



HLA News

Friday 2nd February 2024



Dear Families,

Wow, here we are in February already, it is scary where the time is going.

As a school, we are very proud of our identity and take pride in our school uniform. We also recognise that some of our students have sensory difficulties so do have a degree of flexibility in this. Parents and students need to be aware of any slogans, designs or appearance that may be offensive or inappropriate for younger children. Please try to avoid these, if you are unsure please do make contact with Department Leaders.

Sadly, the handler that was identified for us from Canine Concern has decided that the trip to our school is not manageable to support us. We recognise the benefit that animals have on young people's development so are still on the lookout for therapy dog volunteers. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer to support us with a potentially suitable therapy dog, we can put you in touch with the charity to complete all of the assessments that are necessary.

This week I have seen some great artwork happening around school. Artists from the Babylon Art Gallery who are working in collaboration with Wicken Fen came into school to work with our students. They used a variety of different art techniques and have produced some excellent work. We are looking forward to seeing it all displayed in the gallery. Some student comments from the visit were 'that was awesome!' and 'I loved it!' The sensory learners showed excellent engagement within the sessions and were encouraged to use all of their senses.

As I am sure, some of you know we have 5 key learning values that guide all of our work here at Highfield Littleport – Independence, Resilience, Teamwork, Creativity and Thinking. Along with our work for the mental health project and from what our students, demonstrate at school they said we need a new learning value...and we tend to agree! Our new learning value is Kindness. The students voted for which animal would represent this and they voted a sloth.

At first we thought this was quite an abstract animal but when we looked at pictures I am sure you will agree that it does represent kindness. One of our students will be creating the new artwork for this so watch this space. A great example of student voice in action.



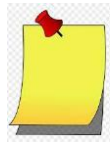
Unfortunately, our school nursing clinic had to be cancelled this week due to illness. We will work to rebook a session again in the near future. I need to remind parents again that if students are not attending school due to illness contact needs to be made promptly with the school. Please ensure you call the office by 9.15am at the very latest to inform us of the reason for absence. It is our safeguarding responsibility to account for all students during term time and if we cannot make contact it is our policy to conduct home visits after 3 days. I hope you understand this is a safeguarding responsibility.

Have a lovely weekend.

With all best wishes,

Yvonne Skillern

Headteacher



Important Information



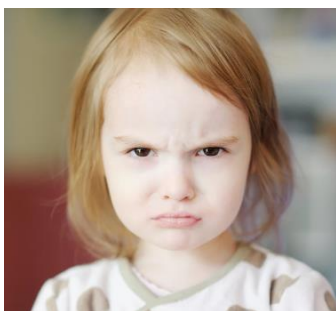
- Please remember to complete and return your parent/carer comments sheets prior to your child's Annual Review meeting. We need to ensure we capture everyone's views.
- Don't forget to contribute £7.50 to class funds for this term via Parent Pay
- Please remember we are a NUT FREE school due to severe 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 which uses valuable time!
- There is a change to the menu next week. We are having pizza on Friday 9th to celebrate National Pizza Day!
- Could you please ensure that if there are any changes to collection arrangements that the transport company are informed as this is the parent/carers responsibility.

School Attendance

This week's whole school attendance was 90.6%. This is a decrease on last week's figure. 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:

Don't be afraid to look at what your children are looking at. This makes you aware of what they could be exposed to and if it is anything unsafe then parents and carers can act.



Emotion of the Week:

This week's emotion is ANNOYED. 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.

Mental Health Tip of the Week:

Spend some time outside and indulge your senses. Our art project has shown that spending time with nature really does have a calming effect.

Spend time in nature and undertake other mindful practices.