



HLA News

Friday 9th February 2024



Dear Families,

1 more week until half term, that doesn't mean the pace of learning slows down at HLA.

We recognise the benefit that animals have on young people's development so have not given up on looking for a therapy dog to come into school. We have had another volunteer express an interest so are working hard behind the scenes to make this happen. Fingers crossed we are able to reinstate this great provision for our learners.

The plans for our extension due to open in September 2025 are gathering pace. We have had initial meetings with the internal and landscape architects this week. We are hoping to have lots of great new classroom spaces all with bathroom facilities, a new sensory room and space for some work related learning. We are hoping within this build to open up a small café that builds upon the learning that our students have been doing with our existing staff lunches. Ultimately, we want to open this to the public, which will be a great experience for our learners and really put our school in the heart of the community. We will update you more when the plans are finalised. The contractors really want to engage with the school and get the students involved, which we are really looking forward to.

We are also hoping to have the works starting on the new kitchen and dining hall extension after Easter. There will be a period where students will be served lunches in their classrooms but we will give warning to the students before this is out in place. With all of the building work, this will cause some disruption on site but we aim to manage this with the builders as effectively as possible.

This week more of our learners engaged in the Babylon Arts project with some visiting artists working with the students. The work looks fantastic and I am looking forward to being able to share it with you. I have had some great comments from the students about the project saying 'it was really good, they showed us lots of proper art stuff'. I want to take this opportunity to thank the curriculum leaders for coordinating such a great project.

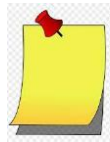
I need to remind parents again that if students are not attending school due to illness contact needs to be made promptly with the school. Please ensure you call the office by 9.15am at the very latest to inform us of the reason for absence. It is our safeguarding responsibility to account for all students during term time and if we cannot make contact it is our policy to conduct home visits on the third day of absence if we haven't had contact or are worried about a child's welfare. I hope you understand this is a safeguarding responsibility.

Have a lovely weekend.

With all best wishes,

Yvonne Skillern

Headteacher



Important Information



- Letters to book a parent/carer consultation have been sent out this week. Please choose your preferred slot and return the slip to your child's class teacher. 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
- 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.
- 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 92.3%. This is an increase of 2% on last week's figure – thank you for working with us to improve 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:

Think before you click!



Avoid Suspicious Online Links

Some websites may steal your personal information by asking you to take a quiz. Be careful!

Emotion of the Week:



This week's emotion is CONFIDENT. 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:

This week it has been Children's Mental Health week. Our students have been thinking about what they can do to promote positive health and wellbeing. Our students completed lots of activities such as outdoor learning, cake decorating and crochet which they really enjoyed!

