

WEEK 1 - Friday 9 September 2022

It was such a privilege to welcome a sea of smiling pupils back through the gate and into the school this week, as well as welcoming new pupils into the fold. Overall, the return has been smooth and calm, and this has enabled the pupils to 'hit the ground running' with their learning. Thank you so much for your support with this. I know that the school (or at least its inhabitants) looks quite different this year with a few new faces amongst our teaching family, but this change also brings fresh enthusiasm, exciting new ideas and unlimited support for your children; although many valued staff members have flown the nest, as a new team, we are incredibly excited about the year ahead.

Just a few points to note:

Bags:

A few large rucksacks have crept into the school at the start of this year. Please refer to the uniform policy on the website which stipulates a drawstring PE bag and a book bag. Space is limited and bulky rucksacks become a health and safety risk when spilling onto the floor or crammed into a classroom. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Earrings:

If your child has their ears pierced, earrings must be taken out on PE days please, otherwise pupils will be unable to participate in PE, which is a legal requirement. If your child can remove their own earrings, it may be an idea to supply them with a small pouch or envelope to put these in. Earrings cannot be taped up for PE lessons.

Collection from school:

As you are aware, recently, the school has changed information systems, which means we no longer use the SIMS Parent communication system. We are currently in the process of setting up Arbor Parent Portal, which will give you the facility to change collection data yourself. However, until this is in place, should you need to make additions or changes to your child's collection list, please either print a form from the website or request one from the school office. Please ensure that your child's list is up to date as we appreciate how frustrating it can be if you send someone to collect your child on your behalf and they are asked to wait until we have confirmation. Please also remember that our number one priority is to safeguard your child so we will always seek confirmation before allowing your child to be collected by an unnamed adult.

Key dates: [Please click here](#)

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 2 - Friday 16 September 2022

I have thoroughly enjoyed chatting to many of our parents on the gates this week and am incredibly grateful for the supportive comments that I have received in my first couple of weeks as Associate Head of School. I will endeavour to have equal presence on both the KS1 and KS2 entrances, particularly at the end of the day.

As always, exciting learning has taken place at Penshurst this week. Year 6 have had a super start to their Right to Fight theme, with a Holocaust workshop held virtually, as well as building air-raid shelters to experience what it must have felt like in such a confined space. Down the corridor, Mrs

Beal and her children are learning all about Pirates and were busy making pirate ships out of fruit when I visited their classroom this week. I look forward to reporting more of our hands-on learning experiences in the following weeks.

Year 5 have now completed their swimming program and everything has gone.... well.... swimmingly. It was super to hear from the teachers about all of the successes, especially children who could not previously swim who have flourished over the two weeks. A massive well done to Year 5!

Smart watches seem to be creeping into school this year. Please make sure that if your child is wearing a watch, it is not a Smart watch that can take images, receive messages and make calls as we have a duty to safeguard all pupils. Any Smart watches will be removed for the remainder of the day and handed back to parents at home-time. As usual, should we need to contact you in case of sickness or an emergency, our staff will do this. Thank you for your cooperation.

Once again, we politely remind you to be considerate and mindful when parking near to the school. Winthorpe Road and Seagran remain part of the Safer Schools scheme and therefore should not be accessed during the restricted hours (except by permit holders), which are signposted in these locations. Residents should also have access to both the road and their drives so parking in front of the school gate or close by is inadvisable.

I hope you manage to have a restful weekend, despite the sombre reason for it being an extended one, and I look forward to welcoming you all through the gates again on Tuesday.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 3 - Friday 23 September 2022

It has been lovely to walk around the school building this week and see how settled the children are in their new rooms, as well as getting to know pupils that I am less familiar with in the dining hall. By far the best part of education is being able to spend time with the pupils and chat about how their day is going and what they have been learning. Your children are real characters, and you are no doubt as proud of them (if not more so) than we all are.

The Reception year sorting ceremony was a huge success this week and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was fantastic to see parents supporting the event and we are excited to see the children competing in House events as they progress through their education at Penshurst. Well done to them all.

We have received a handful of emails enquiring as to why the collection points have changed from last year at the end of the day. As you are aware, we have adjusted the Key Stage One collection since the start of this year so that children can be collected from their classrooms following your feedback, which is more practical in poor weather, as well as a from a safeguarding perspective. Last year, Key Stage Two pupils could be collected from either playground. However, this proved more difficult to managed in staff absences, as the staff member covering wasn't always as familiar with the adults collecting children and this would often incur delays whilst checking took place. We thank you for your support whilst we continue to safeguard your children.

Finally, just a gentle reminder that school shoes should be all black with no high heels or wedges please. Thank you for your cooperation.

Have a super weekend and I look forward once again to welcoming you next week.

Key dates: Please click [here](#)

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 4 - Friday 30 September 2022

One of the most special parts of my week has to be our Pupil of the Week assembly, where your children are congratulated and celebrated for trying to be their very best in a variety of different areas, be it showing exceptional manners, demonstrating one of our school values around the site or working just that little bit harder in the classroom to achieve their personal goals. It makes me so proud to welcome those children onto stage and personally thank them for everything they have done. After half term, we hope to be able to welcome parents back to this weekly event after such a long time away as a result of Covid. However, due to either the children growing or our numbers expanding, we may have to make adaptations in order to fit everyone in. Please keep a look-out for updated information on this over the coming weeks.

This week, I would like to share Year 1's shenanigans with you. As part of their theme 'It's Never Dull In Hull' (which focuses on the trawler industry and Hull Fair), the children were exploring plastic pollution in our seas and oceans. They had their own 'fake' ocean (one of the children's words) and had to save the sea creatures by collecting the plastic pollution and placing it in the rubbish bin/bucket. A fantastic afternoon was had by all - the children were engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on lesson. Following the lesson, they could articulate why we should not put plastic in our oceans and seas, why this is dangerous for the sea creatures and how we can correct this problem. Well done to Year 1 for being such responsible and caring citizens!

It's forecast to be a rainy one this weekend I'm afraid, so whatever you do, remember your umbrella! Happy weekend all.

A couple of points to note this week:

Please remember that if your child is having a packed lunch, it should not contain hot food such as soups for health and safety reasons. Thank you for your understanding.

This year, we are taking part in the annual RBC Race for the Kids. Teams of teachers and pupils will create their own race day, which will take place on Friday 7 October, and they will be able to choose between 1k, 3k, and 5k, completing this in any way they wish. Your child may come in their PE kit on this day.

Calls regarding your child's absence – either on the day or a future absence – should be reported to our Attendance Office by telephoning 01482 648604 option 1 or emailing attendance@hessleacademy.com please do not ring the administration office with these messages as the attendance team are not located in that office.

Please call by lunchtime if you wish to make alternative arrangements for collection of your child that evening. We cannot accommodate requests to change authorised persons late in the day. Thank you.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 5 - Friday 7 October 2022

Today, I thoroughly enjoyed watching the pupils taking part in the RBC race for kids on the field. They loved being active with their friends and battling against the wind as they walked or ran around the field – I imagine they will be asleep in no time tonight!

I have had many pupils coming up to me this week to tell me that they have been practising their times tables and they are becoming very competitive. Thank you for your support with this. We will be handing out certificates to those pupils who are achieving the TTRS awards in Pupil of the Week. And on that note.....

This morning in Pupil of the Week, I asked the house captains to lay out some chairs at the back of the hall as they would be if parents were in, and I am delighted to say that we managed to fit the children and the chairs in successfully (if a little cosy). We will therefore be inviting the parents of our Pupils of the Week back after half term to celebrate this event with us. However, due to capacity, please note that the maximum number of adults that we will be able to accommodate per family is two at this time. Thank you for your cooperation and we can't wait to see you again!

As an animal lover, I know how hard it is to leave pets alone at home. However, we are seeing an increase in the number of dogs that are being brought to the school gates or waiting in the alleyway to the school entrance. As this is not school property, you are of course entitled to have them with you before you reach the gates, but sadly, some of our pupils are frightened by dogs (my fear is daddy-long-legs. What are they even for?) and they are finding it intimidating to walk in the school entrance. We would ask that you do whatever you can to respect (and help reduce) this fear with the following suggestions:

consider whether it would be possible to leave your dog at home or in the car whilst you collect your child

ensure that your dog is kept on a lead if it is brought with you

bring another person to hold your dog if possible whilst you are collecting your child (as dogs are not allowed on site, either carried or walked, with the exception of pre-arranged guide dogs and other support dogs with certificates)

stand to the side away from the flow of pedestrian traffic.

Photograph information will be sent home this evening with your child.

Just a couple of reminders:

The Reception class vision screening will take place on Monday 10 October

Dr Bike will be in school on Wednesday 12 October. Please send your child with their bike to have a free safety check

Did you know that children in classes Reception to Year 2 are eligible for free lunches? You apply for free school meals from Year 3. Please don't miss out!

Have a fantastic weekend and see you all bright and breezy on Monday.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 6 - Friday 14 October 2022

This half term has whizzed by, and I can't believe that we have one week to go. By far, one of my highlights of the week was covering an after-school sports club and playing football (badly) with the children. I even saved a goal.... in heels! Perhaps I've missed my true vocation.....

There has been a lot of wind in Year 1 this week! As part of our theme 'It's Never Dull in Hull' the children have been exploring how wind power is a renewable source of energy and is a great way of generating electricity to power our homes and factories. We explored how wind turbines work and we learnt an amazing fact, that we currently house the biggest wind farm in the world, which is situated in the North Sea off the coast of Hornsea! A brilliant afternoon was had by the children as they got to explore and investigate a selection of different types of wind turbines. The children then had the opportunity to design and make their own wind turbine! The children were very excited and enthusiastic and could articulate how wind turbines use the power of the wind to produce electrical energy.

As I passed a Year 2 classroom this week, I had to do a double take when I noticed that all of the tables were upside down and the children were sitting on them, swaying. Thankfully, it was then explained to me that the learners were in fact sneaky pirates and that they were getting in character ready for some very exciting writing this week! OOOH AAAAA!

Year 6 have been carrying our market research on wartime recipes this week and have had a wonderful time baking and tasting their own savoury potato biscuits! The school smelled wonderful. This formed part of their food technology DT week.

This week, I sent out a survey to parents to ascertain how they would like parents' evenings to be delivered. An overwhelming majority (175 at last count) said in person, with 45 choosing either and only 17 preferring online. Therefore, on Monday 14 and Wednesday 16 November, these sessions will be in person, and information on how to book onto these will be with you soon. Please do remember that these sessions are five minutes long. If there is something specific that you need to speak to your child's teacher about, another appointment can be made with them another time to address other matters. Thank you.

