

Friday
8th
September
2023



HURST HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Newsletter

Welcome to the new school year. I hope that you have had a happy and safe holiday. I am pleased to write that pupils have had a very positive start to the term. They are clearly happy to see their friends and they are enjoying their new classes. Thank you to everyone for ensuring pupils are wearing appropriate school uniform and that pupils are back in the routine of school starting at 8.45am and finishing at the new time of 3.30pm.



A very warm welcome to all our new pupils and their families, we hope that they all settle quickly into school life and enjoy their time at Hurst Hill.

We shall soon be announcing the new Junior Leadership Team and establishing new class monitor duties for pupils who enjoy taking on responsibilities. We have already begun to elect Eco Ambassadors, who will be helping to lead our new forest school and promote sustainability.

Our Rocksteady music lessons have recommenced this week. Music lessons are on a Friday morning in groups, last 30 minutes and instruments are provided. If your child is interested then please contact the school office for further information.

I would like to take this opportunity to say huge thank you to Wates; they have been developing our forest school and we are extremely grateful for their support and commitment. Because of their kindness and hard work, our pupils will be able to experience more outdoor learning and develop a greater awareness of sustainability. This will include growing our own vegetables, looking after chickens and eventually bees so that we can produce Hurst Hill honey. If you would like to be involved and support Hurst Hill with our vision, then please contact the info box and register your interest.



Just a few gentle reminders to start the term:

Health & Safety

The health and safety of the children at Hurst Hill is of the highest importance and therefore I would like to remind you that you are not allowed to smoke in or on the school premises, or use mobile phones, this includes the school's playgrounds. With the exception of guide dogs, dogs are not permitted on the school grounds.

For the safety of the children please do not park on the yellow zigzag lines outside school and please be extra cautious when driving in the area around school. Parking on the school grounds is only available for families who require additional support due to disabilities, and by prior arrangement with myself, so Mr Rhodes will be declining entry to those who do not.

Holidays

I would like to remind parents that the law gives **no entitlement to parents to take their children on holiday during term time**. Hales Valley Academy Trust does not authorise absences for holidays or related activities, unless there are 'exceptional' circumstances. I would not be expected to class any term time holiday as 'exceptional'. This being the case, any requests for term time holidays will be declined and any subsequent absences will be recorded as unauthorised. Please do not take holidays in term time to avoid any misunderstanding.

Forms

Please complete the annual general consent form and the image consent form that have been sent on ParentMail, so that we have all the key information for your child.

Thank you for your continued support as always, I wish everyone a happy and successful new school year.

Mrs Johnson
Head of School

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Parents of year 6 children can apply now for their child's secondary school place. Applications should be made by 31st October. Dudley residents can find out more at <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/learning-and-school/school-information/school-admissions/secondary-year-7-intake/> and Wolverhampton residents at <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/education-and-schools/school-admissions/school-admissions-applications>

We have a limited number of food vouchers for those families that do not qualify for free school meals but who may need additional support. Please ask at the school office.

DIARY DATES

Monday 18th September-
Deadline for Y6 residential deposits

Tuesday 3rd October- Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 19th October- School Photographs



This year flu vaccinations will be given on Tuesday 3rd October.

Vaccinations are for Reception to Year 6 children only. We have sent further details via ParentMail.

The link for the consent form is

[Vaccination UK Immunisation \(schoolvaccination.uk\)](https://www.schoolvaccination.uk)

Please complete the form even if you do not wish for your child to have the vaccine. The form will close on 25th September, so please complete before this date.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at school is mandatory. Whole school attendance should be at least 96%.

The Department of Education has made it clear that schools must be stricter when dealing with families whose children are persistently absent or late for school. A child's absence from school can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, for example, if they are too poorly to attend or if they have a medical appointment that cannot be made outside school hours. If your child is persistently absent or regularly late for school, whatever the circumstances, a referral may be made to Dudley Education Investigation Service, and this could result in a fine.

If you are having difficulty getting your child to school, or to school on time, please contact the school office so we can offer some support. Please note that school will not authorise holidays during the school term and that our policy is to refer such absences of 5 school days or more to Dudley Education Investigation Service who may issue a fine. If your child is too ill to come to school then you should **contact the school office before 9.30am**, either by telephoning 01384 818845 (option 1) or using the absence reporting feature on ParentMail. Do not use our social media pages to report absences. Please remember that school can administer medication in certain circumstances.

