

HENDON NEWS

10TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Headteacher Message

Dear parents, carers and children,



Welcome back! It has been a fabulous week and so lovely to see parents and children at school again. We held our first face to face coffee morning for Preschool today which was so refreshing after 18 months of no visitors on site. After the rollercoaster of extraordinary events in the past couple of years, I am sure that I mirror the hope that this will be an altogether calmer and more stable academic year.

Whilst we are determined to move forward, we are not ignoring the fact that the virus is endemic in the population. We will continue to be careful, thoughtful of others and ready to adapt come what may. Handwashing, ventilation, staff-testing and the continuing day cleaning will continue at Hendon Prep, along with our belief that parents will do the right thing when children are poorly or testing prior to attending events on site.

There is so much to look forward to, and we started this week with children focussed and excited to get back to their learning and to be with their friends and teachers again. We recapped why our Golden Rules are so important, how to be a good friend and how all our new joiners are most welcome here.

Many in our community of families and staff celebrated Rosh Hashanah this week – and we wish all - Shana Tova - happy new year.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Gorasia

School News

Chamber Choir Club (Years 3-6)

Please sign up with the school office if you would like to join our Chamber Choir. Auditions will be on Thursday 16th Sept lunchtime (12.30-1.00) in the Music room. Pupils chosen will be listed on the music room notice board. Chamber Choir will be every Thursday at 12.30 in the Music room. Pupils will have lunch at 1.00pm. We will begin rehearsing for our first performance at Harvest Festival (the end of this half term).



Handbells Club (Years 3-6)

Pupils who are able to read musical notation are welcome to join our handbells club, every Wednesday at 1.00pm in the Music Room. Pupils must commit to attending every week.



School Reminders

Arrivals

Please do not arrive prior to 8.15am to drop off students in the morning, unless you are attending Morning Club. Morning Club is from 7.30-8.15am and is chargeable. Drop off for all students is between 8.15-8.30am. Please do not leave children unattended as staff do not begin Duty in the Forecourt or the playground until **8.15am**.

Drive and Drop

Please be reminded that our morning drive and drop is only for students Year 1 and above. This is to ensure flow of traffic is quick and not hindered. Children in Preschool and Reception should be accompanied by a parent/career and dropped off at the EY gate in the mornings.

Centralising of School Processes

We are aware that this year a number of previously school level processes have been changed. Whilst centralising of processes such as billing and upgrades in technology such as Cognita Connect are all part of improving efficiency and making things easier, there can be a period of transition, tweaking and tech glitches which require patience. Your patience with the HPS Office staff is appreciated as they support an increased number of parental queries at the start of this term regarding issues such as booking of After School Clubs, accessing of menus, billing, payments and so on.

Late to School

If your child is in Year 1-6 and arrives at school after 8.30am please can they use the main entrance to come in. If you are in Preschool or Reception (EYFS) please call the school office and a member of the EYFS team will come to collect your child. Please note that our Preschool is part of the school, and morning sessions start at 8.30am.

Contacting the School

All parents should now be using the Cognita Connect App to communicate with the school. Please send any message via Cognita Connect as this is the most efficient way to ensure that your messages are directed to the most appropriate member of the HPS team.

Meet the Teacher and Parents' Coffee

Over the next week, parents have the opportunity to meet their new teachers and to get to know each other in a series of coffee mornings. These will start at 8.45am in the school hall and run to about 9.30am. After

dropping your children (8.15-8.30am), if you are attending, we ask that you return to the site at 8.45am. There will be a brief overview of the year with teachers and then an opportunity for parents to mingle over coffee. These meetings are informal, and a chance for parents to reconnect. All parents have received the class timetable, termly curriculum overview and messages which will be delivered at these sessions, so if you can't attend, please do not worry.

Staff Absences

Just a gentle reminder that Hendon Prep staff, just like all employees, can take planned and unplanned leave. Teachers always do their best to avoid time off during term time, but there are occasions when this is not possible. Be assured that classes and lessons will always be covered during these times, which may include religious holidays, illness, family emergencies or professional development days, to name a few. We may sometimes need to cancel teacher-run after school club due to staff absence, however your child will be offered a free place in supervision if you require, and your understanding of this is always appreciated.

After School Clubs

Following Voice of the Parent feedback we have enhanced our after-school club offering this term to include Clubs that parents had fed back as wanting the school to source, including Dance, more Sports and Investigative Clubs. Please contact the Office as there are still spaces on these external Clubs which your child may be interested in attending. Please note that if we do not get enough students attending these Clubs, we cannot run them, which is disappointing. But again your understanding is appreciated.

Reminder Dates in September

Monday 13 th	Y1	Meet the teacher & coffee	8.45am School Hall
Tuesday 14 th	Y2	Meet the teacher & coffee	8.45am School Hall
Wednesday 15 th	Y3-6	Meet the teacher & coffee	8.45am School Hall
Thursday 16 th	Rec	Meet the teacher & coffee	8.45am School Hall
Friday 17 th	PS-Y6	Jeans for Genes Day	
Monday 20 th	Y5	Senior school overview	4.30pm School Hall
Tuesday 21 st	PS-Y6	Individual & sibling photos	
Wednesday 22 nd	Y6	Trip to Houses of Parliament	

Enhancing and Stretching in our Curriculum

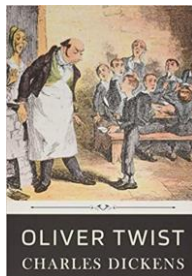
Making connections

Year 5 pupils are so excited to be back in school! They took advantage of the beautiful weather and both classes moved Form Time outside onto the roof terrace. The children discussed their aspirations and hobbies, communicating their feelings clearly and with confidence. They then created a 'web of connections' by reflecting on same interests.



Analysing literature

Year 6 have been working collaboratively to dissect challenging classical literary texts. This week, they studied Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*. They discussed archaic language and analysed the authorial technique employed by Dickens to illustrate meaning.



The future of learning

Here at Hendon Prep all pupils in Prep (Years 3-6) have their own laptop to use at home and in school. Our new Year 3 pupils were so excited to receive their laptops this week and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of using them in their lessons. The children started the week with an E-Safety session, where they discussed how to use their new devices safely both in school and at home. They then took some time to explore the different features of their new devices in lessons.