A few parents have mentioned that pupils have run out into the road when they have been driving in the area surrounding the school. We deliver Road Safety in lessons, assemblies and morning circles, but would be grateful if you could support us by speaking to your children about the importance of being vigilant and sensible when near roads. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Thank you also for your cooperation with the dog request last week. I have noticed that there are fewer four-legged attendees along the path to the Penshurst Avenue entrance.

Just a quick reminder that the EYFS open evening will take place on Wednesday 30 November. More dates will be added to the school calendar on the website next week so please look out for those. In the meantime, here is the link to the current ones:

Key dates: [Please click here](#)

Finally, A reminder that next week, pupils finish school on Thursday as the following day (Friday 21 October) is a calendared Staff Training Day. Students will then break for half term and return to school on Monday 31 October.

Have a wonderful weekend, whatever you may be doing.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 7 - Thursday 20 October 2022

End of Half Term Blog

We have finally made it to the end of the first half term and I am so proud of how the pupils have settled in.

This half term has really taken me back to my time at school, as more so than ever, every day has been (and will continue to be) a learning day in my new role. I have learnt so much more about the operational side of running a school, but next half term, my main focus is to get in the classrooms even more and witness all of the exciting learning taking place.

Speaking of which, Year 6 have had a particularly exciting time this week in their Right to Fight theme, as they have been speaking to a real-life survivor of the holocaust and have been able to ask questions that will enable them to deepen their understanding of what this terrible event must have felt like.

Next half term, we will launch a new platform for homework to be accessed on. Mr Thorp has been working hard on setting this up and creating a 'cheat sheet' to help parents every step of the way. More information will come out straight after half term, and should you have any queries or need assistance following this, please direct your queries to the school office. Thank you.

Please remember to send your child in with their PE kit on a Monday morning and they can bring this home again on a Friday. Occasionally, due to staff absences, the day in which they do PE does change so, ideally, their PE kit needs to be with them for the full week. Obviously, the weather is beginning to show signs of change, and although children do not feel the cold nearly as much as I do, please remember to send them in with a warm top as well.

And on that note, 'Fit for Fun' will continue their gymnastics sessions after half term. More information can be found here. They are aware of the demand from families for extra evenings and are hoping to be able to offer this after Christmas.

NHS Reminder - Flu vaccination 15 November 2022 – [click to book](#)

Further date reminders can be found here: [Key dates](#)

All that remains is to thank you for all of your support this half term, wish you a restful and happy break and I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 31 October.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 8 - Friday 4 November 2022

This week our PFA held a very exciting evening of spooky discos for our pupils and it was incredible to see how much time and effort had gone into the costumes. The event was a huge success, and the PFA have asked me to add their thanks to my own for your support. We appreciate that it took quite a long time to get the children registered and through the door, but by the time the Y5/6 disco came around, the PFA had devised a quicker system which they will adopt next time. Thanks so much for your patience as the weather wasn't on our side. Please see the note from Mrs Adams, Chair of the PFA below.

A few weeks ago, I mentioned in my blogs about dogs not being brought on site. Firstly, please could I say a huge thank you as there has been a vast reduction in the number of four-legged friends being brought near the school. This week however, I have heard of a couple of occasions when parents have carried dogs in and so this is a gentle reminder that we cannot accept them on site. I have asked staff to politely request that dogs are left at the gate in future if this happens again. Thanks once again for your cooperation.

This evening at 6pm, the booking system will go live for the Progress Evenings in November. As mentioned previously, these will be in person following a consultation questionnaire to parents.

All that remains is for me to wish you a wonderful weekend full of sparkles and toffee apples! See you all on Monday.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

Note from Mrs Adams:

The PFA (Parent Friends Association) are looking for new members! The PFA are a group of parents, friends of the school and staff that help our children have fun in and out of school whilst fundraising for the school. The PFA is a great way to bring together the people in our community to help support the school. By offering us your skills, knowledge and a small amount of time you can make a difference to our children. Events the PFA organise include: Discos, Mother's and Father's Day giftshop, Christmas fair, Summer fair, family bingo nights. All these fun events help raise money and the PFA vote on what events and activities to support financially in school. If anyone is interested in joining/helping the PFA, please email me for more information pfa@hessleacademy.com.

WEEK 9 - Friday 11 November 2022

It has been so lovely to see the pupils going ape for the new timber trail on the Key Stage 2 playground this week, and I am especially delighted at the orderly way in which they line up. I must respectfully point out that if you allow your child to climb on the trail when they are being collected, they are under your supervision and not that of the school. Thank you for your cooperation.

We love to encourage pupils to cycle or scoot to school as you know but would just like to remind you that children (and adults) should not be riding their scooters or bikes when on the site. This includes children who do not attend the school but are accompanying you on drop-offs and collections. I'm sure you appreciate that this is a health and safety risk when there are so many bodies on the site.

Please remember that next week is Progress Evening on Monday and Wednesday. I would once again like to remind you that this must be kept to five minutes per child, which I appreciate is not long. However, we do work on the assumption that should there be / have been any other issues that you would like to discuss, an appointment will be / will have been made with your child's class teacher prior to or after this. It can be very frustrating for other parents who are delayed due to meetings running over the allotted time and I thank you for your support in keeping this event running as smoothly as possible.

A couple of other events that I would like to remind you of is that Flu vaccinations are on Tuesday next week and that Children in Need is on Friday. This will be a Pudsey dress up day as normal and any donations to the charity should be made via this link. Donate to BBC Children in Need. Unfortunately, we cannot accept cash donations.

Further date reminders can be found here: [Key dates](#)

I hope you have a restful weekend and once again, look forward to seeing you all next week.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

Footnote:

I have pleasure in detailing below information from Hessle Scout Group who have contacted us to help them promote their group to the learners at the Hessle Academy. There are spaces available in their Scout section, for young people age 10 years plus. Please contact them directly for further information.

Being a Scout is all about discovering the world, mastering the skills that'll help you through life, and trying things you'd never get the chance to do at home. If you are aged 10 to 14, get in touch to start your adventure. Email: gsl@hesslescoutgroup.co.uk



WEEK 10 - Friday 18 November 2022

Although I see many of you on the gates every day, I thoroughly enjoyed being able to welcome you all back into the school this week for our Progress Evenings. I cannot believe how much has happened since you were last in, such as the mural that hits you as you walk down the first part of the corridor, or the changes to staffing and the unfamiliar faces that you encountered. Change is always a funny thing, but our new Penshurst community is as friendly and dedicated as it has ever been and we are all really excited to be able to build the wider community once again.

The assembly this morning was a wonderful start to the day as I got to see so many pupils in their Children in Need outfits - the main hall was alive with colour! If you haven't donated already and would like to do so, this can be done at [Donate to BBC Children in Need](#).

A reminder, particularly for parents of Key Stage 1 pupils, that there is a phonics workshop run by Mrs Paoli on Monday 21 November. It is not too late to join. If you would like to book a place, please

use this link: Nursery “Stay and Play” Event ([office.com](#)). This link can also be used to book onto the Nursery Stay & Play sessions, which are running on Tuesday 22 and Thursday 24 November.

For various logistical reasons, we have been unable to invite parents in for Pupil of the Week as yet but these are now ironed out and we will throw open our doors once again next Friday. If your child has earned Pupil of the Week, we aim to invite you in by telephone no later than close of day on the Tuesday of that week.

Finally, a note to say that on Monday, along with many other schools in the Trust, we will be streaming the England v Iran match at 1pm whilst the pupils are working in class. Fingers crossed for a good result!

Once again, have a wonderful, hopefully restful weekend. See you next week.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 11 - Friday 25 November 2022

So many wonderful events have been able to return this week following the pandemic. For me, the highlight has definitely been welcoming families back in for Pupil of the Week today. I am not a parent myself and so can only guess at how sad it must have been not to be able to share in the joy of your child when they achieve this accolade. Thankfully, the time has come to gather again and long may it continue.

Alongside this, staff are once again able to plan a range of trips and visitors that will enhance your child’s learning, and two such events happened this week. Year 3 had a brilliant time visiting York Dig and the Jorvik Centre, where they consolidated their learning about Vikings. On the same day, I was slightly nervous when one of our Year 1 teachers rushed to my office whilst I was in a meeting to ask me to come to the hall immediately. I needn’t have worried, as I found Year 1 having a dinotastic time being paleontologists during their dinosaur workshop. They went exploring for fossils and they even met a T-rex and a Triceratops eek!

This week has also seen the Nursery stay-and-play sessions, which again were a real hit! Whilst popping in and out of classes this week, I stumbled upon a session where parents were up to their knees in Playdoh, paint and mud. Thank you so much for supporting these events and getting stuck in. It feels like we are really building the community spirit back up over the last couple of weeks.

Next week we look forward to seeing parents on Wednesday 30 November for the Reception year open evening for admissions in September 23/24. The PFA will also be kicking off the festive season with the Christmas Fair 3.30pm until 5pm on the same evening. Please do support them and visit the school during this time. We look forward to seeing you there!

In other news, we have received a few comments recently about dangerous parking on Penshurst Avenue, particularly on the zigzag markings. Please remember that these markings are there to protect pedestrians. Unfortunately, such parking is meaning that children are risking crossing in between cars. If you are a driver, we would respectfully remind you to park considerately near the school. If you are a pedestrian and you feel that a car is parked dangerously (and / or illegally), as we do not have the authority to deal with this, we would advise that you contact the local PCSO with photographic evidence. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter whilst we work hard to safeguard your children.

Over the last few weeks, we have noticed a steep increase in the number of pupils absent from school or arriving late. Needless to say, we completely appreciate that children cannot help being poorly and we thank you for helping to stop the spread of illnesses by keeping your child at home to recuperate. However, late arrivals mean that pupils miss essential times table / handwriting / spelling practice during registration time, and often a large chunk of their Reading lesson – with some pupils missing Reading intervention designed to accelerate progress. If you are finding it difficult, for whatever reason, to get your child to school for the start of the day then please call the school office and they will pass a message to Mrs Paoli, who will contact you to discuss how we can support you. Speaking of Mrs Paoli.....

Each week, Mrs Paoli (Assistant Head) will be adding little safeguarding snippets to this blog. This will cover a whole raft of areas which we would like to remind you about periodically. This week's message is below.

If you want to give your child the best possible start in life, there are a wide range of services at Children's Centres across Hull and East Riding that can help.

The Children's Centres offer a range of activities to ensure that families get the right help at the right time so that you feel confident, safe, healthy and happy.

For Hull please visit:

Children's Centres | Hull City Council

<https://www.hull.gov.uk/children-and-families/family-support/childrens-centres>

For East Riding please contact:

Children's Centres (eastriding.gov.uk)

<https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/living/children-and-families/childrens-centres/>

Enjoy your weekend. I look forward to hearing all about it next week.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 12 - Friday 2 December 2022

This week, to support the Year 5 theme 'Out of this World', the Planetarium came to Penshurst. The pupils loved the immersive experience and learning even more fascinating facts about Space.

