then bring home their new log-in information - please keep this in a safe place as the log-in will be the same throughout the year on all devices. Please ensure that you log out of your child's previous Seesaw account before entering the new log-in information in order to see your child's new class. All year groups will be passing on to you an overview of the work that your child will be completing this year.

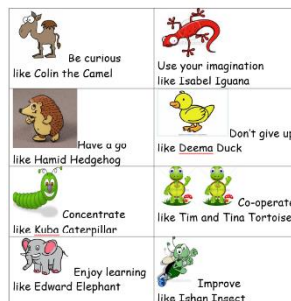
### **Birthday Assembly**

This year we are going to celebrate birthdays in class and teachers will ensure children receive a certificate on their special day. Whilst parents will not be able to attend the in-class celebrations, there are many more opportunities for parents to visit school, starting with the Reception meetings and the Year 1 and 2 welcome night in September, a face to face parent consultation in March, three open afternoons throughout the year, and a parent invite to our Mini-Olympics.

## Celebratory Award

Over the year pupils may be awarded with the weekly 'Headteacher Award' badges. These badges are awarded to pupils for being helpful, kind or looking after others. They are also awarded if the class teacher has noticed a pupil particularly behaving like one of our 'learning characters'. As a reminder I have listed these characters and their learning characteristics below and I would encourage parents to talk about these at home as regularly as you can over the summer.

'keep improving like Ishan insect'  
'be curious like Colin the camel'  
'use your imagination like Isabel iguana'  
'enjoy learning like Edward elephant'  
'have a go like Hamid the hedgehog'  
'don't give up like Deema duck'  
'keep co-operating like Tina and Tom tortoise'  
'concentrate like Cuba the caterpillar'



## PSA

Thank you to the parents who joined the PSA committee for a meeting before the summer holidays. The next meeting is on Wednesday 13th September, 7.45pm at the Governors in Cheadle Hulme. We have lots coming up and lots of exciting events for the children to be discussed. The PSA letters will continue to be emailed out to parents by the school to keep you informed and updated. However, if you would like to get in touch please speak to a member of the committee, your class rep or send an email to [hurstheadinfantpsa@gmail.com](mailto:hurstheadinfantpsa@gmail.com)

### The newly elected PSA committee are:

Chair - Natalie Jones (child in class 3)  
Vice Chair - Laura Scott (child in class 3)  
Secretary - Natalie Hall (child in class 3)  
Treasurer - Mel Wilkinson (child in class 1)

## Nasal Flu Vaccinations

We have been informed that Intra Health will be coming into school on Friday 10 November to administer the nasal flu vaccination. Further information and consent forms will be given closer to the time.

## Curriculum Additions

Each week, each class will enjoy an "activity time". During this time pupils will engage in either a French lesson with Mme Coutts, a sporting activity with a qualified sports coach or a music/ukulele lesson. The sessions will last for an afternoon or a morning, and each class will rotate on a half termly basis around the three activities. We feel this initiative brings greater breadth and creativity, plus a lot of fun and enjoyment, to the curriculum we offer our pupils. Year 2 will be enjoying their activity time on a Tuesday afternoon, Reception on a Wednesday morning and Year 1 on a Wednesday afternoon. In addition, Years 1 & 2 will enjoy during the academic year a 6 week block of Forest School.

## Asthma Inhalers/Medical Needs

If your child uses an asthma inhaler, even on an occasional basis, could we please ask that you leave a spare inhaler in school together with details of dosage and frequency required. Please ensure that this is brought into school in its original named box. A member of staff will contact parents if an inhaler has been administered during the school day and a note will be put in the child's book bag. If your child has specific medical needs or during the course of the year develops a medical condition, please ensure school is made fully aware.

## **Nut Free Zone**

We remain a nut free zone. Please ensure that children do not bring any food containing nuts into school. If children do bring food containing nuts, a member of staff will hold on to it until the end of the day and return to parents.

