

Principal's Newsletter – Friday 7th October 2022

Good afternoon,

Black History Month

This month, we are celebrating Black History Month where children will be hearing stories of significant figures who have made positive contributions to society around the world.

On Wednesday 12th October we will be meeting Albert Bernard who has lived in Milton Keynes since he was 7 years old. He will be telling us his inspirational story of becoming a police officer in 1984. You can hear his story and other inspirational stories of some of the first black professionals to arrive in Milton Keynes on the following website www.bhmmk.co.uk



We will also celebrate diversity through teaching the values of respect and equality as well as teaching children about how they can help to stop racism by being compassionate, global citizens. On Thursday 20th October we invite the children to wear red as part of the '[Show Racism the Red Card](#)' campaign.

Cost of Living Crisis



With energy prices going up again this week, many of you will be concerned about household finances. Headteachers across Milton Keynes have discussed this with the council and have asked about the support that our families can access. As soon as more information is shared with us, I will let you know the resources available to you.

In the meantime, please download the '[Cost of Living](#)' factsheet to find current support that is available both nationally and locally or by visiting the [MK Council Website](#). Please remember our doors are open should you need any advice or someone to talk to.

Families in Partnership

Thank you to those families who attended the Families in Partnership meeting last week. The meeting gave parents the opportunity to find out the key priorities of the Preston Hedges Trust and Holne Chase School as well as allowing parents to ask questions and share ideas for plans moving forward. The next meeting is Monday 21st November @ 6:30pm; we would love to see as many families attend as possible to represent our school. For more information about Families in Partnership, please click [here](#).

Attendance

Below are the attendance figures for each class from 26th September to 7th October. We should have an attendance figure of 95%; currently our whole school attendance for the year is 96%; national attendance is at 94.6%.

RMT	1SSB	2EC	3LM	4CB	5AW	5/6EH	6FH
98%	96%	97%	98%	95%	95%	92%	97%

Parents Evening

Parents Evening will be taking place on Tuesday 1st November (3:30pm – 7:30pm) and Wednesday 2nd November (3:30pm – 5:30pm). This will be an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into their new class, how they have been progressing since September and how you can support your child's progress moving forward. You can now book your 10-minute appointment via Arbor by downloading the App and logging on to your individual account. Please contact the office if you need any support.



Communication

Communication to parents is a key responsibility for us to ensure that parents are fully up to date with key information and events. From next week, communication from the school will be attached to an email every Friday with a newsletter from myself arriving every fortnight; these will be sent directly to your email inbox. Any short messages that need to be sent during the week (e.g. changes to PE days, special day reminders, school trip return times etc.) will be sent via Arbor In-App messages.



Please ensure that all your contact details are up to date on Arbor and that you have downloaded and logged into the Arbor app. Both Google Classroom and Seesaw are in the process of being archived so no further information will be sent via those online platforms. I am in the process of updating class email addresses for you to contact class teachers directly but in the meantime, please email the school office who will forward your email to the relevant member of staff. Please note our email address for the office is office@holnechase.org

Break Time Snack:



A reminder that children can bring in a healthy snack to eat during their break. As well as a piece of fruit or vegetable, we are now extending the options for a snack to healthy grains (e.g. crackers, healthy rice cakes, pita bread, flat bread, healthy cereal bar). Children should not be having crisps, sweets or chocolate as their break time snack and due to allergies in school, we are a nut-free school.

Parking

When parking outside school, do not park on double yellow lines (unless you are a blue badge holder) or block driveways as this poses a risk for children who are crossing the road. As you represent our school community, can I ask you are polite if asked to move your car by a member of our local community when blocking their driveway.

Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Books Over Breakfast	Friday 14 th October	8am – 8:40am <i>Arrive at school for pastries, drinks and story books</i>
Wear Red Day <i>Show Racism the Red Card</i>	Thursday 20 th October	All day
Year 5 and 6 Bletchley Park Trip	Friday 21 st October	9am – 2pm
Year 1 Victorian Day		8:40am – 3:00pm
Last Day of Term		3pm / 3:10pm
HALF TERM – Monday 24 th October to Friday 28 th October		
First Day of Term <i>(Halloween Fancy Dress)</i>	Monday 31 st October	8:40am <i>Halloween Tombola @ 3pm</i>
Parents Evening	Tuesday 1 st November Wednesday 2 nd November	3:30pm – 7:30pm 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Families in Partnership Meeting	Monday 21 st November	6:30pm
Individual / Sibling Photos	Wednesday 23 rd November	<i>Further details to follow</i>

Christmas Themed Dates - *Further details to follow*

Date	Event
Tuesday 13 th December	School Christmas Lunch, Early Years and KS1 Christmas Performances
Wednesday 14 th December	KS1 and KS2 Christmas Performances, Friends of Holne Chase Christmas Fayre
Friday 16 th December	Last Day of Term

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