Rehearsals are well underway for our Christmas productions, and we look forward to getting you into the festive spirit at these events. No doubt your child has been practicing endlessly at home and you now have an ear worm, but at least you will be able to sing along!

The online book fair has been running this week and continues until Sunday 4 December. This is a fantastic opportunity to buy some stocking fillers, as well as support the school in receiving free books for your children to benefit from. Just visit this website to browse the selection.
<https://booksforbugs.co.uk/>

Over recent weeks, we have had pupils waiting at the school office to be collected until as late as 3:30pm. This is just a polite reminder that school finishes at 3:10pm, and that our office staff often need to leave their room to deliver messages etc, so we are unable to supervise the pupils after this

time. If you anticipate being late to collect your child, please remember that Hessle Aces run an after-school club in our dining hall, the details for which can be found below.

Hessle Aces - available 3.10pm until 6.00pm - £10.00 per session

Hesslepreschoolnursery@yahoo.co.uk 01482643565

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the PFA Christmas Fair this week. Many of the stalls sold out in record time and it was a huge success. Any money raised goes towards subsidising trips or visitors, purchasing much needed resources and generally providing experiences for our pupils, so once again – a massive thank you to the PFA volunteers and to you for supporting us. The PFA will be selling Christmas items after school on the Key Stage 2 playground on Monday 5 December.

One of the strangest things for me at this time of the year is when the weekends come and I get to see what my garden looks like after a week of leaving and returning home in the dark. It's a bit like when you haven't seen someone for a long time, and they have changed so much. So as the weather starts biting and the nights draw in even sooner, wrap up warm and snuggly this weekend and have a relaxing one.

A note from Mrs Paoli, Safeguarding:

Christmas can be difficult for anyone, at any point in their life. You might be struggling this year for the first time, or you may have found Christmas difficult in the past, and you're dreading it again this year.

I have put a link below to information regarding Christmas being tough for some, and how it may affect your mental health, plus where to find help.

Why Christmas is hard - Mind

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/christmas-and-mental-health/why-christmas-is-hard/>

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 13 - Friday 9 December 2022

This week has been full steam ahead with our Christmas production rehearsals and shows, and the feedback that we have had from parents has been warming and wonderful. I was lucky enough to see one of the Nursery shows this week. Before I went in, I wasn't feeling particularly festive, but my goodness, their fantastic performance changed all of that! I came away nursing sore cheeks from smiling so much, humming festive tunes, and it has really set me up for decorating my house this weekend.

Like all schools, we are very much aware that the rising cost of bills is putting many of our families into very difficult situations and, wherever possible, we are trying to keep the cost of school-led activities to an absolute minimum. This includes this year's school productions for which no charge is being made to attend.

This leads me nicely onto another point. This week, we met with our Governors in one of our periodic LGB meetings, and the point of communication with parents was raised. It became a

lengthy discussion with no definite conclusion, but we did debate several questions as a group: Is communication effective? Does every family read this very Blog and the calendar of events sent weekly or on the website? Would a Parent Council be beneficial as a bridge between the school and families who may be reluctant to call the school for whatever reason? Do people know that they can contact ppsoffice@hessleacademy.com and that their messages are passed to the appropriate person? How can we increase parental engagement in general? What is the best way to get feedback from all of these questions that we have just discussed?

It was decided that we would all go away and consider these points carefully, with a view to reaching some decisions at our next meeting in January. But we would like your input too – it is about you, after all. If you have any suggestions of ways in which we could ensure we reach all parents, please do email the address above and I will present these to Governors at our next meeting. Thank you for helping us to strengthen the Peshurst community.

One final request – please do remember that we are a no-smoking site, and this does include the use of vapes. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please remember that next Friday, your child can dress in a Christmas item (jumper / tinsel / hat / onesie / reindeer costume – the possibilities are endless!). Please also note that on this day, school finishes at 2pm.

The weather is really ramping up its chill-factor now. Please be careful on the ice (or snow, maybe?) this weekend. Look after each other – one week to go!

A Safeguarding note from Mrs Paoli:

Over the past few weeks, we have had a couple of cyber-related issues involving Wats App and Roblox.

Here is a video of how to stay safe online using Roblox:

What is Roblox? A guide for parents to keep kids safe | Internet Matters

Wats App has an age restriction of 16+, please can you be extra vigilant about what your child is accessing, and how they are using their apps.

These sites offer additional guidance and resources of how to stay safe online:

Jessie Friends videos (thinkuknow.co.uk)

Keeping children safe online | NSPCC

I have been liaising with our community police officer Jessica, who is going to run cyber safety workshops with the upper KS2 children after Christmas. There will also be a Q&A session for parents after school. I will keep you posted in the New Year when this will take place.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 14 - Friday 16 December 2022

The very first thing that I would like to do is to thank you all for your support in my first term as Head of School. Although I am not yet familiar with every single parent (I may not have taught your child's

year group), your greetings and smiley faces on the gate morning and night, sun or rain, have really made my job that little bit easier.

Primary schools are always incredibly busy at Christmas, and this year has been no exception with all the rehearsals and productions that have taken place. As I'm sure you are, I am so very proud of the pupils and how much effort they have put in. Thank you for your support in attending these events and long may that continue. Year 2 had an extra Christmassy week this week as they had their Polar Express day, watching the film and drinking hot chocolate in their pyjamas. I was so jealous!

On a slightly heavier note, once again, I would like to remind you of the need to park considerately on the streets surrounding the school. We appreciate that as the weather gets bitter, people may want to park as close to the school as possible, but the law must still be followed. We have received further complaints from parents and residents about the dangerous parking in this area. It is always worth asking yourself the question: could it potentially harm a child parking here? If you witness illegal or inconsiderate parking, please remember that you should report this to the police with photographic evidence. As a school, we do not have any enforcement powers – all we can do is continue to communicate the message. Thank you.

Many of you may not be aware that Mrs Beal leaves our Penshurst family today to go onto pastures new. We wish her every success in her new venture. And best wishes to Miss Coates who is now on maternity leave.

Lastly, I wish for you all a Christmas break filled with love, peace and happiness. See you all next year and thank you once again.

A message from Mrs Paoli:

Tik Tok Magnet Trend

You may have heard about a Tik Tok trend where children used small magnet balls to pretend that they have a tongue piercing. This trend seems to have re-emerged, and there has been an incident in one of the schools in the trust.

Please can all parents be extra vigilant and confiscate these items if your child has possession of them. If ingested, magnets can cause severe internal injuries. Please see the link for more details: TikTok trend prompts the NHS to call for ban on tiny magnetic balls - Hull Live (hulldailymail.co.uk)



Are you struggling to pay your bills?

There are many people who are worried about money at the moment, especially with the increase in the cost of living. Here are some websites that you can access for further support:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/get-help-with-the-cost-of-living/>

<https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help-for-households/help-with-household-bills/>

<https://hull.foodbank.org.uk/>

We hope that you have a lovely Christmas and New Year!

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 15 - Friday 6 January 2023

Happy New Year to all! It was so lovely to welcome the pupils back after Christmas and hear all about their festive breaks. I hope that it was restful for all.

We have a new exit system for our pedestrian gate – the push button has been removed and has been replaced with a keypad. The gate will be open during entry and exit times, so a code will only be needed if you visit the site during school hours. This can be obtained from the school office. Needless to say, please do not share the code with your child, as this measure has been taken to make our safeguarding systems even better. The code will be changed weekly.

Next week, our Wellbeing Dog will begin working with certain pupils who will benefit from support in this area. Mrs Paoli intends to walk Marlowe round the school on his first visit and introduce him to classes from the door. Please remember to complete the opt-out form shared with you previously, or inform us by email (office@hessleacademy.com) should your child have any allergies or a fear of dogs, so that we can ensure they do not meet. Thank you.

We have been made aware of a couple of incidents whereby a male in his 40s/50s (described as wearing black and carrying a backpack) has followed pupils from the Hessle High School site as they have been walking home. Some of you may have seen a post on a Facebook page. Police have been informed of this, but it may be astute to discuss this with your child(ren) so that they know what to do in such an event. We plan to address this in our assembly this afternoon. However, we will approach this from a general keeping safe angle.

I would like to thank everyone for their support with recycling used uniforms. We are now at capacity for smaller sizes, but these can be taken to Sainsburys where there is a uniform drop-off point. However, we would still appreciate any larger sizes that you no longer require. If you are in need of some uniform and would like to take advantage of our recycling system, please contact the school office and we will arrange to pick the items for you for collection.

Happy Weekend, all!

Safeguarding notes from Mrs Paoli:

Concern in the Local Area

As mentioned above, there have been reports of children being followed by a man in aged between 40-50 years old in Hessle. He has followed children, walking closely behind them and then watched them walk into their house. Please be extra vigilant, speak to your children and report any concerns to the police and school.

Domestic Abuse

Throughout the areas of East Riding and Hull there has been an increase in the number of Domestic Abuse incidents.

What is domestic abuse?

We define domestic abuse as an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer.

In the majority of cases, it is experienced by women and is perpetrated by men. However, women can also be the perpetrator in lots of cases.

Domestic abuse can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Coercive control (a pattern of intimidation, degradation, isolation and control with the use or threat of physical or sexual violence)
- Psychological and/or emotional abuse.
- Physical or sexual abuse.
- Financial or economic abuse.
- Harassment and stalking.
- Online or digital abuse.

If you would like further help or information about this, you can use this link:
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/getting-help-for-domestic-violence/>

If you feel at risk, you can also speak to Mrs Paoli and Mrs Adams in school, and we can signpost you in the right direction and offer advice and support.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 16 - Friday 13 January 2023

Last term, we had the first ever Consortium Academy Trust Conference, which was an exciting event that brought together all staff from across the Trust. At this event, we were able to share good practice in a wide range of workshops spanning a variety of areas related to Teaching & Learning. Following its success, the first ever TCAT Learner Conference took place at the University of Hull this week, and this event was also a huge success. This time, a small group of learners from each school replaced the staff in exciting workshops which focused on the themes of Diversity and Inclusion. A keynote speaker from The Art of Brilliance kicked off the day, before the learners moved into mixed-age, mixed-school groups for a variety of workshops. I had the privilege of walking around the event and observing some of the fantastic conversations between learners as young as 5 and as old as 18 as they collaborated on a number of projects. I am already looking forward to the next event and hope that more and more of our pupils will have the opportunity to attend during the course of their education at the Hessle Academy.

We also welcomed the arrival of Marlowe the Trust Wellbeing Dog this week, who was a huge hit throughout the school. After being introduced to each year group, Marlowe then settled for an afternoon's work discussing emotions and listening to pupils read. We cannot wait to see him again the same time next week!

Just a couple of reminders:

If someone else is collecting your child, or your child has been given permission to walk home, please email ppsoffice@hessleacademy.com or call 01482 648604 option 3 before midday so that we can pass the message onto your child's class teacher and avoid any delays at collection time.

