



Reminders

After our first two weeks of being open it has been lovely to see all the new Year R and Year 4 pupils playing together and being part of the school as if they had been here for months. Even with the continuing roofing works, the school already feels like it's in full swing and business as normal, albeit a little larger. I wanted to make parents, familiar or new, aware of some of the things that make Home Farm a little more special. These events are regular and are designed to allow parents to be kept a little more in the loop than at other schools.

Firstly, on a regular basis, we run 'open classrooms'. Our first Open Classroom event is after school on the 11th October for 30 minutes (it will end at 3.45pm). This is an opportunity for parents to come in to look at their child's work and to talk about it with them. Although you may see class teachers around, this is not a parent's evening – it is a chance for you and your child to discuss, engage with and be proud of their work. It also allows you to understand better the context behind the end of term reports that we produce. This term's first open classrooms will also be a chance for parents to see inside the new building too. Please note that several classrooms in the old building will be off limits due to the roofing works.

Another event which runs regularly is our Parent Forum. Anyone who is a parent can attend and these are held in our school library. This is a chance for parents to hear about some of the school's actions, vision and plans going forward. It is also a chance to raise questions or inquire about certain aspects of school life. Minutes are then produced for those who cannot make it due to work so that all can read what has been discussed. The first Parent Forum is 2.15pm on the 5th October.

A final notice is about attendance. One of OFSTED's (and the DfE's) judgements is based on attendance. They assume that a drop in attendance is a drop in school interest and therefore will trigger questions about school effectiveness. As we all know – sometimes there are family emergencies, a wedding or a special trip. These are all things I as Headteacher take into account. However, it is a known fact that 10 days of absence delays learning in school and can take up to 6 weeks to return to pre-absence levels of learning. As Headteacher I am responsible for the learning and the welfare of the pupils in school and I will ask parents for reason behind some absence requests. Please be aware that, unless there is an extreme circumstance (price is not a factor) 'holiday' will not be authorised. I only write this as information so that parents are not surprised by requests from myself as to absence reasons.

Many thanks for your understanding.

Richard Potter
Headteacher

Diary dates

Monday 24th September	Meeting for Year 1 parents, 3:15pm
Friday 28th September	HFSA AGM and tea party, from 2:45pm
Monday 1st October	Year 6 depart for Kingswood residential
Friday 5th October	Parent Forum meeting, 2:15pm
Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th October	Bloom and Rosen Class Parents Evening, 15:30 to 18:00 (further details to follow)
Tuesday 9th October	School photos taken
Thursday 11th October	Open Classrooms from 3:15pm
Monday 22nd October to Friday 26th October	Half-term
Monday 29th October	Non-pupil day – school closed to pupils.

Access to the school building after school

As we have lots of clubs, activities and private hires running in the school building after the end of the school day, it is important for all of the children involved that we are able to manage that safely.

Please note that for this reason we can't accommodate parents in the school buildings after the school day unless you have a pre-booked appointment. This includes parents who are waiting to pick their child up from a club or music lesson.

We will in future need to ask all parents to wait outside the building, so please don't arrive too early if the weather is bad! Thank you for your support and understanding.



This week's celebration assembly



- House Cup—Chaucer
- Attendance Bear—Carroll (Year 3)
- Eco Award—Zephaniah
- Citizenship Award—Fai Morgan



HOME FARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Welcome back to school and a very big welcome to all the new Home Farm families joining us. We hope you all had a lovely summer break!

Letters have come home today for our 'Back to school' Tea Party and AGM on Friday 28th September 2.45pm-4pm, and invite you to join us for some cakes and refreshments while the children enjoy a variety of arts and craft activities!

Our tea parties are always very popular, so we will be serving drinks and cakes from 2.45pm onwards. Come and enjoy a quiet 'cuppa' with friends and pre-schoolers before the mad rush begins!

We would be grateful for donations of cakes and biscuits, either home-made or shop bought. Please send these in with your children on the morning of the event.

We look forward to seeing you there!

This year we are looking for new members to join the committee to help continue the incredible fundraising as well as provide fantastic events for the children and their families to enjoy. If you would like any information about becoming a committee member please contact us via email sarahhaytonhfsa@hotmail.com

COME AND JOIN US FOR THE AGM

Our AGM will be held at the start of the Tea Party

at 2.45pm in the school hall on

Friday 28th September 2018

We would really like it if you would come and join us!!

The AGM will take a maximum of 20 minutes

Please note that we now have two facebook pages. One just for public events e.g. Fireworks/Summer Fayre and now a new private page, [HFSA Events](#), for our school only events, and only for parents/carers. If you would like to be a friend of [HFSA Events](#), please send a friend request or send us an email or text.



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