

Downholland Haskayne CE Primary



Newsletter No: 6

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Date: 16th October 2024

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Wednesday Weekly

There has been lots going on in school this past week and the children have been very excited about all their learning. On Monday, Reverend Susan came into school to lead the harvest Eucharist assembly. The children were excited to start the assembly with a treasure hunt to help Rev. Susan find all the things she needed to lead the service. This was followed by an explanation of the meanings behind certain religious objects and traditions. Children, visitors and staff were then invited to take communion or receive a blessing. Thank you to all those who brought donations of food and/or money for the local food bank and thank you to Rev. Susan for arranging and leading the service.

Yesterday, the fire service came in to deliver a fire safety talk to the children in Year 2-6. They learnt about to keep a home safe from the risk of fire and what to do in the event of a fire. Thank you to the local fire service for coming in to help our children stay safe.

Last Wednesday, I met with the incumbent head teacher, Mr Swindells, and we attended a local head teachers' cluster meeting. It was lovely to begin the handover process and we are lucky that there is a good length of time between now and Christmas for Mr Swindells to come and get to know the school. He is very excited to start working with you all and we are looking to put some further dates in the diary when he will be coming in to school to meet everyone.

On Thursday there was a governors' meeting in the evening. We discussed ways in which we could market the school to the local community and beyond. We feel it is really important to let people know that Downholland Haskayne is here and we are a fantastic place to come and learn. We would like the children to help us with this by designing a flyer/poster that can be distributed to local businesses and displayed in noticeboards in local villages.

On Thursday I will be sending home details of a competition to help us design the flyer/poster. We would like something bold, bright and that shows the real community spirit of the school. Please encourage your child to take part – you can give them as much help as they need and multiple entries are allowed. We may find that we take the best bits from a few entries to make the final design so there could be more than one winner.

Earlier this week, we had the attendance officer in school to help us find ways to support children's regular attendance at school. Unfortunately, our overall percentage attendance is quite low compared to other schools and lower than what we would like it to be. Please could we ask you to do everything you can to ensure that your children are in school, on time for every day they are due to be here? If your child is struggling with anything that may be putting them off coming to school, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will do everything we can to support you.

Below is a link to the NHS guidance about when it is necessary to keep children at home due to illness. We have been advised by the attendance officer to gather details about the reasons for any absence so please help us by giving a short explanation of any illnesses suffered. As a rule of thumb, I work on the principle that children should come into school and we will contact you if they become too unwell to stay during the day. If you're not sure, just give us a call and we can have a chat about whether it would be appropriate to send them in.

I'd like to finish with a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has worked so hard this half-term to make the school such a wonderful place. As parents, governors and other stakeholders, you work so hard to keep the school spirit alive. A special mention must go to the staff who are one of the hardest working, flexible and child centred groups of people I have ever known. The work they have put in this past half-term has been incredible.

Have a great half-term break. Best Wishes, Mr Chapman

Star of the week

Riley

The following Children received Haskayne Values Awards in Assembly today

Lukas, Elijah, Riley

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE WITH JOY'

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Dates for Diary.

- 21st – 25th October Half Term
- 28th October – School Reopens
- 11th November – Remembrance Service – KS2 Children to Church to lay a wreath
- 26th November – First Forest School
- 5th December – School Visit to St Thomas's Church – Details to follow
- 12th December – Christmas Fundraising Event, organised by Friends of Haskayne School, with a visit from Santa - Details to follow
- 14th December – Santa's in the Village
- 20th December – Finish for the Christmas holidays. Back to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025
- 4th February – Height & Weight Reception & Y6

DfE changes to Penalty Notices

The Department for Education have recently announced national charges to penalty notices issues for unauthorised absences in term time, these came into effect on the 19th August 2024.

- Penalty notices issued for the offence after the 19th of August 2024 will be charged at the new rate of £160.00 however if paid in 21-days this reduces to £80.00.
- Any second penalty notice to the same parent for the same child in a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160.00 to be paid within 28-days with no option for a discount.
- Penalty notice threshold is 10-sessions equivalent to 5-days of unauthorised absence in a rolling 10-school week period.
- Maximum of 2-penalty notices may be issued for the same child within a rolling 3-years period, so at the 3rd or subsequent offence another course of action will need to be considered such a prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions.

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

