

Love, Learn, Live



Head of School – Mrs R. Pierpoint

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Updates for Parents – March 2017

Wednesday 22nd March 2017

You will have noticed that our forest school project is now well under way. The new outdoor classroom has been completed; along with the lookout shelter, the tool station, the saw horse, the fire pit, the wood store and the mud patch. All the work should be completed by the time the children return to school after the Easter holidays.

Staffing Updates

Mrs Barker has now returned from her maternity leave and is enjoying being back at school. During the mornings Mrs Barker works in Year 1 with Mr Campbell and Miss Leadon and in the afternoon she works in Year 2 with Mr Logan and Mrs Webster.

Exciting News

We are delighted to announce, that Mrs Lynch is expecting another baby; number 4! The plan is for Mrs Lynch to be with her class until school finishes for the summer holidays in July. Mrs Lynch will then start her maternity leave during the summer holidays as the children prepare to move up to their new classes.

Open days

Last week we held two open days for perspective parents who would like their children to join our Pre-School and also main school. Our numbers are gradually increasing across the school and we now have almost 280 children in school with a further 50 children registered in Pre-School. We do still have another 50 places to fill across the school in order for us to be full. If you have friends who are considering moving their children or have friends who have children ready to start school then please recommend us.

Cohort sizes

Since 2014 our cohort numbers were increased to 60. New families moving into the area over the last three months have seen 1 new child join Year 1, 3 in Year 3, 3 in year 4 and another 2 children in Year 5. In addition we have been approached by another two families who would like their children to join Year 1. Worcestershire County Council signpost children to Heronswood as we have places to fill.

Year 1

Ideally we would like to have two classes in Year 1, as we currently do in Reception and Year 2 so we can avoid moving to mixed year groups. One initial solution has been to allocate both Mrs Barker and Miss Perkins to work alongside Mr Campbell and Miss Leadon. The second solution has been to transform our green room into an additional classroom space for Year 1 to spread into. Our third solution, which is now likely to be implemented, will be to employ a second teacher to work alongside Mr Campbell. We are trialling things as we go to ensure the minimal amount of disruption to the children's learning but also their friendship groups. It is likely the children will remain as one class but they will then be taught in two smaller groups. The children have been used to working in smaller groups and in the green room since September.

Stay and Play Sessions and Back to School Sessions

Thank you to all the parents, carers and grandparents who have come along to these sessions. The way children are taught at Heronswood has changed significantly over the last few years which is why these sessions are so valuable. In addition the children do love sharing their learning with their adults.

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Wrap Around and Holiday Club

Reminder to all our families and friends - Wrap Around is available every day for children aged between 3 and 12. It opens at 7:30am every morning and closes at 5:30pm. You can book a place for your child on the day and you can add sessions as needed but please make sure you have filled in the registration forms beforehand. During the Easter break we are offering our Holiday Club (8:00am-5:30pm each day) for children aged between 3 and 12, even if they don't attend Heronswood Primary. The booking form will be sent home next week and an electronic copy will be emailed out. Please fill it in and return to the school office ASAP so your child's place can be reserved. Please note the holiday club will be closed on Bank holiday Friday and Monday.

Attendance

Attendance remains a high priority at Heronswood, for all children, as even a couple of days absence can interfere with a sequence of learning, creating gaps in your child's understanding and education. High attendance is crucial in enabling your child to reach their full potential and as a parent it is your legal duty to ensure your child attends school.

Reminder that holidays will not be authorised during term time as there are 13 weeks of school holidays already and we deliberately add TED days to half terms so families can go on holiday a day before the official holidays start.

Parental Support – Reminders

Our parent council reps have reported that there is a significant amount of dog mess outside the school fences. This has been reported to the council, who have promised they will clean up the area. Parents please can you ensure that if you are bringing your dogs to school that, 1) they don't enter the school perimeter, 2) they are not tied up by the paths where young children are walking and 3) any mess is cleared up straight away.

Festival of Music

Hundreds of KS2 children from across our seven schools have now signed up to attend the Festival of Music on Thursday 13th July. If you have not yet returned your reply slip please do so by the end of the week so we can organise coaches and the final arrangements.

Parent Helpers

We are currently looking for parents to come in and hear readers in school. If you have an afternoon a week free, or you know somebody who has, then please let us know because your help could be invaluable. As a volunteer you are still subject to a police check – DBS.

Home Reading

Please can we remind parents that you should be reading with your child at least five times a week. Once you have read please sign and date the home school diaries. If you are unable to read with your child at home then they will be asked to read with an adult in school during their break time to ensure they don't fall behind their peers.

In addition we have noticed that a large number of our reading books have gone missing; please can you check your book shelves and under the beds to find our missing books.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Pierpoint
Head of School