



1st May 2019

Dear Parents

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May Dates 2019

6th Bank Holiday
23rd Class photographs and Outdoor Classroom Day

HALF TERM 27th May – 31st May

Reading at home

Many of our parents who completed the Parent Survey last month shared that they read at home at least 4 times a week, which is fantastic. We teach reading in school every day through many curriculum areas and have explicit reading time during the week. We know from research and our own experience that the children who make the most progress are those who practise reading at home, ideally 4 or 5 times a week. This need not take long, starting at 5 - 10 minutes in Reception and building to 15 -20 minutes in Year 2. As well as reading books from school, you can also read books from home and visit the library to help instil that love for reading. Just make sure they are not too challenging, and are similar to the texts from school. Please take the time to sign your name in your child's communication book, ideally alongside the date, whether it be a book from home or school. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Online safety and social media

Just before the holidays we talked again with all the children about keeping safe online; we do this throughout the year and have a few key moments when we have a focus, like the February Safer Internet day. During the recent holidays there was an article on the BBC about '8 Top Tips to keeping safe online'. If you didn't see it yourselves, please find the link below. Using these headings is a good way to have conversations with you children when you think it is the right time.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/help-me-out-staying-safe-online>

Outdoor Classroom Day – 23rd May 2019

Alongside our class photos on 23rd May we will also be taking part in the Outdoor Classroom Day celebration. Outdoor learning is something the children do every day at HVS but not something all children in all schools do. We are very proud of our outdoor learning and have many visitors from other schools come and see us. We believe wholeheartedly that making learning this physical and 'concrete' benefits the children's understanding of concepts and clarifies thoughts when recording their learning inside. It also makes your children healthier, happier and ready to learn. Many of the SWAN schools are also using the outdoor classroom, however some schools I visit have fields and playgrounds that sit empty except for lunchtimes and PE which now looks very strange and empty to me.

Arts Fortnight

We are basing our Arts fortnight around sculpture and World Ocean Day which is on 8th June 2019. We will be using many resources to make our sculptures, from paper and origami to recyclable plastic. Mrs Child arranged for the teaching team to visit Watts Gallery in Compton last term for further training – we are all very excited and more details will follow in a couple of weeks.

Academic dates for 2019 – 2020

Last month we sent home our term dates, which include our INSET dates, for the next academic year, these are also on our website. This will hopefully make booking holidays easier and reduce the number of holidays we have during term time. ☺ The year's 'Dates and Events for 2019/20' we hope to send home in July.

Partnership Working

It's almost that time of year when we begin to gather final evidence to make end of year judgements about your children's achievements during the year. This includes a process of moderation of the learning in school and across schools. Every term we meet with other SWAN schools to make the decisions about some of our children together. We also join the Woking Schools Learning Partnership and Surrey run moderation sessions.

Visiting the classroom

We have an open classroom every Thursday after school. Please feel free to pop in and look at your child's learning during this time. If you are unable to make a Thursday please speak to your class teacher about another day that would suit you both.

Governor Update

This week our governors are holding their Summer half termly meetings, as well as looking at the progress the children have made, the teaching and learning, the finance and our building they will also be looking at the responses from the parent survey we sent home to you in March. Many thanks to those of you who responded; this week I contacted the parents who had left their email addresses.

Funding Update

We raised £220 from the Waitrose charity donation and are waiting to hear from Tesco which finished yesterday. Your fundraising donations have raised £36,480 of commitments this year towards our target of £50,000. Many thanks to those of you who have helped so far.

Warmest wishes

Elaine Cooper