



HLA News



Friday 1st March 2024

Dear Families,

Here we are in the second half of the spring term – it is a shame the weather hasn't recognised that it is springtime and we need drier weather!

Extension update! Over the half term break the building contractors came to do some ground tests. They are now having to complete some more extensive surveys to ensure that the ground is suitable. The contractors had to dig down 25 meters which is a long way! They helpfully provided us with some samples from each layer which will really assist the learning that students are completing on rocks and fossils in KS3 this half term. Further internal and external surveys are taking place next week but there will be minimal disruption to the students and running of the school.

The external works continued over the half term break. We had some artificial grass installed on the Blue and EYFS playground which the children love. The local Beavers Group in Littleport have also made us some great music and sensory boards for this playground. The children have become so engaged with these – thank you so much to the group.



This week Key Stage 4 have been out and about learning within the community. They visited South Angle Farm with a group of students from other SEN schools. This was a great opportunity for social interaction and it was much enjoyed by all. Next week they will be joining the same group on a residential at Grafham Water. I am looking forward to hearing all about it. Thanks to the staff involved who are giving up their time to organise this and support the trip.

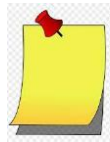
This week students across the school took part in activities to mark International Mother Language Day. The students explored a variety of different languages and cultures through activities in class. Students benefited from shared experiences with other classes and really immersed themselves in the experiences. Look out for pictures being posted on the website soon.

Today at 6.30pm we will be holding our first introductory SOHLA meeting as part of the groups relaunch. Even if you haven't expressed an interest previously you are welcome to come along and join us online. Here is the link https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWQ5NjM0YmYtMTQzYi00M2E4LWJhOGYtMTQ3ZDIhYWQ0N2Nh%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bd5335b2-3f25-41f8-b62b-73085365863d%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22671b02ac-b32a-4e33-bad3-e59906d016ff%22%7d
We look forward to you joining us to raise much needed funds for the school.

With all best wishes,

Yvonne Skillern

Headteacher



Important Information



- Parents evening will be held on Wednesday 13th March between 3.30 and 6.30. Teachers will be sharing appointments with families. There is an option of face-to-face. Teams or a telephone call to make things easier. If your child has recently had an annual review or has one coming up in the next few weeks, you do not need to make a parents evening appointment.
- Please remember to complete and return your parent/carer comments sheets prior to your child's Annual Review meeting. We need to ensure we capture everyone's views.
- Don't forget to contribute £7.50 to class funds for this term via Parent Pay. We try not to charge for each individual activity which would be more expensive to parents. If we do not get sufficient contributions we may have to review this arrangement.
- Please remember we are a NUT FREE school due to severe allergies
- Please ensure you **call the office before 9.15am to report your child absent**. If we do not have a call or message we have to make contact with you.

School Attendance

This week's whole school attendance was 90.3%. This is an increase on last week, keep it up. We aim for individual attendance to be at 92% or above. This is classed as good attendance. We encourage you to continue working with us to improve school attendance and punctuality. Please remember that any applications for absences during school term time will not be authorised.

Online Safety Tip of the Week:

Know where to find help

Understand how to report to service providers and use blocking and deleting tools. If something happens that upsets you online, it's never too late to tell someone.

Emotion of the Week:



This week's emotion is **CURIOS**. Try to talk about how your child might be feeling, what their body feels like when they experience this emotion and what they can do to understand and react to them.

An Update from the Healthy Minds Network...



Upcoming Wellbeing and Mental Health Awareness Dates

26-29th Feb - Empathy Week.

Empathy week is an annual festival for schools that has been taking place since 2020. It was established by educators, qualified teachers and professional filmmakers to develop **empathy** in students using the power of events, story-telling and film based resources.

For more information follow the link below.

www.empathy-week.com

28 - 5th March - Eating Disorder Awareness Week

This year, BEAT, an eating disorder charity, are shining a light on a health condition that they know doesn't always get the attention it deserves: ARFID. ARFID stands for avoidance/restrictive food intake disorder.

For more information please follow the link below

<https://edaw.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/>

1st March - Self-injury Awareness Day (SIAD)

Occurs on the 1st of March every year and is an international event that is recognised across the globe. LifeSIGNS has supported self-injury awareness for over a decade.

Raising awareness about self-injury is incredibly important. Awareness leads to understanding and empathy banishing judgement and fear and reduces the number of people who feel alone and suffer in silence.

For more information please follow the link below.

www.selfhelpservices.org.uk

30th March - World Bipolar Day

World Bipolar Day is celebrated each year on **30th March**. The vision of World Bipolar Day is to encourage understanding about what bipolar is - and isn't - and to banish stigma from the face of the planet. Each year Bipolar UK holds its **annual conference and runs a number of activities** to raise awareness and raise funds to celebrate this day.

For more information and activity ideas please follow the link below.

[World Bipolar Day \(bipolaruk.org\)](http://bipolaruk.org)