

The Horsley School Bag

Friday 21st December, 2018

Newsletter 8 from Mr Price, *Head Teacher*

Our value this term is: **Respect**



Dear Parents

The run up to Christmas is always one of the most exciting times of the year, for children and staff alike. The last few weeks have certainly been very busy indeed, marked by some wonderful and memorable festive events: the KS1 nativity, the Christmas Fayre and the Christmas pantomime, no less.

As the term draws to a close, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your support. Without this all-important partnership we would not be able to provide the many rich opportunities for the children at Horsley. May I also take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in January, ready for a term of super, action-packed learning!

Mr Price



Congratulations to last week's special award winners:
Martha, Sam, Tilly, Zuri, Flynn, Stan, Boaz, Coco, Arthur, Joseph and Mack



Appointments

Sadly we say goodbye to Mrs Foreman who, after 20 years of service at Horsley, moves on to pastures new to start a teaching assistant position in another school. She has been utterly committed to the children of Horsley Primary School and has shaped the lives of literally hundreds of children as they have moved through their journey at Horsley Primary. She leaves a great legacy and will be much missed by many.

As recounted in a previous letter, Mrs Saddington will be replacing Mrs Foreman and is very excited about starting her role. We also welcome two new TAS: Karen Whiting and Cathy Brown. Both are experienced and will bring much-welcomed support for teaching staff. The school council were involved in the interview process and were amazing, as usual.



SCHOOL ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The term has given us the opportunity to really kick-start strategy on Horsley's key priorities for the year ahead, as defined in the school Action Plan for 2018/19. Raising attainment in writing, across the school, and teaching reasoning in maths are key areas of development. With the 'push' on writing, it has been lovely to see children motivated to achieve, developing stamina for writing and applying their knowledge of language features. I have issued more smelly stickers for high quality writing, and efforts in writing, than I can ever remember! It has also been lovely to see children talking confidently about their learning, whether it be to governors or other visitors. This term we also engaged an external consultant, David Shears, to undertake a review of the school and help us evaluate where we are, and give advice on what steps we need to take to be better at what we do. Next term we really want to be able to continue the drive in improving writing across the school and improve mathematics teaching and learning. Naturally, we want to still be creative (and do lots of art and outdoor learning, for example!), but it is important that we maintain the momentum with writing and maths.



Attendance and Safeguarding

Below are the attendance figures for all classes for this academic year to date.

Our Local Authority attendance threshold for persistent absence is 95%.

	Attendance	Lates <i>(after 8:55am)</i>	Unauthorised Absence
Foxes	95.44%	16	0.97%
Badgers	96.11%	22	0.29%
Otters	95.89%	66	0.39%
Owls	95.9%	53	0.92%

Crib Service Rehearsal

This popular Christmas Eve family service is always the perfect start to Christmas. If your child would like to take part (dressing up as a Nativity character or reading part of the Nativity story), please come to the rehearsal straight after school on the last day of term (12.15) in the church. The service itself is from 4-5pm on Christmas Eve.



A special request from Miss Kibble and Miss Wykes!

Please would children in Foxes, Squirrels and Badgers classes bring in any empty jam jars for the start of next term.

There's something creative going on for their new topic on Superheroes!!



Horsley Primary School 2019 Academic Year Dates

- Term 3: Tues 8th Jan - Fri 15th Feb 2019
- Term 4: Mon 25th Feb – Fri 5th April 2019
- Term 5: Tues 23rd April - Fri 24th May 2019
- Term 6: Mon 3rd June – Tues 23rd July 2019

Inset Days 2018-2019
Monday 7th January 2019

Inset Days 2019-2020
Monday 6th January 2020
Monday 20th July 2020

SCHOOL TERM DATES

School Diary Dates 2018-2019

December

21 Last day of term, finish 12.15pm

22

January

7 INSET day

8 Spring Term begins—Epiphany Week

20 Licensing of Caroline Bland at St George's, Nailsworth, 3.00pm

21 Young Voices Concert at Birmingham NEC

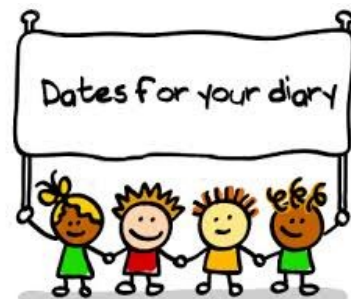
February

13 Girls' Football Tournament, Brimscombe School

26 Parents' Evening
4.00-7.00pm

27 Parents' Evening
3.30-6.00pm

28 Chamber Concert
6.00-7.00pm



Horsley Primary School Governing Body - Update December 2018

The governing body has had a busy time working with the school and monitoring the school this term.

