



With God's love we can fly

HUXLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

WELCOME BACK NEWSLETTER 2024-2025



DEAR PARENTS/CARERS...

Welcome Back

Can't quite believe where those 5 and a half weeks have gone. I hope you have all enjoyed precious time with friends and family.

So it is time for my welcome back newsletter...

This year we are welcoming not only Reception pupils and their families to our Huxley Family but quite a lot of new starters in other year groups too. We are very nearly a full school, with only a couple of spaces left. Welcome all!

As we do each year, I will list some housekeeping/routines for those of you who are new but this also serves as a gentle reminder to our current parents too. I also have some exciting new developments in school to tell you about.

We have been very busy in school over the summer holidays. Andy (site maintenance) has done that many extra hours that we may not see him on site until about Christmas now! We have been very lucky to have gained some new furniture and also some wonderful items for a future outdoor project that I am hoping to get completed over the next few months. We have also had the two classrooms painted- which look great. This was the last part of the three year paint/refurb/redecoration plan that we embarked on when I started and so this now means that the whole school carpets and walls have all been refurbished throughout. The new teachers have worked hard in their classrooms making them all ready and warm and welcoming for the children. They are very excited and eager to get started.

We also have another very exciting development in that we are now in the position of being able to utilise our wonderful kitchen fully by having a school cook on site. We are still seeking a permanent cook (kitchen manager) but luckily the company we are now working with- RPJ3 have helped arrange temporary cover so that we can get started in September. We are very happy to be working with RPJ3 moving forwards and we are sure that you and your child will start to see the benefits too. You will receive further correspondence with regards to menu and prices at the start of next week.

We welcome our two new teachers and new HLTA to the school next week. We also have a temporary supply TA to cover Miss Leigh whilst she gets married and embarks on her honeymoon! This TA will initially be supporting our year 3's as they transition into Oaks. Miss Jen and Miss Warhurst will both be in Acorns supporting our new Reception starters as well as having HLTA support in the mornings. We hope this will help settle all of our children back into Huxley life. We totally understand how hard some of our children find transition and will work with you all to ease any initial nerves or concerns.

Reception children- as discussed on your visits- you can have a staggered start if you wish or you can just let your child start full time (or flexi) straight away. Please talk to Miss Seddon at the door about what is best and we will work with you on this. Many of your children settled so well on the transition sessions so hopefully we will all be good to go! We can't wait to welcome them (and you!) to the Huxley Family!

DIARY DATES

- Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September- Closed to pupils - INSET DAYS
- Wednesday 4th September School Opens
- Friday 25th October School Closes
- 28th October – 1st November 2024 Autumn Half Term
- Monday 4th November School Opens for Autumn 2
- Thursday 19th December School Closes
- Friday 20th December- INSET DAY
- 23rd December 2023 – 1st January 2024 Christmas Holiday

Full Diary Dates Calendar will be sent out next week

**CLUBS START ON 10TH SEPTEMBER-
FURTHER INFO TO FOLLOW IN NEXT WEEKS
NEWSLETTER**



**MRS
RACHEL
GOURLEY**

HEADTEACHER



Attendance- we will be holding another attendance workshop this term, as we did last year. This one will discuss the new DFE publication on attendance released in August 2024. Our attendance was showing a huge year on year improvement however we had a huge dip in the summer term last year. Please note that holidays taken in term time will be marked as unauthorised. Due to many of you attending on a flexi basis please work with us to arrange holidays when you are not in school -using the flexi days and school holidays for trips and breaks away. The majority of families have been great at this so thank you. Please be mindful that you risk your flexi place should the attendance drop below- this is reviewed termly and so far we have had no children that have had to have their flexi place taken away so let's keep this up! Like I said, most people have had really good attendance this past year so well done!

Lates. We have a few children where it is written into their SEND plan to attend either slightly earlier or slightly later due to sensory needs. For most children, even those with SEND, it actually helps to come in with the others, creating a sense of routine and structure and a natural 'separation' from parents along with their peers. Many find it disrupting and more difficult to come into school when they are late and they also miss vital learning (often phonics groups) -this is hard for them to walk into. Where it has been agreed with myself and the senco, this is not a problem as we believe it is in the best interest of the child and will help them to ease into the school day however if it isn't then please try to get your child in school on time and enter the side doors with all the rest of the class and the teacher. We are obviously very mindful of those of you travelling a far distance and issues with traffic etc- we are referring more to those people who were starting to be late every day without a reason. Miss Lloyd will be letting parents know via text if they are persistently late and we will work with you to improve this. I am sure that it was just end of term issues- tiredness, traffic issues etc and I am more than hopeful that we can pick this up again this term.

Parent helpers. After a busy summer we still have a few areas that need some sorting - namely the hall cupboard, art cupboard and the central book area. We also have been gifted some books that need banding. Many of the children's sketchpads need more pages adding too (recycled paper pages threaded in). If anyone is free to help in school we would really appreciate your support this term. Please can you contact Miss Lloyd if you are available.

Extra days-flexi only. Please complete the extra days online form for those of you who would like your child to attend more than 3 days. This will be completed on a term by term basis. Please use this link for Autumn 1 - <https://forms.gle/4iWA3STqhxffQw4X6> Remember to give 5 days notice (with exception to the first week- see form for details)

New starters- you will be given all the log in links to things like School Money as soon as you are officially enrolled. We are unable to do this prior to enrolling but this does not mean that you are unable to access uniform, dinners etc. It will just be added to your account once activated. Miss Lloyd will send all the information out to you.

You will also be sent log in's for several school apps and communication platforms during those first few weeks.

Uniform- please be mindful that if you have a child who, for sensory reasons, has slightly different uniform requirements, please try and keep to the school colours as much as possible. For all other children, it is black joggers, shorts or skirts, white polo and blue jumper. Summer dresses can also be worn. We encourage black trainers for comfort and wellies or spare trainers/boots are a definite especially coming into the winter months! We have an abundance of great quality pre-loved uniform in school so please do access this- many of our families do- we just ask for a small donation to school. Please see Miss Lloyd if you would like to have a look at what we have. For existing families, if you have had a sort out over summer and have any uniform you'd like to donate, please do!

Finally-Please be mindful that this first week is incredibly busy for Miss Lloyd and myself at the front desk. If your query can be via email please do so, otherwise we thank you for your patience if you need to wait a short while. The first week in any school is always very busy in terms of admin, so we appreciate your understanding with this. Please can we also ask that people avoid sitting or congregating in the entrance area. Often Miss Lloyd needs to make confidential calls or attend online meetings which are often being disturbed. For our new parents- there is a communications flow chart on our website that helps guide you to the right person so your queries can be answered as quickly and efficiently as possible. Again we appreciate your understanding on this matter.

We look forward to welcoming you all back and can't wait to meet our new starters too. Here's to a wonderful 2024/2025!