Please remember that stud earrings are the only jewellery that we allow, and these must be removed prior to your child partaking in PE. Therefore, please ensure that either your child is able to remove their own earrings, or they are removed before they come to school on the day that they have PE. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you exit the school via the Winthorpe Road entrance, please ensure your child walks with you down the path. I have had reports of pupils running on the field towards the pedestrian gate and then climbing over the fence onto the High Voltage electrics box to exit. Needless to say, there are many dangers to this and as always, our priority is to safeguard your children. Thank you.

Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the gradual lightening of the nights. See you all next week!

A safeguarding note from Mrs Paol:

The East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership (ERSCP) oversees and co-ordinates all of the work undertaken within the East Riding to keep children safe. It is a partnership between the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Humberside Police and the East Riding of Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group working alongside other relevant agencies. Please click here for further information: <https://www.erscp.co.uk/>

Mental wellbeing is a big priority for us and we have a number of professionals working with children and families in school. Next week we have our 'Wellbeing Day' on Thursday 19 January and I know that the staff have some exciting plans for the children! Here is a link to the health and wellbeing page at East Riding which includes links to what services and events are happening in Hessele:

<https://eastridinghealthandwellbeing.co.uk/>

The children will be attending learning workshops with our PCSO on Thursday and Friday next week. We will revisit how we can safeguard ourselves online, and how our online behaviours leave a digital footprint.

As always, if you have any concerns or want any further advice, please contact Mrs Paoli or Mrs Adams.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 17 - Friday 20 January 2023

This week we held our second Wellbeing Day of the year, in which pupils were able to partake in a wide range of activities that centred around inclusion, looking after our wellbeing and building teamwork. It was lovely to walk the corridor and see the pupils dressed in clothes that make them feel safe, cosy and comforted, whilst doing activities such as pizza-making, yoga, Quidditch and crafting to name a few.

Also on this day, we have our Years 5/6 boys football match against North Ferriby. If your child is part of the team and you would like to attend, kick off is at 2pm. As mentioned in previous

communications, toilet facilities will not be available on this day as the pupils will still be learning in school. Please plan accordingly, and wish us luck!

In other news: At All Saints Church Hall, Hessle, on Saturday 11 March, there will be a FUNdraising afternoon which the families of The Hessle Academy are invited to. This event is to raise funds to repair the church tower. Details of this exciting event can be found below.



That's all for this week. Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you all next week

A safeguarding note from Mrs Paoli:

Family Wellbeing Coffee Morning

The café (next to the Reception) will be open 9:30am till 11am on Friday 27 January for our Parent Mental Health Day. Please pop along and join Mrs Paoli and Mrs Adams for a coffee/tea and a chat and maybe a slice of cake or a biscuit. This year's 2023 theme is #BuildFamilyResilience, focusing on how parents and carers can successfully adapt to challenging life situations, and deal with their own stress and anxiety, while navigating their family through difficult times. If you feel you would like to come have a chat/share ideas please pop along to the drop in morning, we would love to see you.

Parking on/around the streets near school

If you have any concerns about how people are parked on the streets near school, please can you report this to Hessle Police directly using this link:

<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/humberside-police/hessle/?yourlocalpolicingteam=yourteam>

Attendance

We are having a big push on attendance this year and our aim is to reach 96% and above for our overall attendance. Mrs Kibart the Attendance Manager and myself are in the process of contacting families to offer any support, particularly for the attendance that drops below 90% which is classed as persistently absent.

As always, if you have any concerns or want any further advice, please contact Mrs Paoli, Mrs Hornby or Mrs Adams in school.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 18 - Friday 27 January 2023

As I write this blog, our boys football team are currently limbering up on the school field ready to take on North Ferriby Primary. Next week, I obviously hope to report a win, but more than that, I hope that both teams take real enjoyment from the game, work well as teams and are respectful of one-another. Watch this space!

This week, as part of Parent Mental Health week, we invited parents into our café for a cuppa, biccie and a chat. After the parents left, we asked ourselves why we need to wait for a named date to offer this kind of service, and so we plan to make this a more frequent event in the form of a coffee morning but with a similar purpose. More information to follow.

The current round of after school clubs will finish on Thursday 9 February. New clubs will start Monday 27 February (with a short break for the week commencing 20 February). An email will go out shortly with more information on options etc.

Next week, Year 5 will venture to Hogwarts as they embark on their trip to Harry Potter World in London. I hope the learners and staff have a magical time on this day, and a safe trip home.

Finally, we have had a reported case of headlice in Year 2. Please be vigilant and check your child if they show signs of itching. Thank you for your cooperation.

Have a wonderful weekend and see you all next week.

A safeguarding note from Mrs Paoli:

Thank you for the families who attended our wellbeing coffee morning. We will be running a 'Cuppa and chat' morning on the last Friday each month, and everyone is welcome! We will keep you updated on this.

Here are a few websites that were shared this morning for further mental health support:

First ladies group - @firstladies_club – where ladies meet up and have a cuppa and a natter!

<https://wegoagainwga.com/> – mental health peer support through lived experience.

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

Calm 5pm–midnight, 365 days a year 0800 58 58 58

<https://andysmanclub.co.uk>

Andy's Man Club is a UK charitable organisation described as "a talking group, a place for men to come together in a safe environment to talk about issues and problems they have faced or are currently facing".

Message from the PCSO:

We are going to be doing some spot checks on the school streets enforcement in the coming weeks due to complaints of increase breaching of the regulation.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 19 - Friday 3 February 2023

As you are undoubtedly aware, this week saw the first of the industrial strike days for teachers. As with any industry that strikes, there are always mixed views on the matter, and I have no intention of sharing my personal views on here. What I do intend to do is say a heartfelt thank you to every single one of you for either your words of encouragement and support for the staff at Peshurst (and in turn teachers across the country) or for your cooperation in ensuring we were able to open for as many pupils as was safe to do so. We are now busy planning for the next strike day (if an agreement between unions and the government is not reached sooner) and will keep you informed of further developments in the coming weeks. Thank you once again.

Towards the end of the last academic year, I wrote to parents and carers to introduce myself as the Associate Head of School. As I am sure you have read in recent communications from Mr Groak (Headteacher of the Hessle Academy), I have now been appointed in the role permanently and I cannot express how lucky I feel to be able to take on this role. By far the easiest interview question to answer was why I wanted this job. Simple.... the Peshurst pupils – your children. Daily, the resilience, kindness, aspiration, respect, responsibility and integrity of your children serves as a source of inspiration for me. I absolutely love getting to know each and every characterful pupil, and children are the sole reason that I went into teaching in the first place. I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the parents who have congratulated me on the playground too. Your continued support helps to make running a school just that little bit easier. I look forward to continuing to work for you in the future.

Last week, I reported that our football team were battling it out with North Ferriby Primary as the blog reached you all. Peshurst played fantastically and we were so proud of each and every one of the players. Alas, you cannot win them all. Well done to North Ferriby, and we look forward to our next match. You can do it, Peshurst!

Today, Year 5 embark on their exciting trip to Harry Potter World in London. I have just heard from Mrs Whitaker that everyone has had a fabulous time and they are now happily motoring North. I cannot wait to hear about it next week Year 5!

And now a couple of reminders from me....

Please could anyone driving on the school site at the end of the day to collect from Aces remember that the speed limit is strictly 5mph. As you will be aware, the drive has a sharp bend and you cannot see what is coming in the opposite direction until you turn round it. Please be sensitive to other road users. Thank you.

Electric scooters should not be ridden on the school grounds by either pupils or parents. Please remember to dismount as you get through the gates. The same applies to bikes. Thank you.

As always, I hope you have a super weekend and look forward to seeing you next week.

A note from Mrs Paoli:

Marlowe wanted to say thank you to the children this week for talking about their emotions. He learnt a lot about how we can deal with difficult times and the feelings associated with this.



Attendance

This week during pupil of the week assembly, we have started to celebrate the year group who has the best attendance.

Well done to Y5 who won this week!

We are continuing to work with families to increase the attendance, and subsequently attainment of the pupils. Meetings with families have taken place and will continue to do so over the next half term. If you are having issues with attendance and need any support, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Paoli.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 20 - Friday 10 February 2023

We have arrived at the last week of this half term and once again I would like to thank you for all of your support over the last few weeks.

This week, the Year 4 pupils have enjoyed the start of their statutory swimming lessons, and today, we have 22 pupils attending the Young Voices concert at Sheffield Arena. This is such a wonderful event which gives the pupils the opportunity to be part of something much bigger and express themselves through singing. I can't wait to hear all about it when they return after the break.

Reminder: Clubs are available and have gone live to book spaces. There are a few spaces still available so please be quick. Following on from this, please remember that there are no clubs in the first week back after half term. Thank you.

You may have noticed as you walk down our corridors to POW for example that the walls are a little sparse or that there is some disruption. Much-needed decorating is underway but please rest assured that our lovely displays and images will pop back up very soon. Thank you for your patience.

As always, if you need any emergency uniform (second hand), please let us know and we will get this ready for you. We have a stock of this at school to support our families through the cost-of-living crisis and beyond.

We have noticed that energy drinks have been creeping into packed lunch boxes. Please do not send your child with one of these as they are laced with caffeine, stimulants and sugars which, as confirmed by the NHS website, are not healthy or suitable for children. Please continue to provide water for the classroom and a juice drink or water for lunch. We will replace any energy drinks with water and return them to the pupil at the end of the day. Thank you for your cooperation.

We have a reported case of headlice in Reception. As always, please be vigilant and treat your child as necessary.

The whole school team hope that you manage to have a wonderful, restful break and we look forward to seeing you all when we return on the 20 February.

A note from Mrs Paoli:

Current Attendance for week beginning 30 January

Attendance , Rec , Y1 , Y2 , Y3 , Y4 , Y5 , Y6

Current Week , 92.5% , 92.33% , 96.26% , 91.16% , 92.46% , 95.76% , 90.29%

Well done to year 2 who will have an extra break time after half term. Our school target is 96%

Our current whole school attendance up to this point is 93.8% If you are struggling with attendance, please seek advice from me. Here is a link with advice on how to promote school attendance to your child: <https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/education/school-university/coping-school-refusal/>

Here is a list of money saving offers for you:

EXTREME COUPONING AND BARGAINS UK KIDS EAT OUT FOR LESS FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2023

- Morrisons** - Kids under 16 eat for free at Morrisons Café when an adult spends £4.99 or more on a meal.
- ASDA** Kids Free Hot Breakfast Between 8am-12pm every day during Half Term no purchase necessary.
Kids Eat for £1 with no purchase necessary until end of March 2023
- Bella Italia** - Kids Eat for £1 when an adult purchases a main meal between 4pm-6pm at Bella Italia.
- Dunelm** - Kids Eat for Free at Dunelm when an adult spends £4 or more at Pausa Cafe.
- YO Sushi** - Kids Under 10 Eat for Free at YO Sushi Between 13th - 24th Feb when an adult spends £10 or more.
- Dobbies** - Kids Eat for Free at Dobbies Garden Centre Cafes when an adult purchases a main meal.
- Sizzling** - Kids Eat for £1 at Sizzling Pub and Grill when an adult meal is purchased.
- Hungry Horse** - Free Kids Breakfast at Hungry Horse Pubs when an adult spends at least £3.49.
- Farmhouse Inns** - Kids Eat For £1 when you sign up to receive their email newsletter on their website.
- IKEA** - Pasta with Tomato Sauce and a soft drink for 95p or any other Kids Meal for £1.50. Available every day from 11am in their restaurants.
- Beefeater, Brewer's Fayre & Table Table** - Two kids under 16 eat breakfast for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased.

INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF POSTING

I hope that you have a lovely restful half term with your family.

Mrs Preston

Associate Head of Primary School

WEEK 21 - Friday 24 February 2023

When the school holidays arrive, pupils and teachers alike are obviously ready for the break. However, a few days in, I personally am always reassured by how much I miss our learners at Penshurst; it makes returning to work after a break a much nicer experience and I have really enjoyed catching up with them this week.

What an eventful first week back. This week sees the end of the Year 4 swimming lessons, and these have been a huge success. We have also had the Hook Days for most of our year groups, in which

pupils have dressed up to represent a character from their lead texts or have participated in activities that engage and excite them ready for the learning that will take place.

Year 3 welcomed a visit from the Marine Conservation Society to support their Just Keep Swimming theme. Reception had an exciting day learning all about space inside the Wonderdome planetarium and the farm came to visit the Year 1 pupils for our Down on the Farm theme.

In addition to all of these events, the PFA also held this year's Friendship Disco to raise funds to support the Year 6 residential trip this year.

We're almost there now! Our learners will need the weekend to rest!

You will receive a letter today to explain that the Progress Evenings have changed from the Spring Term to the end of the Summer Term. The letter will explain the reason but please note that the new dates are Monday 26 and Wednesday 28 June.

As you may already know, our corridors are having a bit of a makeover. Whilst removing the display boards ready to paint, this little beauty was revealed. Initially, I intended to ask our families if they had any information, until I was reminded that most parents are younger than me! Please feel free to share this with grandparents / great-grandparents and let us know if anyone has any recollection of either this, or just what the school House teams looked like in the past.



A few reminders:

Tuesday 28 February is a strike day and as per the recent communication that you will have received, we will be open for years 1, 3 and 6, as well as emergency worker families and vulnerable pupils. Please refer to the recent communication for more information.

If your child is going to be late to school for whatever reason, please let the office know what they would like for lunch as meals need to be ordered by 9:30 and they are made to order. Thank you.

Please remember that your child should bring their PE kit in on a Monday and take it home on a Friday. Your child's PE day is always subject to change due to absences etc and as PE is a statutory requirement, your child should be ready for this lesson. Thank you.

Please remember that new school clubs start next week.

World Book Day is on Thursday 2 March. Your child can come to school dressed to represent a word. I look forward to seeing all of the creative ways in which our families represent these words. I wonder if I can guess them all!

That's all from me, and below is this week's safeguarding message from Mrs Paoli. Have a super weekend!

Current Attendance for week beginning 6 February

, Rec , Y1 , Y2 , Y3 , Y4 , Y5 , Y6

Attendance (Current Week) , 93.8% , 90.6% , 96.2% , 93.3% , 93.1% , 91.6% , 93.6%

Well done again to Year 2 who will receive an extra break time next week! Our school target is 96%

Our current whole school attendance up to this point is 93.8%

The Dark Web

There has been an increase in young children and adults accessing the 'Dark Web.'

What is the Dark Web? There are three different parts of the internet: the Open Web, the Deep Web and the Dark Web. The Dark Web is the hidden part of the internet. Dark Web sites do not appear on search engines and can only be accessed using a dedicated anonymity software such as Tor.

Why Might a child access the Dark Web? There are a number of reasons why a child might want to use the Dark Web. These include:

Curiosity about technology and the online world.

Privacy concerns.

Accessing illegal content or services.

Because they have been coerced or forced to access the Dark Web by someone else.

Whatever the reason for accessing the Dark Web, the potential risks are the same as those on the Open Web. This includes exposure to harmful or illegal content and people who may seek to harm children. For further information regarding this you can access: [The Dark Web Explained \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/dark-web-explained/>

Finally, our Books for Bugs Book Fair has begun! Gain access to hundreds of discounted books this week!

How to order

Visit www.booksforbugs.co.uk

Choose your books and add them to the basket - if you are not sure where to start why not checkout our new Quick Shop feature with the top 100 for each key stage.

At the checkout stage add your billing details as normal and for shipping put Your Child's Name, Your Child's Class (or 'School Office' if it's a gift you don't want the child to see),

Penshurst Primary School, Winthorpe Road, Hessle, and most importantly...HU13 9EX the school's postcode. It is the postcode that will activate the free shipping option called 'Virtual Book Fair only'.

Payment is taken by debit/credit card or Paypal

If you are unsure what to do here is a handy video guide <https://booksforbugs.co.uk/virtual-book-fair-info-for-parents/> You can order up until midnight on Sunday 5 March and orders are dispatched within two working days of the fair ending so never long to wait!

Any book priced £2.99 or over purchased through the virtual book fair will also benefit school as we will receive a free book for every 5 purchased, every book counts! Happy shopping!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 22 - Friday 3 March 2023

As you are all obviously aware, this week has seen the second of the Teacher Strike days, for which we were able accommodate three year groups (one more than the first strike day) as well as vulnerable groups and children of emergency workers. The next strike action is planned over two days and currently we are busy planning what this will look like. The support and understanding that we have received so far from our Penshurst families has been wonderful and invaluable – and for that we thank you. Nevertheless, as with all situations that are inconvenient (and in some cases provide a financial burden) we do realise that people may become more frustrated as time goes on if a conclusion is not reached. For that reason, I thought it important to reiterate that we are doing everything possible to open safely for as many pupils as we can, whilst working within the parameters of strike action rules. I will keep you updated as early as possible on our intentions for the 15 and 16 March. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation.

World Book Day once again showcased some fantastic outfits created by our families. I am regularly bowled over by the vivid imagination of children, and it was brilliant to see how so many words had been interpreted and represented in costume. Also on this day, each class decorated their classroom door to represent a book of their choice. Again, the talent and imagination were astounding, and I will share these images with you next week (they are being photographed and judged as I type).

Next week, the PFA are opening a Mothers Day gift shop on Tuesday 7 March. The day after, we will be holding our Holi festival in which the pupils can participate in throwing the colourful powder. Please remember to send your child with a change of clothes – preferably a white T-shirt – for this event.

Lastly, on Thursday 9 March, the Years 5 & 6 Girls football team compete against Willerby Carr Lane Primary at home, here at Penshurst. Good luck to our girls but importantly, I wish everyone an enjoyable match.

Below is Mrs Paoli's Safeguarding information. I wish you all a wonderful weekend as always. See you on Monday!

Attendance Week Beginning 20 February

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance (Current Week)	97.07%	97.29%	96.8%	97.10%	96.4%	95.6%	95.6%

A massive improvement to all year groups this week! The winners this week are...Year 1 well done!

Issues with Whats App (16+ age restriction)

In school, we are continuing to deal with issues that have taken place outside of school, particularly involving the use of Whats App. Incidents have included, setting up group names using derogatory terms e.g. Kyle is a loser, then inviting friends to join these groups and leave voice messages and notes that are extremely unkind.

It is vital that we work together to ensure that we are promoting online safety. Please ensure that you are regularly monitoring all your child's online activity to ensure that they are using their devices appropriately and safely.

Today our local Police community officer has been into school to deliver a valuable online safety workshop to our Year 5 and 6 children. Jessica Watt discussed about the impact of online bullying and the risks associated with gaming and talking to people online.

For further information regarding how to ensure that your child is being safe online please click on this link: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

As always, if you have any questions or need any further support please do not hesitate to ask.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 23 - Friday 10 March 2023

As you know, throughout the year at Penshurst, we hold Faith Days in which we learn about festivals and celebrations from Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. This week, snow threatened to stop play during our Hindu Holi Faith Day. However, by lunch time, the snow had disappeared, and we were able to continue with our first Holi event since before the Covid pandemic. The pupils all had a wonderful time, which I am sure you will have heard all about!

At the beginning of the year, as you are aware, we moved onto a new Management Information System (Arbor) along with the other schools in our Trust. The Arbor Parent Portal is our new communication tool and we are committed to rolling out more content to the portal in the months to come including, student reports, permissions, House Point information as well as giving you a daily reminder of your child's attendance for the year. The Portal can be used via desktop PC or App download, the App version will give us another way in which we can reach you (providing you have notifications switched on). If you have not yet activated your account, please do so ASAP. If you need any support with setting it up, please contact us.

Next week, we face two strike days on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March. Once again, we will be open for three year groups (1, 3 and 6). We have had some communication from parents querying why we have not managed to rotate the year groups as we initially suggested we may be able to do. One of the constraints under which we are operating is that that we cannot ask teachers

to cover classes other than their own on strike days which means we have much less flexibility than we hoped. It would be our preference as well as yours that we accommodate as many year groups as possible but working within the parameters of strike action rules and maintaining the safety of the children is making this an almost impossible task. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Red Nose Day – Friday 17 March - Children are invited to dress up in Red clothing! We will not be collecting cash donations, however, in support of our dress up day we encourage you to donate to the Comic Relief charity, please click here or donate through your ParentPay account.

Last week, I promised you images of our decorated doors from World Book Day. Below is a small selection of the exceptional work that the classes produced. Can you identify the different year groups from the texts they may have mentioned?



Last weeks attendance ...

, Rec , Y1 , Y2 , Y3 , Y4 , Y5 , Y6

Attendance (Current Week) , 90% , 98% , 96.7% , 94.4% , 94.7 , 96% , 95.8%

Well done to Y1 who are the winners this week!

Mental Health

Although it is often misunderstood, mental health can have a massive impact on how you and your child/ren can handle day-to-day events.

At school, we offer a range of interventions for mental health and we have specially trained staff who work with the children on a weekly basis. Here is a site which has lots of useful links to support you and your family: <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/>

A big part of easing stress is regulating and training our breath. There are lots of video clips online to help with breathing techniques here is an example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1bBI-BT9c4>

If you would like any further advice about mental health, please do not hesitate to ask.

