



# Haseltine News

Friday 28th September 2018

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Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

Seriously, where does the time go? I cannot believe that we have just completed week 4 and there are only 3 weeks to go until half term, that seems ridiculous. The saying goes that, 'time flies when you're having fun' and my guess is that it must be true! I have been having a lot of fun over the last few weeks: getting to know all the new children; meeting children in their new classes; catching up with all of you and getting to know the new parents (and teachers) too.

I can see that your children are having fun too: they are enjoying their learning; they are really settled in their new classes and playtimes are great too.

Everyone is also really enjoying our new computer suite. For those of you who don't know, we transformed one of our classrooms into a computer suite over the summer holidays. We did this because, although we really believe in computing being a part of the whole curriculum and being a part of our everyday learning practice, our laptops have never really done what we wanted them to do. They were always incredibly slow and, therefore, were incredibly frustrating for children and teachers alike. The children now have access to PCs which are much more efficient – resulting in children being able to engage in a much more purposeful computing curriculum and also resulting in much happier members of staff and children!

All the after school clubs have now started and it's great to have so many running. Thank you so much to Emma Bird for arranging all of them and thank you so much to all of you for your patience and your understanding.

I hope that you are all happy, please come and chat with me if ever you are not and I will do my best to change that.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Anderman".

Sara Anderman



## Reading

For the last few years, Haseltine has struggled with our reading results in the KS2 SATs. This year, we fell just below the national average. This means that for one reason or another, our children are struggling with reading more than other children across the country.

As a school, we are working hard to change this. For example, we have changed the way that we teach reading to a whole class approach; we have introduced an online reading scheme called 'Lexia' for KS2 children; we have introduced weekly reading comprehension exercises and we have set up reading booster groups at lunchtimes & after school for targeted children. We have also had a big push on the teaching of new vocabulary for all our children across the school.

We also REALLY need your help with this. Our children need to be reading every day (or as close to it as they can). Our younger children (EYFS & KS1) need to be doing this for 10-15 minutes a day and the older ones (KS2) 20-30 minutes. The younger children can either read to you, with you or you can read to them, and the older children can either read by themselves or read to you. What is really, really important is that there is talking about books and there is talking about vocabulary. I will be sending all parents a list of possible questions you could ask children when reading with them – please look out for these in book bags soon.

What is also really important is that children are enjoying books and enjoying reading. Don't forget that we have the library here at Haseltine – please feel free to use it before and after school as often as you like.

I know that time is always a major factor so if you don't get time to actually read one day, then a conversation about a book is better than nothing at all. Children of all ages also love being read to – in fact research has shown that the more a child is read to, the more they will enjoy books and the more they will be able to read.

I apologise if I have offended any of you – I don't wish to appear that I am accusing you of not doing any of the above; I just know that the more a child reads and the more a child talks about reading, the better at reading that child gets.

If you ever have any questions or thoughts about how we can improve reading further for our children, then please come and have a chat with me.

Sara Anderman

### **Nut Free Zone**

**Please do not forget that Haseltine is a 'nut free zone' – we have at least one child with a very serious allergy. No person coming into school should bring in nuts or products containing nuts and we will ALWAYS confiscate them.**

**Many thanks for helping to keep our children safe.**

### **Careers Fair – Please Help.**

We are having our annual Careers Fair on Friday 16th November in the morning. This event has been hugely successful over the last couple of years and I would love to hold it over two halls again this year!

If you, or someone you know, has a job that you think our children need to know about, then please come and have a chat with me. If you aren't sure, please come and chat with me anyway so I can persuade you!

We need representatives from a huge range of jobs; from plasterers and surgeons to plumbers and astronauts.

Please don't be nervous about doing this – everyone who has done it previously has absolutely loved doing it. Our children absolutely love hearing about all the different careers available to them and this event really does help to open up their choices.

### **Jewellery at Haseltine**

In the interests of Health & Safety (plus we don't want children to lose valuable items) it is very important that children do not wear jewellery at to school.

It is especially important that children do not wear hooped earrings – a small stud is preferable. It is important that you know that the school will not be responsible for any items lost or any injuries caused by children wearing jewellery.

### **Names in clothes**

It is absolutely essential that you write your child's name in jumpers and coats. At this time of year especially, we are finding so many clothes without names which are impossible to return to their rightful owners.

### **Eat a School Dinner with your Teacher Day**

Children - please come and have a school dinner with your teacher in The Haseltine Restaurant on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October.**

The teachers are really looking forward to eating a yummy, hot meal with as many of you as possible.

If you normally have a packed lunch, please swap it for a school dinner on that day to eat with your teacher. You will need to book this with the office please by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October. If you are in years 3-6, this will cost £2.20 unless you are entitled to 'Free School Meals' in which case you wouldn't need to pay. For children in Reception to year 2 it is free, but you will still need to book (but only if you normally have packed lunch)

### **Attendance**

Our attendance since we returned to school is currently 97.67%, this is fantastic and we really hope to maintain this as the year progresses but we can only do this with your support.

Please ensure that your children are in school on time (8:55am) every day, unless they are too unwell to attend.

Attendance Officer

### **The Hub**

#### **Baby Massage Workshops**



Baby Massage sessions will now start on Tuesday 2nd October at 9:15am and will run every Tuesday for 6 weeks.

This is for babies aged 6 weeks to pre-crawling stage.

Please see Miss Bird if you are interested in attending these sessions.

### **October is Black History Month!**

We would like to invite parents to come and share with Haseltine children any stories or experiences relating to Black History. If you are interested in this then please speak to your child's class teacher or Ms Peak (RP)

If you and your child enjoy reading any books at home around the theme of Black History, or from your Culture, then please send them into school in book bags as we would love to share them with other children in class or assembly.