



HURSTHEAD INFANT SCHOOL

We care, we learn, we belong

Headteacher: Miss K Grant

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Newsletter No.1 - 9 September 2022

Dear Parents

Thank you for the warm welcome you have given me. I am looking forward to meeting 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.

Hursthead is a lovely school. The children really do reflect the care, support and learning that is happening at home. My aim is to build on the success the school has already achieved. As Headteacher, I will ensure that every child that comes through our doors is given the opportunity to flourish and to grow in confidence.

I am very keen for parents to be actively involved with school life. It is important to me that parents know that if you have any questions or feedback you can get in touch. If you wish to speak to me or your child's teacher please telephone the school office on 0161 439 2238 and leave a message, or send an email via Headteacher@hursthead-inf.stockport.sch.uk

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.

Organisation of staff 2022/23

The members of staff are as follows:

Headteacher	Karen Grant
Deputy Headteacher	Mandy Devereux
Class 1	Sarah McLennan
Class 2	Matthew Thornley
Class 3	Hannah Simpson
Class 4	Rebecca Crawshaw
Class 5	Jo Glenton
Class 6	Mandy Devereux
Class 7	Jess Newson
Class 8	Tina Patel
Class 9	Kathy Prescott

Teacher/Music: Emma Gordon

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

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

HM Queen Elizabeth II

We express our deepest sympathies for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and we thank her for her service. Our school will observe the mourning period whilst continuing to support our pupils, families and staff. We have celebrated Her Majesty's life in a special assembly at school this morning, which was followed by a minute's silence at 11:40am. If you think your child may be experiencing particular upset due to the passing of the Queen, please do let us know so we can provide additional support if needed.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 19 September	PSA Meeting
Tues 4, Wed 5 & Thurs 6 October	Learning Review Meetings for Reception. (Information to follow)
Fri 7, Tue 11 & Wed 12 October	Year 2 Staircase House visit
Wednesday 19 October	Nasal Flu Vaccinations
Friday 21 October	Next Steps sent home (see below)
Friday 21 October	School closes for half term
Monday 31 October	School opens

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.

Parental Updates

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. The first 'Next Steps' will be coming home on Friday 21st October. Further information regarding parent consultation meetings for Years 1 and 2 will be sent out later this half term

Birthday Assembly

We hold a celebratory Birthday Assembly every Monday at 2:45pm for the children who have a birthday during the week (Monday to Sunday). Parents and carers of children with birthdays are welcome to come and join us.

Celebratory Award

Two pupils in each class will be awarded 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'. Below I have listed these characters and their learning characteristic.

I am sure the children may have mentioned them to you:-

- '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 all the parents who joined the PSA committee for a meeting before the summer holidays. They said how lovely it was to see so many new faces. The next meeting is on Monday 19th September, details will be sent out nearer the time. The last meeting was very well attended and lots of exciting events for the children were 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

The newly elected PSA committee are:

Chair - Natalie Jones (child in class 4)

Vice Chair - Laura Scott (child in class 4)

Secretary - Julie Nelson-Hall (child in class 3)

Treasurer - Suzanne Forshaw (child in class 8)

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

We have been informed that Intra Health will be coming into school on Wednesday 19 October 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 (cricket, hockey, basketball) or a 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. 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.

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.

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 during PE lessons, we request that pupils do not wear jewellery, including earrings, on PE days. The class teacher will be able to advise, if they have not done so already, which days these will be. We realise this may cause difficulty for pupils who have recently had their ears pierced; please do approach the class teacher or myself 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 . 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 30th December 2005 (even if for only one day)
- Children who left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) on or after 30th December 2005 and
- Children who left care under a Residency Order (RO) on or after 14th 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.

Stockport LA's Start Well

We have been contacted by the Local Authority informing of us of the above initiative and its virtual offer of live sessions for families with children pre-birth to 5 years. These sessions offer advice and tips on supporting all aspects of a child's development and school readiness (some sessions are for children up to the age of 10). Families can book on via the Start Well website <https://www.startwellstockport.co.uk/news/live-virtual-sessions-september/> or through their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StartWellStockport>.

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

Karen Grant
Headteacher