



Horspath Church of England Primary School  
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Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Coleman  
Chair of Governors: Mrs. Munaza Dogar

5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone! The holiday seems to have gone very quickly but it is good to have all the children back and to hear of all the exciting things they got up to during the summer break. They certainly seem refreshed and enthusiastic to be back!

It has been lovely to welcome all of new Acorn Class pupils and their families into school.

A big thank you to our Buddies who have been doing a brilliant job helping our new pupils to settle in.

### **Roald Dahl Day**

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> of September we will be celebrating 100 years since Roald Dahl's birth. Each class will be focussing their day around some of his wonderful stories.

*"A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth, but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely."* Roald Dahl

### **Class Newsletters**

The class newsletters will be sent home to you by the end of this week. As usual these will contain information about topics, PE days and other classroom routines. We have made some changes this year to the reading diary system for children in Years 3-6, details of which will be sent out with the class newsletters.

### **The morning rush!**

Mornings are a busy time in the classrooms and in the cloakrooms so we do expect pupils in Lime, Oak and Willow to say goodbye to their mums and dads in the playground and to sort out their own belongings. This doesn't mean that you aren't welcome to come into the classroom for a quick word with the class teacher or teaching assistant if you need to. You are also welcome to put a note in your child's reading diary, phone the school or email the school office to contact your child's teacher.

## **Lunchboxes and birthday treats**

As a school we worked hard to achieve and subsequently maintain our Enhanced Healthy School status. This means that we expect our pupils' packed lunches to contain a variety of healthy options with no chocolate bars or sweets.

Pupils often bring in treats for their friends on their birthdays, we are happy to hand out cakes or biscuits but not sweets. If you send in birthday cake for the children please help us by cutting the cake up with a slice for each child in the class.

## **School Rewards**

### **House Points**

At the end of last year we asked the children for their feedback about how well the reward and incentive systems we have in school are working. They told us they enjoy being rewarded with stickers and gold cards, although the novelty and incentive that these provide has worn off for some pupils by Year 6. The children were also asked to give feedback about how well the school promotes the school values. The children felt that we need to do more to help everyone understand what these values mean in the day to day life of the school.

We have decided to put each child into one of three school houses: red, white or blue. The children will be able to earn house points in the same way that they have always earned stickers in the past: for examples of good learning behaviour and work which demonstrate independence, resilience and aiming high. They will also earn house points for demonstrating the school values of forgiveness, truth and respect for themselves and others (accountability).

These house points will be recorded using the online Class Dojo system which Mrs Westhead has used successfully in her class over the past few years. The children will have their own log-in so that they can track their house points, and why each one has been awarded, at home if they wish to.

Each week the total number of house points earned by each child for their house will be totalled by class and added to the running total for the whole school. At the end of the Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms there will be treat for the members for the winning house.

We will also be asking class house reps and Year 6 House captains to take responsibility for their houses and to meet with the school leadership team and school governors to give feedback about the school and to offer suggestions.

We are also planning to have some house workshops during the year where children from across the school can come together to explore maths, science, storytelling etc.

### **Golden Moments**

The children also told us that they enjoyed receiving Golden Moments but they felt that these should only be awarded for exceptional effort or behaviour that sets an example to others, and not used as a reward for the normal expectations of learning and behaviour at school. So this year we will continue to award Golden Moments alongside house points but focus on using them to reward exceptional examples of behaviour and good work.

There is a busy year ahead so please hang on to the diary dates below!

## Diary Dates

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Academy consultation opens
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Governor Nominations open
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	No Family Assembly
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Governor Nominations close at 9.00am
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Governor ballot papers issued
	Roald Dahl Day
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Governor Election closes at 9.00am
	Family Assembly 2.45pm
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Family Assembly 2.45pm
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Two Queens workshop for Lime and Beech Classes
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>MacMillan Afternoon Tea 2.15pm</b>
	No Family assembly
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Academy consultation closes at 9.00am
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Family Assembly 2.45pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Harvest Festival Service 2.30pm</b>
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	School Closed for INSET

Half Term 24<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> October

## Early Warning

Year 6 Yenworthy	7 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> November
Friendship Week	14 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> November
School Closes	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December
INSET	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January
School reopens	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January
Half Term	13 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Easter Holidays	10 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> April
INSET	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April
School Reopens	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> April
Half Term	29 <sup>th</sup> May – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
School Closes	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Coleman  
Headteacher