

Halton Community Combined School

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

The Heads Up

AUTUMN TERM

ISSUE 5

Friday 18th October 2024



I hope that everyone is well and that you have had a good week. As I mentioned last time, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of cases of sickness in school over the past two weeks and if your family has been impacted by this, I hope that you are all feeling better. Despite this difficulty, it has been a really productive week in school and we have been really proud of the children's achievements. Well done everyone!

Keeping safe at the start and end of the day

The start and end of the day are particularly busy, both on the footpaths and the roads. In the past we have regularly given reminders about parking in the car park by the Post Office, or on the road adjacent to the RAF Youth Centre. We have noticed that this term there are a lot of parents pulling up outside of the school gates and then stopping to let their children out of the car. Last week we were very lucky that an accident didn't happen, as a child getting out of their car was very nearly hit by another driver. I would like to remind everyone that no matter what time of day, be it for Kids Kapers or school, parents are **not** to park right outside of school to drop their children off. Our school car park is also out of bounds to parents and should not be used as a shortcut. Our number one priority is to keep your children safe and I am asking that all parents help us with this.

Parent Forum invitation

Your views are very important to us and we welcome the chance to engage with parents as much as we can. Our Parent Forum is a crucial part of this as it offers a more formal, structured opportunity to discuss certain aspects of the school between parents and senior leaders. Mrs Dawkins and Ms Bates run our Parent Forum and the next meeting takes place in school next week, on **Monday 21st October** at **6.00pm**. Whilst we will invite a group of parents to ensure each class is represented, anyone is welcome to join the meeting, simply turn up and we will be happy to welcome you to the forum.

Half term dates

Don't forget that next Friday, 25th October, we will be breaking up for half term. The children need to be collected at the usual times from the normal pick up points. A reminder that school and Kids Kapers does not reopen until Tuesday 5th November as on the Monday we are closed for staff training.

Midday Supervisor job vacancies

We are looking to employ some **Midday Supervisors** to help us in the dining room and on the playground at lunch time. The hours would be 12.00—1.30 every day. 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.

Some well-deserved 'thank you's'

New iPads

On behalf of the whole school, I would like to say a very sincere thank you to the PTA and to all of you for your amazing efforts in fundraising over the past few years. This week we have been able to place an order for 2x class sets of iPads and a charging trolley. These will arrive next week and will be used across the school for a wide variety of lessons and activities. We are always really grateful for the PTA's work and for your donations. All of the money raised always goes straight back into the school and helps to pay for projects and initiatives that we simply wouldn't be able to afford without your support. Keep a look out for future PTA events that will be happening this year. If you would like to become involved, please contact the school office and we will pass your details on to the PTA committee.



RAF Police visit to Preschool

On Thursday, the children in our Preschool were very excited to receive a visit from the RAF Police! All week they have been finding out about different jobs and today it was the turn of the RAF Police. Thank you to the RAF personnel for helping with our learning and thank you to all of the parents who have visited our Preschool this week to tell us about your job!

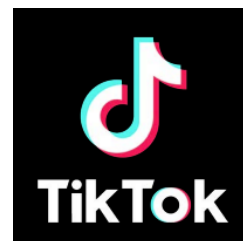


Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the book fair on Thursday, it certainly seemed to be a huge success. The children were extremely enthusiastic, as they always are when it comes to books. Lucy, who ran the book fair, was very impressed with how keen and polite the children were. She also wanted to thank everyone for their patience as the queue was quite long.

As well as the children receiving their books, the school also earned some commission on every sale and due to the high demand, we managed to earn ourselves over £800 to spend on books in our library! This is fantastic news and I really appreciate everyone's support in making the book fair such a huge success. The children were very excited about our new books when I shared the news with them in assembly.





Internet safety – TikTok

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets you create, share and watch short clips. The app is popular for viral dances and celebrity cameos and is a creative and fun platform for teens to enjoy.

Currently, the app is available in 75 languages with over 1 billion active users every month. Like Musical.ly before it, it is most popular with under-16s. A [2022 Ofcom report](#) found that TikTok is the most popular social media platform for posting content. Whilst the app is aimed more at teenagers and there is a minimum age requirement of 13, this does not mean that those children under 13 cannot access it.

What should parents be concerned about?

- When you download the app, **users can see all the content without creating an account** although they are not able to post, like or share anything until they've set up an account on the app.
- **By default, all accounts are public** so anyone on the app can see what your child shares. However, only approved followers can send them messages.
- Users can like or react to a video, follow an account or send messages to each other, so there is the risk that **strangers will be able to directly contact children** on the app.
- Children may be **tempted to take risks to get more of a following** or likes on a video so it's important to talk about what they share and with who.

