

Hatfield Heath Primary School Weekly Bulletin

11th January 2019

Message from Mrs Gelston

Happy New Year to everyone!

It has certainly been a rather busy week to begin 2019 with an Ofsted inspector phoning at lunchtime on Monday and then coming into school on Tuesday and Wednesday to look at all the work that is being completed here with your children.

The inspection finished yesterday evening and we now wait for the report to be written and quality assured by Ofsted before it can be shared with parents. As soon as the school has the report we will share the findings with you.

Many thanks must go to all the children and staff in the school for showing how proud they are of Hatfield Heath and to the many parents who shared their views both verbally and online, your support for the school is very much appreciated.

Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
Tuesday 15 th January	National closing date for September 2019 school applications for Reception
Wednesday 23 rd January	National Handwriting Day
Monday 28 th January – Friday 1 st February	'What's Great about Great Britain?' Week (more information about this week will come in the new year)
Saturday 9 th February	PFA Valentine's Ball
Monday 18 th February – Friday 22 nd February	Half Term Holiday
Tuesday 26 th February	Parent's evening
Thursday 28 th February	Parent's evening
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Friday 15 th March	Comic Relief Red Nose Day
Friday 29 th March	PFA Mother's Day Secret Presents
Tuesday 2 nd April	Easter Service at Holy Trinity Church
Friday 5 th April	Last Day of Term

Learning Support Assistant Vacancies

The school currently has two Learning Support Assistant vacancies advertised. If you are interested, please either contact the school office or visit the Essex School Jobs website on www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk.

PFA Mother's Day Secret Presents



The PFA have sent out a message about their annual Mother's Day Secret Presents event. Please send into school any unwanted, unused gifts ready for children to buy for Mother's Day.

More information about this event will come out soon.

New Staff in School

This week we have welcomed a number of new staff to school. Miss Pate, Ms Farmer and Miss Wilkins have all started this week as Midday Assistants and Mrs Dordoy has started as a cover teacher, mainly based in our Reception Class for one day a week.

National Handwriting Day – Wednesday 23rd January 2019

What is National Handwriting Day?

National Handwriting Day dates back to 1977 to encourage people to write to each other. Now it is more focused on encouraging us to actually put pen to paper rather than just typing.



What are the benefits of Handwriting?

- Handwriting exercises a complex process involving neuro-sensory experiences and fine motor skills. By feeling the writing surface, holding a writing instrument and directing precise movement, you give your brain a full work out.
- Research shows that children who practise their handwriting have higher levels of literacy and cognitive development. This is likely because as children learn how to quickly translate mental images of letters into a physical form, they begin to understand how letters form sentences and meaning.
- Writing notes by hand helps to retain knowledge more than typing.
- Writing and drawing by hand increases creativity because we are forced to slow down, consider the big picture and come up with creative ideas.

Ways to Celebrate Handwriting

We will be completing activities with children in school, but why not try these at home with your children or just by yourself:

- Write a letter or postcard to someone – it's becoming a lost art and we all know how much we love to receive something handwritten through the post.
- Draw a doodle –doodling is a great way to express some creative freedom and exercise your writing skills. You could even take them further into a larger sketch - your children will love seeing what you do!
- Colour in a colouring book.
- Learn what your handwriting says about you, for example, people who use large letters are usually more outgoing and outspoken!
- Search for the handwriting styles of people in the past – look at Lewis Carroll, who used doodles when writing his famous stories.

