



Believe. Inspire. Grow.

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Welcome Back

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and New Year. After a week back in school, it already feels like a lifetime ago as I was dragged kicking and screaming from my bed to watch excited children open presents! However it has been an exciting week. With the opening of our second Year 1 class – Donaldson – we welcome 10 new families to Home Farm with a few more on the way. I have been very impressed with the behaviour and attitude of our pupils as they have returned to school, and all the teachers have been proud of the children as they have settled to both work hard and make new friends as well. As you know, I try to make myself available for discussion and this Friday sees the first Parent Forum of the year: please feel free to come along and take part, ask questions or make good use of the free tea and coffee. As ever, you can often find me on the gate (either one) or in the playground at the end of the day.

Homework

Please always check the class page of the website, as we will post homework there as well as giving paper copies (Christmas has caused a little break!) As ever, you'll see one sheet per week, unless it's the project week. Reading should be every night. Mrs Smith and I check the reading records regularly.

School Council

As ever, we are extremely proud of our School Council and of the pride and energy that the representatives put into their roles. Each class has two representatives who are voted in by their peers, as well as the Head Boy and Head Girl who are voted by the whole school. The council have been talking about how to make our school even better and are looking at suggestions to improve our playground now that the building work has finished. Remember, just like the parent forum, I'm always open to new ideas, so if your child (or YOU if you are reading this and a pupil!) wants to share an idea, then tell your councillor!

Expectations for Pupil Presentation

With the start of a new year and with new families in school, I think it best to underline the Home Farm expectation of pupil presentation and uniform in order to avoid surprise phone calls from myself. The uniform is expected everyday – this includes ties for Year R-6 – and I insist on high standards to maintain a high bar of self-expectation as well as ensuring that the community continues to feed back that our pupils look the best in Colchester! A plea from myself and the teachers, the following 'little extras' are not permitted for school: glitter, make up, false nails, boots, nail varnish, hoops (or dangly) earrings or false hair pieces / large bows / fascinators. Although not an exhaustive list, the general gist should be that school is not a fashion parade and we ask that parents support us with maintaining the very high standards that have always been part of the Home Farm ethos.

Cycling and scooting to school

I have space for 50 bikes and scooters in my cycle shelter but I only see 2 or 3 on average each day. In an effort to raise fitness levels and promote healthier lifestyles, it would be fabulous if we could get more children walking or riding (scooting) to school. This would also have the added benefit of reducing traffic on the roads as children get used to travelling to school by other means than by car. Each term we do an 'eco race' with other schools to map how our pupils come to school, with points being given for walking, biking or scooting. Each year, we have approximately 50% of our children being driven to school when often they only live a few roads away. Let's try to make a difference this year and change our school run habits.

Richard Potter
Headteacher

Non-pupil days for 2019-20

You can see term dates for this school year and for the year beginning September 2019 [on our website](#). The Governing Body has now agreed the five non-pupil days for the year beginning September 2019, which are Tuesday 3rd September 2019; Wednesday 4th September 2019; Monday 4th November 2019; Monday 20th April 2020; Monday 1st June 2020.



HOME FARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Slumber Movie Evening - Friday 25th January

5.00 – 7.15pm

Letters will be coming home next week for our Slumber Movie Evening showing of Hotel Transylvania 3!



Without the help of volunteers, the HFSA could not continue to be the success it is so if you can offer some of your time for any of the forthcoming events please fill in the helpers slip at the bottom of the event letters, it would be really appreciated.

Next Committee Meeting – Monday 14th January 2018 7.30pm

All parents are welcome to join us for our next committee meeting held at the school. Come along and find out how you can be involved with your HFSA.

We would be grateful of any leftover wrapping paper and labels and also unwanted gifts for our raffles. Please leave at the office or pass to a committee member at the school gate.

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.



Sarah Hayton, Chair – sarahhaytonhfsa@hotmail.com or 07891 148230
Michelle King, Vice Chair – michellekinghfsa@gmail.com or 07751 255952

School Trends uniform suppliers

We received reports from parents over Christmas that School Trends, the company which supplies uniform items with the Home Farm logo, had gone into administration. We are told by the company that it is now under new ownership and that all current and new orders will be honoured. You can find further information on the company's website – www.schooltrends.co.uk