In the past, we have had to deal with situations which have occurred outside of school involving TikTok. If you have any concerns, please see Mr Horsfield, Mrs Allen or Mrs Dawkins and we will handle your concerns seriously and sensitively. Please use the link below to access a very useful guide to TikTok and the potential risks that it poses:

[Internet Matters TikTok Guide for parents](#)

Exclusive ZKS Martial Arts Classes for Halton Combined School Students!

- Join Our Kids Martial Arts Classes for Year 1 to Year 6 Students

- **Every Wednesday, 8 am - 8:45 am (1st class 6/11/24)** – Start the day with energy, focus, and fun!
- **- Special Low Monthly Fee** – Only **£20/month**
 - **NO Joining Fee** – Save £30!
 - **NO Mini Assessments** – Save up to £37.50!

EXTRA SPECIAL OFFER: FREE Lessons Until Christmas! – Sign up before the **October Half Term (25th October 2024)**, and enjoy **FREE classes until the end of 2024!**

Why Choose ZKS Martial Arts?

- **Exclusive to Halton Combined School Students** – Train with your friends in a supportive, familiar environment.
- **Build Confidence, Discipline & Fitness** – Learn valuable martial arts skills while having fun.
- **Convenient Before-School Classes** – Get active, focused, and ready to learn!

Save Big, Train Better, and Start Free! ☐

Classes held outside of Halton Combined School don't have the same perks – this is a **special deal just for you!**

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE – Enrol Now & Get FREE Lessons Until Christmas!

For more details or to secure your place, [visit our website using this link](#)

Empower Your Child with ZKS Martial Arts – Sign Up Before 25th October!

Key dates for this term

Monday 21st October – Parent Forum, 6.00pm

w/c Monday 28th October – School closed for half term

Monday 4th November—Inset day, school closed

Tuesday 5th November—School and Kids Kapers reopen

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 – Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 20th December – School closes for Christmas holidays

Attendance and Punctuality

Bluebells: 96.04%

Year 1: 96.03%

Year 2: 98.68%

Year 3: 96.13%

Year 4: 96.67%

Year 5: 96.93%

Year 6: 95.29%

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

Advertisements

URGENT—Brownie leader needed

2nd Halton RAF Brownie pack is in desperate need of a Brown Owl to avoid closure. From January they need at least one person, preferably two, who are willing to plan and deliver the Girl-guiding programme at meetings on a weekly basis. They will need to complete the training modules which are a mixture of online and meeting place learning and will be supported in this process by a mentor and other leaders in the Wendover Division.

If you are interested yourself, or know of any female over the age of 18 in the local community who might love the chance to lead their own Brownie pack, then please do get in contact with us as a matter of some urgency. The RAF Halton Brownie pack has been thriving for 65 years and we would like it to last for many more years to come.

2haltonbrownies@gmail.com



TEACH IN BUCKS RECRUITMENT FAIR

*Interested in becoming a teacher?
We want to meet you!*

Saturday 9 November 2024
10am – 3pm

 **Buckinghamshire New University | Aylesbury Campus**



Event Programme

Featuring presentations from a number of organisations including the Department for Education and several of the county's school and university based Initial Teacher Training providers:

- 10.00am** **Doors open – opportunity to review local providers**
- 10.30am** **Get into Teaching**
- Presentation by a representative from the Department for Education
- 11.30am** **How to Apply – Applications, Qualifications, and Compliance**
- Presentations by Astra SCITT, Buckingham Partnership SCITT and Insignis SCITT
- 12.30pm** **Training Programmes:**
- 1. Early Years and Primary Teacher Training**
 - Presentations by Buckinghamshire New University and Buckingham Partnership SCITT
 - 2. Secondary Teacher Training Programme**
 - Presentations by Astra SCITT and Insignis SCITT
 - 3. Teaching in Further Education**
 - Presentation by the Buckinghamshire College Group
- 1.30pm** **Opportunity to review local providers**
- 2.00pm** **Routes into Teaching:**
- 1. The Apprenticeship Route into Teaching**
 - Presentation by Astra SCITT and Insignis SCITT
 - 2. The Assessment Only Route into Teaching**
 - Presentation by The Buckingham Partnership SCITT
 - 3. University Routes into Teaching**
 - Presentation by Buckinghamshire New University
- 2.30pm** **Opportunity to review local providers**
- 3.00pm** **Close**

If you have any queries about the event, please email teachinbucks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Programme is subject to change

Register
for a **FREE**
ticket:
Eventbrite

