

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

Friday 2nd February 2018

Dear parents,

I thought it would be a good idea to give you a progress report on some of the changes we have made this year in English and maths lessons.

English lessons

We have changed the way we plan English lessons, using quality texts and digital texts as a starting point. The aim is to engage and interest all of the children but particularly our more reluctant readers and writers. The children have been really keen and eager to learn in these lessons and several parents have told me how much their children are enjoying their English lessons. These are all good signs that these changes are working. Also, looking at the progress the children have made over the Autumn Term, there are early signs that the changes are starting to make a positive difference to the children's grades in tests and assessment tasks.

Spelling lessons are now happening in the classrooms, we will keep you posted on how successful this change is.

Maths lessons

We now teach maths in longer topics so that the children have more time to become fluent and challenge themselves with new maths skills before the class moves on to the next topic. Our assessment tracking over the Autumn Term is showing that more children are moving into learning at a higher standard which is exactly what we want to see. In last year's Year 6 SATs, 26% of pupils achieved the combined higher standard in reading, writing and maths. This is 17% more than the Oxfordshire average and 17% higher than the national average and put Horspath School in the top 10 schools out of the 309 Oxfordshire primary schools for the higher standard measure. We want to continue to build on this success over the coming years.

Our school governors have suggested to me that one of the things that I need to improve on is celebrating and sharing our successes. In the true spirit of being a Growth Mindset School, I am practising – see above!

If you are interested in data and league tables, you can follow the (long!) link to the Oxfordshire league tables here: https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools®ion=931&geographic=la&for=primary&orderby=ks2.0.PTRWM_HIGH&orderdir=asc&datatype=percent&sortpolicy=inversepolicy)

Kitchen Vacancy

Caterlink, our new catering provider, have a kitchen assistant vacancy in our kitchen.

The role is 10 hours per week. Normal working hours would be 11.30 – 1.30. The role would involve supporting the chef manager in daily kitchen duties including: washing up, serving,

basic food prep and cleaning. Experience is not required for this role as all training will be provided. Please contact Tim Hendon from Caterlink either by phone or by email. thendon@caterlinkltd.co.uk or 07807 628229.

Best Wishes

Tim Hendon

Project Manager

Handwriting

It is over 6 years since we introduced cursive joined handwriting to the school. This year, to achieve the expected standard in writing at the end of Year 6 the children have to have *joined* legible handwriting. Children who write neatly and legibly but do not join their letters will not meet the expected standard this year. We will continue to encourage and reward children for their handwriting in school and provide some extra help and support to those who find it difficult.

There is some guidance on how to form cursive letters on our website which is suitable for younger children <http://horspath.oxon.sch.uk/parents/how-to-help-your-child-with/> .

NSPCC

You may have seen the recent NSPCC adverts which are spreading the word about the underwear rule “Let’s Talk Pants”. There are free activity packs available for you to do with your child which you can download from

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule?mc_cid=db460ba15e&mc_eid=a0541134fa

Pupil progress Reports

The parents’ on-line access to Pupil Tracker is now closed while the teachers update their assessments. We will open it up again after the Easter holiday so you can see your child’s progress over the Spring Term – so **hang on to those usernames and passwords!** There will be parents’ meetings in March to give you an up to date picture of how your child is doing over this term.

Growth Mindset

Here are some tips to encourage a growth mindset when your child tells you about their day at school.

Avoid:	Instead:
Don’t worry; I was never any good at maths either.	Don’t worry, keep working hard, speak to your teacher, practise even more and you will definitely improve.
Great result – you’re really smart at	Well done! You clearly tried really hard and all your extra effort has paid off.
You learned that so quickly – you are so smart.	That’s a really good start; now try something even more challenging to really help you improve.
You are such a talented musician / athlete / mathematician.	The amount of work and effort you put into being a musician / athlete / mathematician is really paying off – well done.

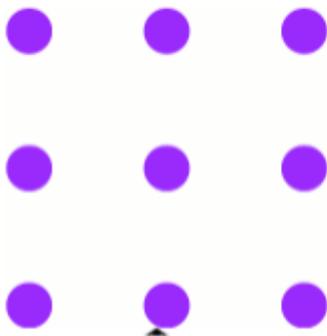
I am sorry for not including the solution to the last puzzle in the newsletter a couple of weeks ago, here it is now and a new puzzle for you to try with your child:

Solution to the previous puzzle

GIFT LIFT LIFE LOVE

This week's puzzle

Join all the dots without lifting your pen and only using 4 lines.



Spring Term dates for your diary:

Friday 19 th January	Family Assembly 2.45pm
Friday 26 th January	Family Assembly 2.45pm
Friday 2 nd February	Family Assembly 2.45pm
Friday 9 th February	Year 5&6 Shadow of the Minotaur trip Family Assembly 2.45pm PTA Cake Sale
Half Term	12 th Feb – 16 th Feb
Tuesday 20 th February	Year 6 IMPS trip
Friday 23 rd February	Family Assembly 2.45pm
Thursday 1 st March	World Book day PTA Book Sale
Friday 2 nd March	Dinosaur Workshop Acorn Class
Friday 2 nd March	Family Assembly 2.45pm
Tuesday 6 th March	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm
Wednesday 7 th March	Parents' Evening 3.30pm-5.30pm
Friday 9 th March	Class Photos
Friday 9 th March	Family Assembly 2.45pm
Friday 16 th March	Music Assembly 2.30pm
Thursday 22 nd March	Junior Citizens trip Year 6
Friday 23 rd March	<i>No Family Assembly</i>
Tuesday 27 th March	Topic Display 3.15pm School Hall PTA Easter Egg Tombola and Cake Sale
Wednesday 28 th March	Topic Display 9.00am School Hall

Thursday 29th March Easter Service 9.15am School Hall
PTA Decorated Egg Competition
Thursday 29th March School Closes at 1.30pm

Easter Holidays 30th March – 13th April

Summer Term:
School Reopens Monday 16th April
Friday 27th April PTA Disco
Key Stage 2 SATs Tests 4th May – 17th May
Key Stage 1 SATs Tests 21st May – 25th May
Half Term 28th May – 1st June
School Closes Wednesday 25th July

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Coleman
Headteacher