

A NEWSLETTER FROM



MS ELBOURNE-CLOAD



# HEADS UP

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Friday 14 October 2022



With one week to go until half-term, Autumn is well and truly here. Along with the rest of the country we are endeavoring to keep down our energy costs, and remembering to warm the body and not the room! However, it is surprising how many children are still coming to school without jumpers, let alone coats. Please ensure your child has a school jumper/cardigan and coat in school every day now that the temperature is dropping (please ensure these items are all named – thank you).

## Harvest Assemblies

We were astounded and very pleased at how many parents joined us at both the infant and junior Harvest Assemblies. Thank you so much for all the kind donations for the St Albans Foodbank – they are very much appreciated and will make a huge difference to the local community.

## Parent Consultations

A reminder that parent consultations take place next Tuesday and Wednesday and we would really like to see at least one parent/carer for every child. If you have had any problems booking a slot please contact the infant or junior office.

## Absence

Reporting an absence is an imperative part of our safeguarding. If your son/daughter is unwell or will not be attending school, you must let us know **by 9am** giving details for their absence. You can leave a voicemail if the office is not open, or if you are unable to telephone then please send an email.

The national expectation for pupil attendance is 97% or higher over the year. We will be sending our half-termly attendance and punctuality letters out by half term. We understand that some absences, such as illness, are unavoidable but we are still expected to share expectations with parents and identify any children with a low or falling attendance rate. Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter for the impact of low attendance on children's outcomes.

## Parent Information Workshops

We will be holding writing information workshops for parents for years 1 and 2 on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October from 9-9.30am and years 3,4,5 and 6 on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 9-9.30am. We also have an EYFS maths workshop on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm.

## Infant Gates and opening times

In order to allow parents time to leave the site after they have dropped off their child, and to ensure children have attended school on time, we ask parents to stick to the one way system around the school. This enables us to lock the entrance gate at 8.45 (when classes start) and lock the exit gate promptly at 8.50 when all parents should have left the site. Could we also ask that you only walk around to your classroom just before doors open and that you leave the internal school paths quickly to ensure that the walkways are not obstructed.

## **Career Assemblies for the Junior School**

We are always very keen to widen our children's horizons in terms of what they may want to be when they grow up. Therefore over the last few years (except the Covid era!) we have asked parents to come in and share some insights into their careers in a 10 minute assembly. These can either be as a presentation or via question and answer from one of the Senior Leadership Team. These assemblies have been really positively received in the past and it is such a positive way to widen children's aspirations for the future. If you would be willing to contribute to this (you can be in either school) please email the junior office on [juniors@cunninghamhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:juniors@cunninghamhill.herts.sch.uk) to arrange a convenient date.

## **Online Platforms & Social Media**

We want to be able to share the great things that the children are doing in school and we have asked parents for permission to post photos on Seesaw and and Tapestry. However, these photos are for families on personal viewing as part of our Safeguarding Policy. Please can we remind you that these images must not be reposted on any form of social media, as this will sadly lead us to having to restrict our posts to text or images without any pupils.

## **Community engagement**

We would really like the children in our schools to have opportunities to engage with the local community. In the past we have done things like: local litter picking; carol singing at nursing homes; story-telling at nursing homes; gardening; letter-writing to isolated people in the community, etc. If you are aware of any ideas or schemes that might support this please let the school offices know.

## **Parking Issues**

We have recently received a number of complaints about our parents parking inconsiderately around the local area. Specific areas mentioned have been parking spaces for the flats across from the schools (these are mainly for over 55 and disabled users), parking across drives at the back of the school, use of St Lukes' carpark and parking in front of the electricity sub-station entrance (which must be left clear at all times for emergency use). Please could we ask that you park responsibly – we have encouraged those who have raised concerns to contact the police and highways agency if there are no improvements, but we hope that a gentle reminder will be sufficient.

## **Lost Property**

The pile of unnamed lost property continues to grow and this is now being relocated to the foyers of both the infant and junior school. Items not claimed within a month will then be passed to the PTA to sell as second hand uniform.

Finally, with one week to go before half-term, I wish you a very relaxing break and look forward to seeing everyone back, safe and sound, on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October. We hope all our families celebrating Diwali enjoy their time together.

**J Elbourne-Cload**

Executive Headteacher

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Please send any feedback via email to [admin@cunninghamhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cunninghamhill.herts.sch.uk)

## Understanding the impact of lateness and attendance on learning time

MINUTES LATE PER DAY	HOW MUCH MISSED IN A SCHOOL YEAR	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE	HOW MANY DAYS MISSED IN A SCHOOL YEAR
5 minutes	3.4 school days	97%	6 school days
10 minutes	1.4 school weeks	95%	10 school days
15 minutes	2.6 school weeks	90%	20 school days
20 minutes	2.8 school weeks	85%	29 school days
30 minutes	4 school weeks	80%	39 school days

**Although teachers do their best to help children with lessons they have missed, they are not able to repeat the whole lesson again for one child, so this is lost learning time.**

**Research shows that pupils with no (or very low) absence/persistent lateness are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs compared with those with less than 95% throughout their school career.**