Who are the other governors? There have been some changes in governors with two new governors in September - Steve Huggett (Associate Governor and Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) governor) and Pete Feldon as Staff Governor. Following a period of advertising for a parent governor we are very pleased to welcome Catherine McDermott as a Parent Governor from January 2019. Gareth Tomkinson and Dan Whitehead resigned from the governing body – they were thanked for their commitment to the school and very valuable contributions to the work of the governing body. Mags Ratford continues as Chair of Governors and Mike Vaughan as Vice Chair. For more details on each governor please visit the school website. There are currently 11 governors and these are:



Foundation Governors	Parent Governors
Mags Ratford – Chair of Governors, EYFS lead governor, Governor Induction and Deputy Safeguard Governor	Julia Finlow – PSHE lead governor and chair of curriculum and standards
Mike Vaughan – Vice Chair of Governors, Maths and Health & Safety lead governor, chair of finance and resources	Catherine Dermott – Parent Governor to start January 2019
Mark Carden – English lead governor	Local Authority Governor Jo Moore – Safeguarding governor
Sue Sobczak – chair of curriculum and values	Staff Governors
Kathy Lee – Science lead governor	Gary Price – Headteacher
Steve Huggett – Associate Governor, Foundation Governor application pending	Pete Feldon – Assistant Headteacher

When the Reverend Caroline Bland takes up her position in January 2019 we hope she will also take up the position of ex-officio governor too at the school.

The work of the governors – what have we been doing this term?

Working closely with the school some of this has been:

The governors confirmed their committee membership and individual responsibilities have been re-focused including the nominated governors for SEND, Equality & Pupil Premium and Looked After Children (including previously), Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Personal, Social, Health and Emotional development (PSHE), Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Governor Training & Induction and subject areas of English, Maths and Science.

The governors attended meetings with a focus and discussion on a range of issues - we have had 2 full governing body meetings and committee meetings as follows: 2 curriculum and standards meetings, 2 finance meetings and 2 community and values meetings.

All governors receive feed back minutes from the committees and governor visits (this term an EYFS visit and English book trawl and English progress meeting), and have scrutinised these along with the head teacher report for the term, including summaries of key school performance attainment and progress data. Governors have provided questions that challenge and seek answers.

The Chair of Governors continues involvement with the head teacher in a project group with the local authority working with targets to develop leadership & management and teaching & learning across the school (with particular focus on English, maths and provision for SEND children).

The safeguarding governor and deputy safeguarding governor have been in school helping the school meet its statutory obligations, ensuring records are compliant, and helping with new 2018 legislation updates regarding keeping children safe in education.

The governors have helped with policy reviews for Safeguarding as a result of legislation change, Health & Safety, Admissions, and Behaviour - working together with staff and the senior leadership team.

The Chair of Governors was also involved in the recent interviews for two teaching assistant posts.

Governors have attended various training events too:

The whole governing body and staff team attended training on the role of governors in monitoring and challenging school.

The chair of governors attended a multi agency child protection course, also the Head teachers & Chair briefing by the Glos. C.C. Education dept and Safer working practices with the Headteacher.

The Headteacher, chair and vice chair of governors attended School Performance data training

Governors around the school

The governors would like thank you for your time at the parents' evenings at the end of October to speak to Mags (the Chair of Governors). It meant that we were able to hear from a total of 49 families about their parents' evening experience and things generally in school - the results were overwhelmingly positive, which was really good. It was also good to know about any concerns and the governors would encourage parents and carers if there is a concern then keep the dialogue open with school, initially through the class teacher, and then if needed the Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher.

Two governors were also fortunate enough to be invited and involved in the School Open day in November. It was really busy with lots of visitors to the school. It was a very positive and successful morning. The visitors included the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of another school in Gloucestershire who wanted to see how Horsley School does things. The children who guided the visitors around the school were fantastic ambassadors of the school – the feedback from visitors was that they had done an amazing job! We hear that some visitors have even come back to see the school in action again!

The chair of governors continues to help in the reception class on a Wednesday morning which is a wonderful opportunity to know the school – the children, the teachers and the staff. Mags has also attended some school functions like assemblies, harvest festival and Christmas celebrations.

The Safeguarding governor has visited school several times regarding safeguarding matters, meetings and the school safeguarding audit, including doing 'spot checks'.

The Rev. Sue Sobczak has continued to come into school for school collective worship and 'Open the Book' sessions to help promote the school and Christian values.

The governors would like to thank wholeheartedly the teachers, teaching assistants, staff, Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher for the tireless work they have done this term to provide the best they can for all the children and the parents and carers at the school. A big 'thank you' goes to the Friends of Horsley School for all the wonderful events and money raising that has gone on, and also to all the volunteers that go in and help at school.

It all makes Horsley School amazing!

Seasons greetings from all the governors!

