



Hanslope School NEWSLETTER

The Learning Journey

As stated in our recently revised vision, 'learning is at the centre of our vision'. We recognize fully the importance of a broad and balanced curriculum, yet the focus remains on pupils making progress during their time here at Hanslope.

To that end, you should all now be aware of your child's individual target (s). These are recorded in the Home-School Books. Throughout our teaching, we will ensure that children have opportunities to practice their targets and have an expectation that examples of their targets will be evident in

their day-to-day work. We welcome support from yourselves to help your child towards meeting these targets by practising at home. Should you be unsure of what the targets mean, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

You should also have received your child's class Curriculum Newsletter. We have amended the format to reflect the changes we have made to the curriculum. Please can you use this 'learning journal' to ask your child questions about the work they are

doing in school. Towards the end of the topic, each child will be issued with another copy and will be expected to respond to the questions in writing at home. For pupils who are at the early stages of writing, it would be appreciated if parents/carers could scribe the children's responses on their behalf.

Thank you also to parents and children who have signed and returned the Home School Agreement. This also plays an important part in the home-school partnership.

Parent training sessions

Thank you to all parents who attended our "Four rules of Number" and "Phonics" training sessions held this week and last. Whilst the turn-out for the phonics session was a little disappointed, we were pleased that a greater number of parents attended the Maths session.

Feedback from both was very positive. We will be repeating the Maths training session in the Spring Term with a focus on Multiplication and Division and a further phonics session with an emphasis on attendance for parents/carers of pupils in the Foundation Stage.

Should there be any

other areas of the curriculum from which you feel you would benefit from training, please let myself or Miss Britnell know and we will see if we can accommodate your wishes. In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Czornyj and Mrs Carson for leading the sessions so far this term.

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Special points of interest:

- **Come and see the scarecrow that KS1 pupils have made during their Creative afternoons. It stands seemingly happily in the KS1 playground.**
- **DON'T FORGET THE PANTO HORSE TRIALS AT THE EVENTING CENTRE THIS SUNDAY, 4TH OCTOBER**

The Mayor's visit

Last week, Ewan Henderson, Mayor of Milton Keynes, visited the school and led an assembly. He discussed his role and was accompanied by one of his colleagues who talked to the children about the Hope Outreach charity - a charity which supports a school in Sri Lanka.

In our efforts to develop community cohesion on a more global level, we plan to find out a little more about the charity with a view to supporting in some way, shape or form.

Sport

The Cross country group's training is well underway now and it won't be long before Miss Britnell selects the team. Many thanks to some of the boys in Year 6 who kindly 'volunteered' to take part to make up the numbers for our senior team. See below for key diary dates for the forthcoming cross country events.

The boys football team continues to train at lunchtime with Miss Birkin from Sports Support. Once again, we will advise you of dates for matches as soon as we are made aware.

The House System

Congratulations to Eleanor King, Year 6, on her fantastic designs and ideas for the names of our new 'Houses'. Eleanor is currently in the process of refining her designs and once complete, they will be enlarged and displayed in the hall. Every pupil in the school will soon be allocated a 'House'; Fox, Squirrel, Owl or Deer. As and when pupils are awarded with house points, they will be recorded in the Home School Book. We look forward to the inevitable inter-house competition.

General Administration and Housekeeping

ATTENDANCE

Recent scrutiny of attendance data with the school's Education Welfare Officer shows that the whole school attendance rate for the academic year 2008-9 was 94%. We shall continue to monitor individual pupil attendance throughout the school year and equally celebrate excellent attendance.

At the end of last year, we were pleased that an increasing number of pupils had 100% attendance rates.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

Whilst at present the weather is being very good to us, the winter months are just around the corner.

You can now find out if we have to close our school in an emergency by signing up for free text and email alerts on the Milton Keynes Council website. Simply log on to www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schoolclosures and enter your email address and mobile phone number to receive the alerts if we have to close.

While we make every effort to keep the school open, there may be occasions when it is not safe for pupils and staff to be at school, for example in extreme weather conditions. (as was the case last February). When the decision is made to close, we will use the web based system to send the text and email alerts to you. The system will also continue to send information about the closures to local radio stations, Heart 103.3 and BBC Three Counties Radio, who will read out the information on air and display on their websites. To sign up for the system, log on to www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schoolclosures

Dates for your diary

Thursday 8th Oct: Fund-raising committee event - 'Kids On the Catwalk'. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the night.

Wednesday 21st Oct: Harvest Festival at St James' Church. 1.30pm

Thursday 22nd Oct: School closes for half term

Friday 23rd Oct: INSET DAY

Monday 2nd Nov: School resumes

Weds 4th Nov: Consultation Evening 3.30—6.00

Thursday 5th Nov: Consultation Evening 5.30 - 8.00pm

Monday 7th Dec: KS1 Christmas performance 1.30pm

Tuesday 8th Dec: KS1 Christmas concert 10.00a.m.

Tuesday 15th Dec: KS2 Christmas concert in church. Time ?

Tuesday 15th Dec: School Disco

Friday 18th Dec: School closes for Christmas holidays

Monday 4th Jan 2010: INSET DAY

Tuesday 5th Jan: School resumes

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE CHANGE TO THE INSET DAY IN APRIL 2010 — NOW 19TH APRIL.

This was due to a clash with the planned Wales residential trip.