



HLA News

Friday 3rd November 2023



Dear Families,

Welcome back to school after half term. I hope you all had a restful holiday and enjoyed the Halloween activities.

This week we had two staff training days to complete some of the mandatory training that is necessary for Special Schools. Our staff have completed some refresher training on Cambridgeshire Therapeutic Thinking (formerly Steps) to continue to apply our therapeutic and nurturing approaches to behaviour. We have seen some huge improvements in student's behaviour since implementing this approach and it was lovely to hear some of the success stories that staff talked about when we refreshed the training.

Staff have also completed some training in online safety and recognising the risks in the online world and what we can do with our students to help minimise these risks. We also recognise the importance that parents can play in managing the digital world. We have some great resources specifically for students with SEND via the NSPCC. Take a look at this link and you can access the resources. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-families-children-with-send/> I will also post this link on to Class Dojo so that parents can access it from there. We are also looking at running a parents workshop so watch this space for more information.

On Wednesday some of our KS4 students went on a tour of Cambridge Regional College as a means of preparation for life after Highfield. The students found it very interesting and they will continue to access sessions there on rotation throughout the year 11 cohort in order to help prepare for this important transition. These visits are useful even if students do not intend on going to this college to help them understand what college life is like. Next week some of our students will also be visiting a careers fair in Ely to gain a wider understanding of options for their next steps.

Next week we will be sprinkling a little bit of Christmas spirit into Highfield Littleport Academy. We have the opportunity for students in Eagles, Sparrows and classes S1 – S5 to watch a pantomime. Jack and his Beanstalk will be making their way to our school to perform for us. The rest of the school will have opportunities for other Christmas events as the half term progresses. We have lots of exciting things planned.

We have had a delivery of poppies that are available for sale to mark Remembrance Day. They will be available at the office or students will be coming around on Monday to classes to sell them.

Also next week brings a very important visitor to our school. The Regional Director for Education for the Eastern area will be visiting us. Jonathan Duff has heard lots of great things about our school and wants to come and see us. We are looking forward to showing him how great we are!

I hope you have a good weekend and enjoy the firework festivities. Stay safe everyone.

With all best wishes,

Yvonne Skillern

Head of School



Important Information



- Could all outstanding data collection sheets please be completed and returned to school asap
- Don't forget to contribute £7.50 per term if you are able towards our extra-curricular activities. This can be done via Parent Pay as we are a cashless school.
- We have the catch up Flu Vaccination Clinic being held at school on Monday 4th December.
- We are on week 1 for the lunch menu this coming week.

School Attendance

This week's whole school attendance was **93.7%**. This is an increase on the week before half terms attendance – lets try hard to continue this. Please see this link for some NHS information which helps you to assess if your child is well enough for school. Please be reassured if your child is poorly when at school we will inform you. See some helpful information here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Online Safety Tip of the Week:

Are they real?

- ◆ Do you know this 'friend' in real life?
- ◆ Are you **REALLY** sure it's their account, not someone pretending to be them?
- ◆ Remember: some people are **VERY** clever at pretending to be someone they're not!



Emotion of the Week:

This week we will be recapping all of the emotions that we have covered last half term. 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:

