

19th January 2024

Newsletter 17

Good Afternoon

The weather has been bitter cold this week but we have all been working extremely hard at Hythe Bay. Y5/6 have been to an interactive Space Workshop. Y3/4 have been finding out about land irrigation systems used by farmers during the Shang Dynasty and making millet porridge flavoured with ginger, a staple food during that time. Y1/2 have been working hard in maths learning about doubling and halving numbers. YR have been having great fun learning all about Polar Bears. Even Teachers spent Tuesday evening after school developing their skills for teaching maths. Everyone is a learner at Hythe Bay!

Talking about everyone learning, we will be running two Phonics Workshops for parents on Tuesday 6th February. Every child in Reception, Year One and Year Two has a Little Wandle Phonics lesson daily. Phonics are the foundations of learning to read and many parents have told us they want to know more about how children learn to read and how they can help them at home. All the research shows us that children who read regularly at home as well as in school achieve much better outcomes than those who don't. The workshops will be held at 9.00am - Breakfast Workshop and 2.30pm - Afternoon Tea and Cake Workshop. Please do come along and find out more.

The government is launching a national campaign - "**moments matter, attendance counts**" this month - to remind parents and carers of the importance of school attendance. The goal is to create a nurturing and affirmative bond between parents and school, emphasising the pivotal role attendance has in enhancing your child's overall wellbeing. The campaign aims to reach parents and carers whose children are taking preventable odd days of absence - "avoidable absence" - which can add up, rather than children who face greater barriers to attendance, including long term medical needs or special educational needs and disabilities.

Regular school attendance is really important and can:

- Help develop positive peer relationships, which are a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.
- Improve children's attainment, in 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (those with attendance below 90%) of children in Year Six achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.

Some other information about attendance

- There are 190 days in a school year if a child attends 190 days a year they will have 100% attendance. They have the very best chance at success and they will be rewarded at the end of the year. This should be your aim.
- 19 days absent means your child attends only 171 days a year. Attendance is less than 90%. Your child's attendance will be monitored by the school and the local authority if it reaches this level. You could be issued a penalty notice
- 29 days absent means your child only attends 161 days a year. Attendance is at 85% your child has missed half a term of schooling
- 38 days absent means your child has only attended 152 days a year - Attendance is at 80% and there are serious concerns

- 47 days absent means your child has only attended 143 days a year – Attendance is at 75% and there are very serious concerns
- There are 175 non-school days a year to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.

Being late also adds up to loss of learning

- If you are 5 minutes late every day that adds up to about 3 days lost each year
- 15 minutes late every day that is the same as being absent for about 2 weeks each year
- 20 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for about 13 school days each year.

Below is the **NHS Is my child too ill for school guidance** and attached is the **Chief Medical Officer, Chris Whitty's letter on mild illness and school attendance** that says a prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending school in the future.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please talk to us if you have any worries about your child attending school, we will do our very best to support you in any way we can.

If you or someone you know is struggling to pay energy bills, you may be eligible for a one-off £100 to help heat or power your home.

Funded by the Department for Work and Pensions on behalf of the UK government, the Household Support Fund scheme supports vulnerable Kent households in need of help with significantly rising living costs. You can either refer yourself to the scheme or refer someone as a professional. This service is not in place to offer support in emergency circumstances.

[**Find out more and apply online**](#)

If your application is successful, you will receive one prepaid card per eligible household to be used towards energy costs. If you don't meet the eligibility criteria you will be unable to submit your application. However, you can find out what other support may be available via **Kent Together**. There may also be support available through your [**local district or borough council**](#).

The scheme is available until 29th February 2024 or until the funding has been allocated.

Have a great weekend

Carolyn Chivers
Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary	
Yellow highlights – change of date / New Dates	
2023-24	
29th January	Olympic Athlete visiting the school
26 th January	Miss Cobb Class Worship
31 st January	Young Voices Concert at the 02
2 nd February	Mr Gollop Class Worship

6 th February	Little Wandle Phonics Workshops for parents 9am Breakfast Workshop - 2.30pm Afternoon Tea Workshop
9 th February	Last day of term 3 for pupils
19 th February	First day of term 4 for pupils
26 th and 27 th February	Parents Evening
1 st March	Miss Flaxton Class worship
6 th March	Y3 Church Day
7 th March	World Book Day
8 th March	Mr Donald Class Worship
11 th -15 th March	Science Week
15 th March	Miss West class Worship
18 th – 22 nd March	Y6 Residential
19 th March	Y5 British Museum Visit
25 th March	Y2 at church meeting characters from the Easter story
26 th March	Y6 House of Parliament visit
27 th March	Easter Service 10am
28 th March	Last day of term 4 for pupils
15 th April	First day of term 5 for pupils
19 th April	Y3/4 trip to Kew Gardens
26 th April	Mrs Wiles Class Worship
6 th May	Bank Holiday
8 th May	Y4 Church Day
13 th - 16 th May	KS2 SATs
22 nd May	Hythe Bay's Got Talent
23 rd May	Y5 PESE meeting for parents (to discuss secondary transfer)
24 th May	Last day of term 5 for pupils
3 rd June	First day of term 6 for pupils
12 th June	Y5 Church Day
10 th to 14 th June	Y1/Y2 phonics Check
26 th June	Sports Day
27 th June	Alternative Sports Day in case of rain!
28 th June	Mrs Apps / Mrs Hughes class worship
4 th July	Slip through day – meet your new teacher
5 th July	Mrs Whitham Class worship
9 th and 10 th July	Y6 Production
12 th July	End of Year Reports to parents
12 th July	YR class worship
15 th July	Open Afternoon
	YR Graduation
19 th July	Leavers Service – 10am St Leonards
19 th July	Last day of term 6 for pupils
22 nd July	Staff non-contact day
23 rd July	Staff non-contact day

Anchored by God, we strive to teach children to be confident, connected, and creative through outstanding teaching and care. We show our love, tolerance, forgiveness, and compassion, not just by talking about them but living them each day of our lives.