## **Parking**

Parking around both schools is a genuine safety concern at drop off and collection times. Please can everyone park with consideration for each other, the school's neighbours and the safety of the school community. The estate around the school is large and we would encourage parents, who need to drive, to park away from the school and walk the short distance to the school playground. I have attached information from the Council for your information.

## **Open Afternoons**

Each term class books will be sent home so you can see the fantastic work and progress your child has made. We will also hold open afternoons at the end of each term where you will be able to visit your child's classroom. Further information will be sent out before the first open afternoon.

## **Water Bottles**

At Hursthead Infant School we feel very strongly that every child should have access to water throughout the day. We operate a water availability scheme and all children are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle (water only please), labelled with their name, into school daily. Please ensure, for organisational and spillage reasons, that the bottle is kept separate from lunch boxes and reading bags. The water bottles can be 'topped up' and re-filled during the school day. We do like to maintain uniformity hence each child is given their first water bottle by the school. Replacements can be purchased from the school office for the bargain price of £1.50 or 50p for the lid only!

## **PE Kit for Gymnastics and Outdoor Games**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the P.E kit your child will need to keep in school. Each individual item of clothing should be labelled with your child's name.

- Plain T- shirt, round necked white
- Black shorts with narrow legs (please note that dance leggings that reach the back of the knee are not suitable for gymnastics as they are too long.)
- Jogging bottoms - these can be any colour and are just needed to keep pupils warm for outdoor games
- Warm Sweatshirt - again any colour
- A pair of trainers - velcro fastening is appreciated
- Short socks - if tights are being worn!
- Hair bobble (as appropriate)

## **Jewellery in PE lessons**

Following advice given by Stockport Council, with regard to the safety of pupils in school, we request that pupils do not wear jewellery, including earrings. We realise this may cause difficulty for pupils who have recently had their ears pierced; please do approach the class teacher if this is the case. We respectfully ask parents to have pupils' ears pierced during the summer holidays to help with this policy.

## **Absences**

We request parents to contact school by telephone or email on the first day of their child's absence so that school is fully informed of the whereabouts of all pupils on roll. If your child is likely to be absent for a longer period please keep the school office fully informed. This information is legally required in order for the absence not to be recorded as 'unauthorised'.

## **Child Safety**

In the interests of keeping our school and children as safe as possible we would request your help in adhering to the following matters:

- Please use the Infant playground entrance at the start and end of the school day.

- Please do accompany your child across the road and into the school grounds.
- Please do not bring dogs into the school playground. There is a Health and Safety issue raised when dogs foul in the playground and some of our children are very frightened of dogs.
- Please park appropriately. In the interests of the safety of all children we ask you not to park on the yellow zig-zag lines or partly on the pavements at the start or the end of the school day. Please make sure that accessibility to people's properties for residents, deliveries and the emergency services is maintained at all times.

### **Lost Property**

Lost property can be found inside the door of Reception's side entrance of school. If your child loses an item please check the labelled containers. Could we again request that all items of clothing, lunch boxes etc are clearly marked or labelled so that they can be reunited with the children. At the end of each half term unmarked items from lost property will be donated to charity. Thank you for your assistance.

### **School Uniform**

During the school year uniform, including school book bags, can be purchased from Zenith Childrenswear by completing an order form online [www.zenithchildrenswear.co.uk](http://www.zenithchildrenswear.co.uk) . Orders are delivered to school by Zenith and dispatched via your child.

### **Pupil Premium**

Eligible Pupil Premium funding is an allocated amount of money paid directly to schools. The funding supports the teaching, learning and well-being of pupils who are eligible. Pupils who can access this funding can either be:

- Free School Meals
- A Looked After Child in the care of the Local Authority
- Children adopted from care on or after 30<sup>th</sup> December 2005 (even if for only one day)
- Children who left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) on or after 30<sup>th</sup> December 2005 and
- Children who left care under a Residency Order (RO) on or after 14<sup>th</sup> October 1991

If any family has a child who meets the above criteria, please can you inform myself or the school office in order for school to claim the funding. We do fully appreciate that this information is confidential.

Have a restful weekend everyone, and I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Karen Grant  
Headteacher