Have a super (chilly and snowy) weekend and we will see you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 24 - Friday 17 March 2023

I'm always so proud of how smart the Penshurst school uniform looks (after nagging children to tuck their shirts back in) but non-uniform events are always so exciting to see as well. This morning, I was greeted by a vivid sea of red for Red Nose Day, and would like to thank you for your support with this. Don't forget that you can donate to this good cause here.

This week, our Year 6 boys football team played against Kirkella. Both teams played incredibly well, but Penshurst were defeated (just) with a 4-3 result.

Thank you once again for your cooperation with the strike days. We do appreciate how much this inconveniences families and we are extremely grateful to our community for their support with this.

We use Twitter to make announcements to parents and to keep you informed of what your child is doing in school, mainly with photography of time in school and links to letters from our website. This is one form of social media that I am not familiar with but as I type this, my phone is next to me downloading the app in preparation for communications. Please consider downloading the app and following @Penshurstschool - watch this space! You can also keep up to date with the latest.

Speaking of Apps, just another reminder to download the Arbor Parent Portal App (although this can also be accessed via a desktop PC) as this is our new communication tool where you will access student reports, update permissions etc. The reports at the end of half term will be communicated via this so please make sure you are ready. If you need any support with setting it up, please contact us.

Next week, the Big Bike & Wheel takes place all week to encourage our pupils to be more active and walk, bike or scoot to school (if they don't already do so).

Also next week, the re-arranged girl's football match will take place on Wed 22nd and is against Willerby Carr Lane. On Thursday 23rd, our Year 5 boys play against All Saints. Good luck to both teams!

Please take a moment to view the new term dates (for next year) which have been placed on the website here. Please note the date for October has changed. Thank you.

Have a wonderful weekend, whatever plans you have, and I look forward to seeing you next week, with only 2 more weeks until Easter!

Attendance for the week 6.3.23

Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
96%	96.4%	92%	97%	96.2%	95%	93.8%

Well done to Year 3, who have made a massive improvement.

This week I have found some tips on how you can adopt healthy online habits. [Click here to find out.](#)

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 25 - Friday 24 March 2023

Another busy week has been had at Penshurst this week.

Football season is well and truly in full swing with two matches being played this week. The first was the Year 5/6 girls against Willerby Carr Lane, and the second is the Year 5 boys against Hessle All Saints. Well done to all who played brilliantly during these events.

Thursday saw the next of our Wellbeing Days, during which, many exciting activities were planned. These included cooking, composing a piece of music using a variety of instruments, and collaborative artwork to name a few. Pupils and teachers alike thoroughly enjoy these days, and it is an opportunity for everyone to do something that might not normally feature in the curriculum.

The Big Walk and Wheel also took place this week, and we continue to encourage our pupils to come to school on foot or non-motorised 'vehicle' to promote exercise and wellbeing. Next Tuesday (28th) we celebrate our Modeshift Award with a 'Biker's Breakfast'.

Last week's attendance:

Rec , Y1 , Y2 , Y3 , Y4 , Y5 , Y6

96% , 92% , 94% , 88% , 90% , 93.8% , 89%

We saw a dip in some year groups, however well done to Reception for achieving our target attendance of 96%!

This week I wanted to highlight the risks associated with your child using Tiktok. Please see the information attached.

Have a great weekend.

What's On next week – keep up to date here.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 26 - Friday 31 March 2023

Last night, at our Governors meeting, I gave a run-down of all of the events that have taken place over the last couple of months. As I was discussing them all, it made me realise just how incredibly busy we have been with trips, faith days, World Book Days, sporting fixtures and so much more. No wonder the pupils and staff are ready for a sleep.

Speaking of the latter (sporting fixtures, not sleep!), I received the most heart-warming email from Mr Hutchinson, our Sports Coach, yesterday which summarised the Year 6 Boys tournament at Hymers. He reported that they were absolutely fantastic, and did the school, Mr Hutchinson, themselves and us (staff) proud. We got through to the knockout stages after gaining points against some very good teams, but unfortunately, we're knocked out after conceding only one goal towards the end of the game.

Both our keepers (Harrison and Harry) were outstanding, never stopped smiling and received praise from several other coaches. Ethan battled throughout each game and was fantastic when taking on and beating opposition players - he came close to scoring a spectacular goal. Liam, Ethan and Jamie each played fantastically well in defence. Hamza, who is still learning the game, was full of enthusiasm and showed some great skill and scored a quality goal. William and Conor played in several positions and showed great character throughout, and Harley showed some neat skills and encouraged and supported his teammates throughout. A massive well done to all involved, and what a set of model pupils!

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of uniform expectations. Trainers have started to sneak into the building, as has jewellery. Please note that black shoes should be worn and that the only jewellery that we allow is stud earrings. Please also note that leggings are not school trousers.

Here is the attendance for last week from Mrs Paoli. Massive increases, well done everybody!

The winners are... Year 1! An extra break time after Easter for this year group.

Rec

, Y1 , Y2 , Y3 , Y4 , Y5 , Y6

92.5% , 99% , 97.6% , 97.4% , 95% , 96.4% , 94.9%

We are continuing to have issues regarding the children's use of Whats App at home which can affect some of the friendships in school. Please see the attached guidance that you can refer to.

Finally, here is a link to some great Easter activities that you may wish to access over the Easter holidays.

<https://www.healthyholidayshull.org/?fbclid=PAAaaE-7GCUM0Tq70blyxSUOqkIVmsnl-rx2e-3DPz5TEmVViGqm1siU83wwk>

Thank you

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 27 - Friday 21 April 2023

Welcome back to the final term. I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break.

Before the Covid pandemic, we would periodically invite guests from other faiths to speak to our pupils, and this week, I was delighted that we were able to do this once again. On Wednesday, we welcomed Imam Abid Salik from Hull Mosque, and although I couldn't be there for the assembly, I am told the highlight was when some of our pupils approached him at the end to speak in their first language. What a lovely reminder of the multi-faith community that we live in!

On Thursday 20 April our Y5/6 girls played against Welton, and what a match! Both teams played brilliantly, but Welton were the overall winners, and we extend our congratulations to them. Today - Friday 21 April our school took part in the Mini Marathon for the Guinness Book of Records. Watch this space for more information on the collective result.

Next week, we see another strike day on Thursday 27 April. You will have received a letter informing you of the procedures for this so please make sure you read this carefully. Please contact the school office with any queries.

As part of our Eco Schools award, we would like to hold a plant sale and would be grateful of any donations of cuttings, baby plants or larger ones, either for inside or outside. Please feel free to hand these to your child's class teacher, or to the office, and we will pass these onto Mrs Smith. Thank you for your support.

Here is the attendance for the last week before the Easter holidays. Our whole school aim is still 96%!

Rec

, Y1 , Y2 , Y3 , Y4 , Y5 , Y6

91.9% , 96.8% , 96.9% , 90.4% , 92.7% , 94.1% , 92.6%

Well done Y2 who are the winners this week.

In school we are completing Relax Kids sessions with some of our children and we are going to deliver a parent workshop about this for these families. I have attached some information about the benefits of Relax kids on the children's wellbeing. Here is a link for further websites that may be useful for you and your families:

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/websites>

I hope you have a great weekend and look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 28 - Friday 28 April 2023

Here ends another week at Peshurst.

As you are well aware, this week saw another strike day, for which I was teaching for part of the day in Year 6. I'm a bit of a geek and love fractions, so to be teaching these revision skills to the pupils made my day. I also taught this cohort of pupils in lower KS2 and when you spend time with any year group a few years after you last taught them, it is always so surprising and humbling to see how far they have come. I am so proud of all of the Peshurst children, but was particularly impressed with how Year 6 are taking the impending SATs (mostly) in their stride. I am sure we are all united in wishing them the very best of luck in a couple of weeks.

Speaking of strike days, next week sees another on Tuesday 2 May. This follows the May Day bank holiday on Monday. Last week, you received a letter informing you of the procedures for this so please make sure you read this carefully. Please contact the school office with any queries.

Eyes Down! On Wednesday 3 May next week, we host our PFA Family Bingo event in the evening, as per previous communication. The PFA would be delighted if you could support the event and bag yourself some great prizes too!

On Friday 5 May, we will be celebrating the upcoming coronation with a range of activities. As previously communicated, your child can come dressed in red, white and blue, and you can also enter the exciting Great Penshurst Coronation Bake Off competition. Please note that the cakes will be returned at the end of the day so do put names on if you are entering.

Just a reminder that as part of our Eco Schools award, we would like to hold a plant sale and would be grateful of any donations of cuttings, baby plants or larger ones, either for inside or outside. Please feel free to hand these to your child's class teacher, or to the office, and we will pass these onto Mrs Smith. Thank you for your support.

Here is the attendance for the last week before the Easter holidays. Our whole school aim is still 96%!

Attendance for last week

Rec – 89.4%, Y1 - 97%, Y2 – 94.85%, Y3 - 90.70%, Y4 – 93.83%, Y5 – 92.43%, Y6 – 94.49%

Well done Year 1 who are the winners and will receive an extended break next week!

Challenge 100 Attendance Incentive

As a school we are constantly striving to reach our whole school target of 96% attendance for our pupils. To further encourage our children to be in school every day, we have launched a new Challenge 100 attendance incentive.

Some families will receive an email to invite you to take part in the challenge which will run for six weeks from Monday 1 May 2023 to Friday 16 June 2023. Any student who achieves 100% attendance within this period will be rewarded with a £5 Amazon voucher and 5 Pablo pounds.

All the children need to do is to come to school every day and stay for the day, we will look at their records and vouchers will be given out at the end of the challenge to any student achieving 100% attendance. Any student who misses the 100% but improves their overall attendance back above 90% will be awarded with 5 Pablo pounds.

We look forward to our families helping to support our goal for 96% attendance!

Have a wonderful (extended) weekend.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 29 - Friday 5 May 2023

It should always be exciting and considered a 'treat' when an extra bank holiday is added to the calendar. But not when you are a school leader and they decide to plonk it at the start of KS2 SATs week. With the additional disruption of strike days, this has really been an unusual time for our Year

6s, but as I mentioned last week, they are (mostly) taking this in their stride and the whole school are rooting for them next week. Lots of luck, Year 6.

The sports fixtures continue to come thick and fast. This week, we had the Year 5/6 Girls Football at Kirkella St. Andrews where both teams played brilliantly, although St. Andrews were victorious. In addition to this, a Rounders tournament took place at Wolfreton on Thursday. Penshurst came third overall and a brilliant time was had by all.

Today, our Coronation celebrations took place and not only was it fantastic to see so many pupils dressed patriotically in red, white and blue, but it was also wonderful to see the effort that had gone into the Coronation cakes that our amazing families made together. I will add images of these to Twitter and announce the winners in an assembly next week. Thank you once again for all of your hard work and support. I hope you had as much fun making them as I did looking at them.

I hope you have a lovely extended weekend, whatever you may be doing. See you on Tuesday!

