



Highfield Road, Hemsworth, Pontefract,
WF9 4EG
01977 617955
office@st-helens.wakefield.sch.uk

Mrs L Sennett - Executive Headteacher
Mr E Baird - Head of School

September Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, what a month! Firstly, it is difficult to put into words how amazing it is to have all the children back in school! We have missed them so much and to have learning and laughter back in the classrooms has brought to the forefront of our minds why we do this job and how important it is they are back in school!

The children have all come back in such a calm and settled manner and are following our new rules and routines within school so sensibly. This has meant we have got straight into the learning and plugging the gaps.

Currently, in school we are not celebrating attendance how we normally would nor doing our usual rewards due to the current pandemic but we are delighted with the numbers returning to school as we still strive for 96%. We can't stress enough how important this is to get your child back into school on a regular basis.

We'd also like to thank all parents /carers for your continued support, following our guidelines to keep our school safe and for taking part in the recent home learning survey. This has helped us massively in preparing our home learning offer in case of the worst and unlikely scenario school is closed. We will share all this with you soon.

Mrs Sennett (Executive Headteacher) and Mr Baird (Head of School)

Attendance

Class attendance so far this year is:

Class	Percent	Position
Reception Acorn	91.9%	
Year 1/2 Ash	95.7%	2 nd
Year 1/2 Maple	94.5%	
Year 3 Beech	95.5%	3 rd
Year 3/4 Chestnut	91.7%	
Year 4 Willow	92.9%	
Year 5 Sycamore	97.1%	1 st
Year 6 Oak	94.4%	

Whole school attendance so far this year is:

94.3%

Dates for the Diary

Friday 9th October - Non-uniform day

Wednesday 14th October - Miss Hall returns from maternity leave

Thursday 15th October - Governing Body meeting

Friday 16th October - Virtual Harvest Festival

Week beginning Monday 19th October - Parents' Evenings will be held this week, more information to be sent in a separate letter. These will be held either through Zoom or over the telephone this year.

Friday 23rd October - 'Wear it Pink' day for breast cancer awareness (more information to follow)

Friday 23rd October - close for half-term

Monday 2nd November - school reopens

Harvest Time



Last year we started a new tradition at harvest time and after its success, we have decided to repeat it this year. So all children and staff are invited to come to school on

Friday 9th October in non-uniform.

But instead of donating money, **we would like children to donate food items.**

Tinned foods (*soup, vegetables, fish*) or packets (*rice, pasta, coffee*) are best as they keep well. In this way, the children get to enjoy a non-uniform day whilst also contributing to their local community.

Our Harvest Festival will take place on

Friday 16th October at 10am

This will be held virtually - Zoom invites will be sent to parents.



Market Stall

Please remember that we will continue to open our 'market stall' every Tuesday from 3pm onwards. This will be just outside the parents' entrance in the main playground. The produce available in the past few weeks has been fabulous; with pasta, sauces, juice, fresh fruit and veg, alongside some yummy treats!

No Dogs

There have been reports of some parents bringing dogs onto the school premises before and after school. Can we please remind you that dogs are not permitted to be on school site unless parents have gained prior permission for assistance or guide dogs. Please can all dogs be kept on a lead and outside the school gates at all times. Thank you.



Class of the Month - Oak (Y6)

We are so proud of our Year 6 children and the way in which they have come back to school. They have settled well into school routines, have a mature attitude and are amazing at sharing their ideas during our RE lessons or using the new Picture News resource.

Well done Oak class!



COVID Updates

HM Government

NHS

CORONAVIRUS - the symptoms

If you have any of these symptoms, self-isolate and get tested

- High temperature
- New, persistent cough
- Loss or change in sense of smell or taste

Thank you to all our parents who are adopting a very safe and sensible approach to the current situation.

If families are struggling to book a COVID test for their child or children, Wakefield Council have suggested you try Conexus. This is a local testing service on 01924 224497 (and includes assisted swabbing service for parents who are struggling to swab their child).

The national programme (despite challenges) will often have slots appearing if parents/ staff keep trying:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Designated Safeguarding Leaders

Mrs Sennett - Executive Headteacher, Mr Baird - Head of School
Mrs Saxton - Assistant Head, SENCo and EYFS, Mrs Day - Pastoral Care Leader