

Halton Community Combined School

Tring Road, Halton, Aylesbury, HP22 5PN

Tel: 01296 622264

E-mail: office@haltoncc.school

Website: www.halton.bucks.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr. Colin Horsfield



Positivity :: Respect :: Honesty :: Perseverance :: Loyalty :: Courage

The Heads Up

AUTUMN TERM

ISSUE 7

Friday 8th November 2024



I hope that everyone is well and that you have had a good week. It has been an extremely busy week in school, despite being a day shorter than usual. The children have really settled back into school following the half term break and it is lovely to see them all working hard. Our school value for this half term is '**respect**' and in our assembly on Tuesday we thought about the importance of respect and how we can show respect to those around us, to ourselves and to people who we don't know and who we may never meet. It was actually quite moving how well the children understood this and how well they are already showing this value during the school day.



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

All week we have been selling poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion. If you or your child would like to buy one, Isabelle and Himanee from our Year 6 class will be visiting classes on Monday. They will also be on sale after school today, Friday, and before school on Monday 11th November. Thank you in advance for your support with the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

SAVE THE DATE

PTA Christmas Disco

Thursday 19th December at
6.00pm

More information to follow.



Kids Kapers job vacancies

We are currently on the lookout for some Play Workers to help us in **Kids Kapers** both in the morning and after school. The hours would be a split shift of 7.15—9.00 and 3.00-6.00 every day. Any parents of children in our school, we could accommodate your child in Kids Kapers whilst you work here.

If you would like some more information, or you know someone who would, please speak to Mrs Allen or contact the school office via office@haltoncc.school or 01296 622264.

Help urgently needed for PTA Treat Friday's—please contact the office if you can help.

Key Stage 2 snack

A few parents have asked for clarification as to whether Key Stage 2, Years 3 to 6, are allowed a snack during their morning break. All Key Stage 2 children are allowed to bring in a fruit snack, whether this be a piece of fruit or some berries, grapes etc in a small tub.

Reception and Key Stage 1 children have snack provided for them through a government initiative and fruit is available to them each day.

If you ever have any queries along these lines, please speak to the class teachers or the office staff and we will be happy to help you.



Lost property

Our lost property cupboard is bursting at the seams, with lots of jumpers, cardigans and coats. Please make sure that you check to see if anything belongs to you, and please make sure that your child's belongings are named.

Your support is needed

One of our parents, Kristy Sowden, is taking part in a mammoth **50 mile** run this weekend in aid of **Fighting For Ependymoma**. If that wasn't enough, following the 50 mile run, Kristy will then run the full London Marathon course! Kristy has a Just Giving page and if anyone is able to donate towards this very worthwhile cause, please follow the link below. Good luck Kristy!

https://www.justgiving.com/page/kristy-sowden-1721672031352?utm_medium=fundraising&fbclid=IwY2xjawGZ6FJleHRuA2F1bQlxMQABHZAV0oltgnX2opOg6_xTwyVrwGjqp2tgv9uX8_4EFbVdwDgM1izS0FlooQ_aem_y2C6Nh6_WSnjvFkR0uwPg&sfnsn=scwspmo



'Being more Paddington'

You may have had your children come home this week talking a lot about Paddington Bear! We love Paddington here at Halton, particularly because of how **kind, respectful** and **tolerant** he is to those around him. From this week moving forwards, we are all going to try and 'be more Paddington' here at Halton, and really celebrate kindness whenever we see it. All classes have their own Paddington, (very kindly bought for us by the PTA), and he is going to be looked after by a different child each week. The classes will decide whose turn it is, and how kind the children have been will be the determining factor. As well as this, all staff are on the lookout for examples of kindness that we can celebrate. Each act of kindness will be written on a luggage label and placed in Paddington's suitcase, soon to be located by the office. Well done to Charlie W in Year 4 who received the very first kindness label. Charlie went out of his way to thank the Kids Kapers staff for preparing and serving their afternoon snack on Tuesday. This really made the staff smile—thank you Charlie. I can't wait to see the suitcase fill up with labels!

Remember everyone, as Paddington himself says, ***"If we're kind and polite, the world will be right!"***

Internet safety – “Geometry Dash”

Ever since we have started to publish our internet safety guidance, we have always welcomed times when parents have come forward to us to suggest particular concerns that they would like sharing amongst our parent community. For example, last year, one of our parents helped us design a parent guide for WhatsApp and gave some really good advice regarding parental controls.

This week, we have been approached by a parent regarding the APP “Geometry Dash”, an explanation of which can be found using the following link: <https://www.familygamingdatabase.com/game/Geometry+Dash>

Whilst the game itself is age-appropriate and perfectly family friendly, a small amount of player-made levels can have inappropriate content. Another concern is the communication and comments that can be left by users, this of course could leave children open to the risk of being exposed to swearing, sexualised language and other inappropriate content. With a little investigation, it appears that this can be solved with the parental controls that can be found at the last page of the settings menu.

If you have any concerns, please see Mr Horsfield, Mrs Allen or Mrs Dawkins and we will handle your concerns seriously and sensitively.

Attendance and Punctuality

Bluebells: 86.8%

Year 1: 88.7%

Year 2: 89.3%

Year 3: 89%

Year 4: 88.8%

Year 5: 89.1%

Year 6: 87.3%

Whole school: 88.5%

If you have any queries regarding punctuality or attendance, please see Mr Horsfield or Mrs Allen.

At our recent Parent Forum, it was shared with us that some parents are unsure as to the reasoning behind us sharing the attendance data with you all and that this might in itself be giving out some mixed messages regarding our policies surrounding attendance.

Nationally, attendance in school is at crisis point and the DfE have increased the demand on schools to improve their attendance. This is one of our main targets on this year’s School Development Plan.

We understand that there are many legitimate reasons why your child may be absent from school. We also know that there often times when pupils should be in school but they are not. We monitor this really closely and do have conversations with parents if a child has been absent from school and there is not a legitimate reason why. This is particularly so if your child’s attendance drops below 90%, a figure recognised nationally as being a real cause for concern.

If we are concerned about your child’s attendance, we will contact you directly and we will want to meet with you. This is something that we have already been doing for some time now.

For those who may have been worried, we are certainly not encouraging you to bring children in when they are unwell. If your child is genuinely poorly, particularly with any sickness, then yes, they need to stay at home. We know that there has been a lot of sickness over the past few weeks, this shows in our most recent set of attendance data. Our concern is for those pupils whose low attendance cannot be explained legitimately.

If you do have any queries regarding attendance, please speak to myself or to Mrs Allen and we will be more than happy to talk through the government guidance and our own attendance policy.

Key dates for this term

Wednesday 13th November—KS2 Young Shakespeare performance of Twelfth Night

Wednesday 4th December – Preschool and Bluebells Christmas play, 10.00am

Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th December – Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas play, 2.00pm

Thursday 19th December – PTA Disco, Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 20th December – School closes for Christmas holidays