Attendance for last week

Rec – 96%, Y1 - 98%, Y2 – 95.1%, Y3 - 93.9%, Y4 – 95.9%, Y5 –93.4%, Y6 – 91%

Our attendance is showing improvements week-on-week and our current attendance stands at 94.02%. Thank you to all our families who are working hard to achieve our goal of 96%!

This week I attended a Contextual Safeguarding Meeting for East Riding and one of the main contextual issues in the local area is Child Criminal Exploitation.

Please click on this link for more information about the types of abuse this covers and how you can spot the warning signs.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/gangs-criminal-exploitation/>

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 30 - Friday 12 May 2023

Well, we have reached the end of the KS2 SATs week. I am of an age where I did not take such tests so cannot truly relate to how a 10/11 year old might feel, but we should not underestimate the pressure that the pupils may feel at times like this. I know there have been articles and reports on the news this week expressing the difficulty level, but being the troopers they are, the pupils have completed them to the best of their ability and we are all so proud of how far they have come. Next week, Year 2 undergo a similar process for their end of KS1 SATs. Best of luck to the pupils and staff!

The winners of the cake competition during the Coronation celebrations are in and are as follows:

Early Years Foundation Stage winner is Mason

Key Stage 1 winner is Mollie

Key Stage 2 winner is Lucy

Well done to everyone who took part in the competition and thanks once again to the parents.,

I have been in touch with our local PCSO regarding the reporting of inconsiderate or illegal parking around the area. Her advice is to take a photograph and bring this to the attention of the police via the 101 number. Although this is incredibly frustrating and, in some cases, dangerous, as a school, all we can do is communicate with parents the need to be considerate and safe. We do not hold details of parent vehicles so cannot ascertain who the 'offending' vehicles belong to.

Mrs Smith would like to pass on her thanks for the plants that have been received so far and would like to put out a further plea for more please. One of my weekend jobs is to pot about 30 'plant-of-plenty' cuttings, which I am sure will be very therapeutic! She would also like to express her thanks for the batteries that we have received so far and is excited to inform you that we have received £150 in vouchers for books as we were one of the first 50 schools to fill a box! Great work!

Attendance for last week

Rec – 85%, Y1 - 95.8%, Y2 – 95.4%, Y3 - 89%, Y4 – 90.1%, Y5 –93%, Y6 – 90.6%

Well done to Year 1 who are the winners!

Here is a link to health and wellbeing services for East Riding:

<https://eastridinghealthandwellbeing.co.uk/>

I hope you all have a super (sadly not extended) weekend.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 31 - Friday 19 May 2023

A sigh of relief has swept through the school as the SATs are over for another year; this week it was the turn of Year 2, who took on the challenge as 'secret agents' in an incredibly calm and methodical way. Next up are Year 1 (phonics screener) and Year 4 (Multiplication Check) in June. No doubt, they will exhibit the same professionalism as their peers.

Please remember that the school gates open at 8:40am. If your child walks to school alone, please also remind them that this is the time that they can enter the site. Occasionally, when a visitor enters the Winthorpe Road entrance for a meeting before this time, they have been followed in by pupils and parents as the gates open. Please do wait until they gates open properly at 8:40am for safeguarding reasons. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sporting fixtures have been plentiful this week. As always, the pupils represented the school beautifully, and played to the best of their ability. Wednesday's fixture was an inter-school Tag Rugby tournament and the pupils played with an incredibly positive attitude, however narrowly missed out to the opposition. This week also saw the Brownlee Mini Triathlon at Hymers, and every participant thoroughly enjoyed themselves. On Thursday, we played Football against Springhead and I am delighted to report that in both games, Penshurst were triumphant. The first was a 1-0 win with a goal from Ethan T, and the second game was an extraordinary 3-1 win with goals from Ethan T, Tyler L and Tommy P. Well done to all!!

Next week, we have Wellbeing Day on Friday. Your child may come to school in non-uniform / comfortable clothes, but please remember that sensible and safe footwear should be worn.

Attendance for last week

Rec – 94.1%, Y1 - 95.1%, Y2 – %, Y3 - 95.4%, Y4 – 94.03%, Y5 –95.7%, Y6 – 97.8%

Well done to Year 6 who are the winners for an extra break time next week!

At the moment our local area is seeing a massive increase in the number of children vaping. Shockingly, some of these children are in primary schools.

These devices can be incredibly enticing for children as they are marketed with colourful packaging with different flavours. For further information about how you can talk to your child and warn them about the dangers of vapes, please see the attached leaflet.

https://www.wypartnership.co.uk/application/files/7616/7888/2607/NEW2_Vaping_and_e-cigs_-_the_facts_for_parents_and_carers_leaflet_print.pdf

Also, please find attached a link for different ways that you can support children's mental health.

/_site/data/files/users/miscellaneous/BFBCC8B8E707A47D3437AA250C5C06E9.pdf

Have a super weekend. One more week to go!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 32 - Friday 26 May 2023

We have arrived at the end of the penultimate half term and although I am sure pupils and staff alike are looking forward to the break, I am equally looking forward to the final half term which is always packed with exciting events and activities such as sports days, P Factor and Summer Fairs. As always, we will keep reminding you of any upcoming dates on this blog.

This week, yet another sporting fixture has taken place and the resilience of our pupils is certainly starting to pay off with 2 fantastic victories over Brough. The first game saw a 4 – 0 win for us and the second game had a result of 3 - 0 (hat trick for Calliah N). Overall, performance was excellent all-round, but massive congratulations to our Peshurst team.

Please can I remind all parents that the School Streets scheme is still very much in operation and that the restrictions still apply on Winthorpe Road and Seagran between the hours stated on the signs on these streets. Our plea for volunteers has been unsuccessful so far and unfortunately, we do not have the manpower to monitor this daily as we are busy safeguarding your children inside the school. However, please note that there will be sporadic checks when school staff are able, and also from the local policing team.

We have noticed that there are an increasing number of pupils who are coming to school in uniform that does not adhere to the policy. Although we appreciate that the cost of living has increased greatly, some of the items that the pupils are wearing cost more than the items that we stipulate. Please remember that we do have a bank of second-hand clothing at school should you need to call upon this at any point to ensure your child has the correct clothing. In particular, leggings and trainers are becoming an issue. If you are struggling to provide your child with the correct clothing, please get in touch with the school office and we will do whatever we can to help. After half term, emails will be sent to the parents of any pupils

This week, Mr Thorp, our Computing Lead, would like to share some information with you on Online Safety, something which continues to be an issue where children are allowed to access social media underage:

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a webinar focused on Digital Safety, where the importance of parental engagement in their child's online world and strategies to ensure their safety were discussed. While there are no fixed rules regarding when children should be given access to technological devices, it is crucial to recognise that such access comes with the risk of encountering inappropriate content or behaviours. As parents and educators, it is becoming increasingly vital to empower children to report any negative experiences promptly and without hesitation or fear.

Typically, we emphasise to children the importance of reporting such behaviours to parents or teachers. However, children can also report them directly online through the following website: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/>. We understand that reporting inappropriate behaviours can be daunting for children, so it would be extremely beneficial if you could take the time to visit this website with your child or children and discuss what steps they should take if necessary. In a recent poll, it was found that the majority of children desire their parents' involvement in their online presence, enabling them to openly discuss any issues that may arise without the fear of being restricted from the platforms they use.

During the webinar, I was introduced to an app called 'Qustodio,' which I believe is a fantastic tool that can help both children and parents feel safer while using the internet. Qustodio offers a range of features that promote digital safety, such as content filtering, time management, and monitoring of online activities. By using this app, parents can establish healthy boundaries and provide a secure online environment for their children.

In order to better support you and align our curriculum with your needs, I would like to invite you to complete a survey. Your feedback will assist us in enhancing our educational programmes and addressing any concerns or areas of improvement related to digital safety. Your participation in this survey is highly valued and greatly appreciated. Click here to access the survey.

Attendance for last week

Rec – 88.1%, Y1 - 96%, Y2 –95%, Y3 - 95.6%, Y4 – 94.1%, Y5 –96.5%, Y6 – 94.4%

Well done to year 5!

I wish you all a wonderful, relaxing half term break and will see you in a week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 33 - Friday 9 June 2023

Welcome back to the final half term of the year. I hope you had a wonderful, restful half term break.

This half term sees a multitude of exciting events including Sports Days, P Factor, Summer Fair, trips, visitors and so on. Please make sure you watch out for reminders of key dates to put in your diary, if you haven't already done so.

In last week's Blog, I mentioned about ensuring that your child has the correct uniforms. In the past, you have generously donated any unwanted uniforms to us, for which we were eternally grateful but became inundated, particularly with smaller sizes. We would now like to make a plea for any unwanted uniform for the older pupils (10+). Thank you for your help.

Attendance from before half term

Rec – 85%, Y1 - 91%, Y2 – 96%, Y3 - 93.5%, Y4 – 93%, Y5 –94%, Y6 – 92%

Well done Year 2 you are the winners for an extra break time next week!

In an increasing digital world, we are seeing how this is affecting children from a younger age. Please see attached a leaflet about how to manage device stress and anxiety for your children here.

Mrs Smith is working her Eco magic once again and has the following message, below:

As part of our ongoing work for our Eco Schools Award and the Trust's commitment to Zero by 30 we are taking part in The Great Big Green Week. We would like to remind you of a plant swap on Saturday 17th June 09:45 - 12:00 with the Co-op, Hessle. We would love for you to pop along and swap a plant (if you have no plant to swap, you can make a donation for a plant). Thank you for your continued support.



As well as this, as part of our ongoing work to promote Active Travel to school, we would like to introduce Walk and Roll Wednesdays (where pupils walk, scoot or cycle to school). This will commence on Wednesday 14 June as part of Better Transport Week.

Thanks for your support. Mrs Smith

Finally, let me draw your attention to a new Trust Complaints Policy. Not something that we often talk about in this blog but I am always keen to ensure that parents/carers and staff in school can communicate in an open, honest and effective way whenever we do not see eye to eye. A proper process for doing this is sometimes necessary and so we were happy to work with colleagues across our Trust to develop this new policy. Should you require it, it can be found on the school website under 'statutory policies'.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 34 - Friday 16 June 2023

This week, I had the privilege of welcoming some of the families of next year's Reception cohort to Penshurst and informing them about what school life will be like for their child next year. For those of you who attended these sessions, I hope you found them informative, and I cannot wait to welcome your little ones properly next year.

Another highlight for this week was the Brake Walk that took place on Wednesday, which involved the whole school donning high-vis vests and walking the local area to raise awareness of road safety.

I was so proud of all of the children who behaved impeccably throughout, and it is always so lovely to see parents out along the way supporting the event.

