

Halton Community Combined School

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

The Heads Up

AUTUMN TERM

ISSUE 1

Wednesday 11th September 2024



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school for the new academic year. I hope that you all had a lovely summer and were able to do everything that you had planned to do. As is often the case, we are welcoming many new families into our community this term and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you. It has been a really positive start to the term already and the children have all begun the year as if they have never been away. There is a lovely sense of calm, but with a determination to get the year off to the best start possible. Our school value for this half term is 'positivity' and it is very obvious for me to see this when I visit all of the classrooms, even though we have only been back for a few days. Well done everybody for making such a positive start to the year, long may it continue!

Making the little things count

In our assemblies this half term, we are thinking about ways that we can make a positive impact on ourselves and each other. We watched a speech by Admiral William McRaven, during which he states, *"If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed."*



"If you make your bed every morning, you will have accomplished the first task of the day. It will give you a small sense of pride and it will encourage you to do another task and another and another. By the end of the day, that one task completed will have turned into many tasks completed. Making your bed also reinforces that the little things matter. If you can't do the little things right, you won't be able to do the big things right."

The children have really taken to this idea and I have challenged them to make the "little things count", including making their beds in the morning! You can watch Admiral McRaven's speech using the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgZLzbd-zT4&t=62s>

Flu vaccinations next week

On Monday 16th September, the School Nursing Team will be visiting school to administer the nasal spray flu vaccination. Please check your Parent Pay email address and make sure that you have responded whether you **do** or **do not** want your child to receive the vaccination. Please be assured that if we don't hear from you, your child will not be given the vaccination, however the School Nursing Team do need to know if you are choosing to opt out. If you have any queries about the flu vaccination, contact the office as soon as possible.

PTA News

Save the dates

Friday 11th October—Quiz night

Thursday 17th October—AGM, 6.30pm

We are always on the lookout for volunteers, particularly to support organising our events. If you would like to help please contact the PTA directly via your class WhatsApp group, the school office or haltonptachair@gmail.com



Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning remains really important to us here at Halton and we are really pleased to be able to welcome back Mike Williams this year. Mike has already worked with us for over a year and during his visits he works with children across all classes to complete various projects in our outdoor learning spaces. Every child in the school will work with Mike at some point this year and we hope that we continue to see the positive impact of this on our whole school community.

Betsy

Another member of our team who has come back from a long summer break is Betsy, our school dog! For those of you who haven't met her, Betsy comes into school each week and spends time in every class. We are aware that not everybody likes dogs and we would never force a child to spend time with her. If you do have any queries, please come and see me and I will be more than happy to talk about the types of activities that Betsy gets involved in. Likewise, you can look on our 'School Dog' website page via the following link:

<https://www.halton.bucks.sch.uk/school-dog/>



Key dates for this term

Thursday 12th September - 11+ test for Year 6
Monday 16th September—Flu vaccinations for Years 1 to 6
Wednesday 2nd October – individual and sibling photographs
Tuesday 8th October – Parent Consultation Evening, 4.00pm-7.30pm
Thursday 10th October – Parent Consultation Evening, 3.40pm-6.00pm
Friday 11th October—PTA Quiz night
Thursday 17th October – PTA AGM at 6.30pm
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 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

Clubs

All clubs start this week. Please make sure your children know which clubs they have been signed up for.

Attendance

Year 1: 98.1%

Year 2: 98.1%

Year 3: 96.9%

Year 4: 97.2%

Year 5: 96.3%

Year 6: 98.8%

Well done to **Year 6** for having the highest attendance so far this term. If you have any queries regarding attendance, please see Mr Horsfield or Mrs Allen.

SAFEGUARDING

Keeping your children safe is paramount to us and that includes times when they are not in our care, for example when they are at home or online.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads at our school are Mr Horsfield, Mrs Dawkins and Mrs Allen. We are always available to help you and your children and we can be contacted at any point if you have a safeguarding concern. Your concerns will always be taken seriously and will be treated sensitively.



Who do I contact

Who do I contact to discuss... Reporting an absent child Lunches Change of address or contact number Parent Pay Medication Leave of absence requests Uniform After school clubs		The Office Team Mrs Rainbow (Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs am) Mrs Parsons (Thurs, Fri) Mrs Richardson (Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri) office@haltoncc.school 01296 622264
Who do I contact to discuss... Safeguarding or child protection concerns Confidential information		Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mr Horsfield Mrs Dawkins Mrs Allen
Who do I contact to discuss... Family support Attendance Service Family contact		Mrs Allen (Family Support Coordinator) callen@haltoncc.school
Who do I contact to discuss... SEND enquiries Educational Healthcare Plans		Mrs Rawlins (Mon, Tue, Thurs) SENCO@haltoncc.school
Who do I contact to discuss... Speaking to a governor		Lindsay Ablitt (Chair of Governors) governor@haltoncc.school or office@haltoncc.school
Who do I contact to discuss... Pre-school		Jo Sherwood-King (manager) preschool@haltoncc.school Jo Richardson (invoices) payments@haltoncc.school
Who do I contact to discuss... Kids Kapers (breakfast and after school club)		Mrs Richardson (bookings and invoices) payments@haltoncc.school Mrs Frier (Manager) office@haltoncc.school 01296 623635
Who do I contact to discuss... Questions about learning My child's reading book Personal wellbeing Behaviour concerns Friendship concerns		Class teacher Please arrange a convenient time to meet or speak on the telephone. <i>*Seesaw is only for homework related queries or for submitting work</i>
Please make your child's class teacher your first point of contact however our Senior Leadership Team are also available to offer support if necessary. Mr Horsfield – Headteacher Mrs Dawkins – Deputy Headteacher Mrs Allen – Family Support Coordinator Ms Bates – Lead Teacher Mrs Powell – Lead Teacher Mrs Rawlins – SENDCO Mr Green – Behaviour mentor They can be contacted via office@haltoncc.school or on 01296 622264		

We will always aim to respond to you as quickly as possible. Please be mindful that the majority of staff do have a teaching commitment and therefore the most convenient time to meet would be after school.



Bucks Young Photography Competition

Closing date for entries 4 November

Be inspired by the theme 'Celebrating Buckinghamshire' and enter our photography competition for a chance to win a prize and feature in our exhibition

For more details please scan the QR code or visit
discoverbucksmuseum.org