A group of Year 5 pupils visited the High School this week to take part in some computing lessons, which all parties loved. Strengthening the links between the two phases even further is one of our goals for next year, as this really does ensure a smooth transition to the secondary phase.

Next week we have our Sports Days. Fingers crossed that the weather remains good, but please make sure that if it is sunny, your child has a hat, a water bottle, and plenty of sun cream on.

Attendance from last week

Rec – 93%, Y1 - 96%, Y2 – 96%, Y3 - 93%, Y4 – 97%, Y5 –96%, Y6 – 88%

Well done to Year 4 who will receive an extra play time next week.

I hope that you all have a super weekend, and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 35 - Friday 23 June 2023

You may have seen in the news that the NEU have chosen two further dates on which they intend to take industrial action in pursuance of their pay claim against the Government. These are Wednesday 5 and Friday 7 July. Once we have assessed the impact of this, I will contact you with further details on the extent to which we will be able to open for students. Nevertheless, disruption appears inevitable which I greatly regret.

This week has been incredibly busy! On Wednesday evening, the annual P Factor concert took place, which showcased the talent of our fantastic pupils, with acts ranging from football skills to magic tricks and everything in between. This just strengthens the immense pride that I have in our pupils, as well as my colleagues, who also performed brilliantly in the staff dance.

On Thursday, Mrs Smith and Mrs Whitaker, along with 4 wonderful Year 6 pupils, had a wonderful trip to London to attend the Modeshift Awards ceremony. Although we did not win the overall competition, it was an immense achievement to be shortlisted alongside 5 other primaries and 6 secondaries throughout the country. Thank you to Mrs Smith and the Travel Ambassadors once again for all of their hard work.

Was there ever a more unpredictable thing than the weather? And no matter how much we want to, we can never rely on a forecast to make a decision. This is the situation we found ourselves in this week when deciding on whether to go ahead with the KS1 and KS2 Sports day. Although we made the correct decision, it's always disappointing for the pupils. However, we look forward to the rescheduled sports day (Tuesday 27th) and look forward to seeing you there. Thankfully, the FS2 event was able to go ahead and a wonderful time was had by all.

A reminder from Jess, our local PCSO – the School Streets restrictions, unless you have an exemption permit, do not allow for pupils to be dropped off between the times stated. Please park considerately and legally where there are no restrictions and walk to school with your child. Thank you.

A health & safety reminder - Although the sun is out, due to the ever-changing weather, can you please ensure you send your child with a jumper and/or a coat as well as a sun hat. Thank you

Finally, next week are the progress evenings (Monday 26 and Wednesday 28 June) – reminder there will be NO after school clubs on these days

Attendance from last week

Rec – 92%, Y1 - 96%, Y2 – 97%, Y3 - 95%, Y4 – 93%, Y5 –95%, Y6 – 96%

Well done to Year 2 who are the winners for an extra play time next week!

The children may have gone home and chatted about how to stay safe online following our Breck Foundation day yesterday. I will be selecting some winners of the 'design an online superhero' competition next week! Watch this space 😊

Please find attached a leaflet about the risks associated with AI (Artificial intelligence).

Have a wonderful (scorching) weekend and see you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 36 - Friday 30 June 2023

Over recent weeks, I have been reminded of how incredibly busy schools are in the run up to the Summer break!

Last week, seven children from Year 5 competed in a challenge day at Hymers. The children were separated into two groups to compete in a 'We Have Problems' Maths challenge and a 'We Have Issues' Literacy challenge. Each challenge comprised of different tasks throughout the day. Our pupils represented the school brilliantly, showing respect to both adults and peers, and they applied their knowledge to some tricky tasks against other schools from the surrounding area. Several awards were picked up by the children and they all had a fantastic time.

After the washout that was last week, I am delighted that we managed to go ahead with Nursery, KS1 and KS2 sports days this week, and I hope that you all had a wonderful time too. In order to safeguard the pupils, we thank you for your cooperation in making sure your child remains with their allocated member of staff at all times, and not encouraging them to break away from their class to speak to you.

Thanks to all parents who attended their Progress evening sessions this week. If you did not manage to see your child's teacher, they will be in touch in the remaining weeks to catch up with you.

Two exciting trips were able to go ahead this week; Year 2 visited Woldies Lavendar on Thursday and the Eco team carried out a beach clean at Hornsea Beach on Friday. Once again, it is wonderful to see these events being able to go ahead and they are always thoroughly enjoyed by all. Miss Dinsdale would like me to give a special mention to the Year 2 pupils for their incredible behaviour whilst on their trip – they are a credit to the school.

Speaking of trips, next week, our Year 6 pupils head off on their annual residential trip at which they will partake in numerous exciting outdoor activities. I cannot wait to hear all about who fell off the raft this year and to see all of their beaming (hopefully) faces when they return.

Finally next week, there are two further Strike Days planned, for Wed 5 July and Fri 7 July. Please read the correspondence about this very carefully to see whether your child's year group will be in school on these days. Thank you.

Polite notices:

We have had reports from residents of an increase in the noise on Winthorpe Rd when parents and pupils are waiting to access the school site in a morning. Please be mindful that some residents work shifts and may be asleep when you are arriving at the gates.

Please remember that when you are in the vicinity of school (site or nearby area), you are within earshot of our pupils and therefore, I kindly ask that you use appropriate, child-friendly language.

Attendance from last week

Rec – 93.5%, Y1 - 93.1%, Y2 – 87.7%, Y3 - 93.2%, Y4 – 94.8%, Y5 –95.3%, Y6 – 96%

Well done year 6! An extra play time next week for you!

I have attached guidance for parents regarding the app OMETV which is an increasing trend at the moment.

As always, I hope you have a fantastic weekend and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 37 - Friday 7 July 2023

This week, the majority of the Year 6 pupils ventured off on their annual residential, this year to PGL in Lincolnshire, where a brilliant time was had by all. After an excitable first night, everyone really settled into the swing of all of the activities, including raft building, trapeze, vertical challenge, zip wire, abseiling, giant swing, orienteering, and campfires. There can never be enough emphasis placed on the value of events such as this (and the selfless commitment from staff to support these events). Thank you to all who supported the event and well done to a bleary-eyed Year 6!

Next week, the pupils will spend three days with their new class teacher during our transition event ready for next year. People react differently to change – some are excited by it and thrive on it, and others are nervous initially. However, I am confident that our amazing, resilient pupils will settle into their new year group swiftly and have a brilliant year next year. This transition event will also see the majority of our Year 6 pupils head to Hessle High School – good luck to all of you.

As you are well aware, we actively encourage pupils to travel to school on bikes and scooters. Please do remember that both pupils and parents are expected to walk the bikes and scooters on the school grounds for health and safety reasons. Bikes and scooters can be stored using the racks near the Key Stage 1 playground, or the shelter on the Key Stage 2 playground.

Attendance for last week

Rec - 94% Year 1 - 96% Year 2 - 94% Year 3 - 95% Year 4 - 94% Year 5 - 95% Year 6 - 91%

Well done to Year 1 who are the winners for an extra play time next week.

A note from Mr Thorp:

It has come to our attention that some children have recently used outdated versions of Times Tables Rock Stars (TT Rockstars). To ensure they have the most secure and enjoyable experience, please take the following steps:

If using the website at home - visit play.ttrockstars.com/reset to load the latest version in your device's browser.

If using the TT Rockstars app - update the app from the app store.

By upgrading to the latest version, your child will benefit from key updates and enhancements, optimising their learning experience.

A note from the PFA:

The Summer Fair will take place on Wednesday 12 July. Please come and support the event if you can. Since the initial success for the Gunge the Teacher last year (fond memories for Mrs Preston!), this is growing in strength this year and there is still time to vote. For anyone who is unable to attend the event, we will record the 'gunging' and pupils can watch this in their classrooms. Thank you for your continued support.

A note from Mrs Paoli, Designated Safeguarding Lead:

This week I attended a contextual safeguarding meeting as I am part of the Contextual Ambassadors team where social workers and other professionals meet and discuss how we can further safeguard the young people in our community.

What is contextual safeguarding?

It is an approach to protect children and young people from harm or abuse that occur beyond their immediate family environment. It recognises that young people can be vulnerable to risks and harm within their wider social and community contexts, such as peer groups, schools, neighbourhoods and online spaces.

The West Team covers Goole, Howden and Haltemprice areas including Hessle.

In Hessle, there has been an increase in referrals for service and exploitation support. The isolated incidents have been occurring online rather than community based.

The perpetrator/s have been targeting individual children and young adults online and grooming them.

Please continue to monitor all your child's online activity and act if you see any changes in behaviour.

This website adds further guidance on how you can protect your family against grooming and exploitation:

<https://notinourcommunity.org/>

I hope you all have a brilliant weekend. See you next week!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

WEEK 38 - Friday 14 July 2023

We have reached the penultimate week of the final year and there is no slowing up for us!

This week, our wonderful learners have been spending time in their new classes with their new teachers ready for September. I hope they have been coming home and talking your socks off about the wonderful things that they have been doing and about how much they are looking forward to next year – I know the teachers have with me!

This also meant that most of our Year 6 cohort headed off to their secondary school for a few days. It's always a strange time of year knowing that you are about to lose people that you have seen for up to 8 years and watched grow and thrive. The only other people who get to do that are you as parents, so it is understandable that we feel a sense of loss when they move on. Nevertheless, we as educators are always so excited to see them develop into well-rounded young adults and I cannot wait for them to pop back from time to time to let us know how they are getting on.

Also this week, after being threatened by a downpour, the PFA managed to hold their annual PFA Summer Fair. Thanks to Mrs Adams and the PFA team for organising and coordinating the event with the help of our staff, and also for their relentless effort to raise money towards experiences and resources for our pupils. Thank you also to our wonderful families who came to support the event again this year. I know that the pupils were incredibly disappointed to hear that Mr Groak could not make it to the Gunge the Teacher session in time, but I am assured that he will face the challenge next week when we hold the annual end-of-year picnic with the parents. Shhhhhh – don't tell him that there may be two buckets waiting for him!

Which leads up beautifully onto next week's events.

On Tuesday 18th, we will hold our Year 6 BBQ, and the Leavers Assembly will be held in the hall on Friday 21st at 9:30. This means that Pupil of the Year will take place on Thursday 20th. Nursery will also close for Summer on Thursday 20th, and as mentioned above, the annual picnic will take place from 12-1:30 on Friday 21st (last day of term). Please note that school closes at 2pm so we kindly request that all pupils are collected by this time.

A note from Mrs Paoli, Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Attendance for last week

Rec – 96.6% Y1 – 96.4% Y2 – 94% Y3 – 90% Y4 – 93.5% Y5 – 94.4% Y6 – 91.5%

The winners are Reception, who will receive an extra play time next week!

Here is a poster for how to stay safe online this summer.

Have a wonderful weekend and see you next week for the final week!

Mrs Preston

Head of School