

# Learn, Care, Grow together



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Principal: Mrs Deirdre A. Petersen MEd

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

Dear parents/ carers,

The past fortnight has been a busy one at Highampton with active children in and out of class, our visiting specialists in Music and PE and our weekly Celebration Assembly. School staff have been amazing in catering to pupil needs both socially/ emotionally and academically; it has truly been a fabulous team effort this past couple of weeks! Thank you to our Executive leaders for popping in too and an extra special thank you to Dan Morrow, CEO, for his presence in school over the past fortnight. Having an enhanced leadership model has really started to benefit our staff and pupils.

## Living our Trust values

We are living our focus co-operative values of **SOLIDARITY** and **INCLUSION** this term - examples of which can be seen in our recent Parent Forum, Staff Voice meetings and pupil conferencing on important matters such as what matters to everyone to improve our school. I must say that the feedback from staff and pupils is really starting to shape the school improvement work that is already well underway. We are an inclusive school that respects everyone's voice; **INCLUSION** is at the core of the work that we do and is the soul of Trust opportunities to ensure that every member of our Trust family is unconditionally loved and respected.

## Pupil Wellbeing - a positive mindset

It is well researched that a child with a positive mindset will:

- Broaden their thinking/ horizons
- Be better equipped to solve problems
- Have greater self esteem
- Be able to develop their individuality
- Increase their resilience

In school, we do a lot of work around wellbeing and positive thinking. At home, you can help too with regular discussions with your child(ren) about how they feel about school, friendships and life in general. Please do contact the school if we can help your child to feel positive about their learning, school experiences and beyond. Staff are committed to a holistic approach to nurturing the whole child and ensuring that children at Highampton feel safe, respected and cared for.

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## Family support/ Early Help

### **The COVID Local Support Grant is now available until 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

This is designed to directly help families and individuals who have been hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

Under this fund, Early Help is able to provide a grant per family to support with:

- Providing vouchers for food and personal items.
- Supporting with energy and water bills for household purposes.
- With other requests clearly linking to the priorities of the fund grants can be provided for essential white goods such as a cooker, fridge or freezer.

The criteria set by Early Help is as follows.

- You are a family (at least 2 people where at least 1 person is either pre-birth or up to 18 years old)
- You are experiencing financial hardship linked to or independent of COVID (e.g. unemployed, furloughed, being made redundant)
- You need financial help associated with keeping your family warm and fed
- You need financial help associated with purchasing essential items

Please ask at the school office or email [admin@highamptonprimary.org.uk](mailto:admin@highamptonprimary.org.uk) for an application form. Help is available.

## Covid-19 safety measures

Since further relaxation in restrictions and safety measures in the community, now is not the time for us to become complacent in school. We have revised our risk assessment and are keeping going with all the measures that have been in place since full opening in March. If you would like to view the risk assessment, it is attached with this Newsletter and will be available on our website on Monday.

## Pupil news

In Class 1: The children were spraying our potatoes and beans and in gardening club we weeded the tyre in preparation for planting our wildflower garden. We are hoping to attract a wide variety of insects!

During PE this week our focus was co-ordination skills. Children dribbled the ball between cones and practised catching each other's balls- throwing them at the same time-they were amazing!

In Class 2: Well done to our years 4 & 5 who undertook Youth Leadership Training this week. Their behaviour with Mrs Jarvis of OCRA was exemplary and Mrs Jarvis remarked that they all had great ideas for playtime.

## PUPIL VOICE

**Isla** wrote a story about Tinkerbell. 'I had to do 3 sentences. The last sentence was tricky so Mrs Rees helped.'

**Lily** is a good learner because 'I did some good drama and I was listening really well'

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**Riley R** when doing writing, checked my poem through. Editing made it better. Usually don't get it right but did this time.

**Maisy:** Typing on the computer. In maths, at first I found fractions really hard - now easy

**Aiden:** Few days ago - handwriting - wasn't so good trying much harder since doing the practice

## School/ Community news

Our website almost live! - we hope that you find our new and improved design much easier to navigate for all the information you need on our school. Have a look on Monday.

The PTFA are kindly running a Plant Sale on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 3.15pm. The wider community are invited from 3.45pm onwards.

The School is very grateful to a local company - Map Marketing at Hatherleigh - for the kind donation of jigsaw puzzles - one for every child in the school. The puzzles, which feature lions are mostly suitable for KS2 and you can be sure we will make excellent use of them.

## Communications

We are working hard to ensure that you are up to date with everything that is happening using our website, letters, email and texts. Please do keep an eye on these communications as we not only want you to be informed but the children to be ready and organised for their school day. We will continue to consult with parent voice on the effectiveness of our communications.

## Reminders

- Home reading: Research tells us that reading at home to complement learning is a key to success! We are investing in and sending home reading books and to help your child to progress in their reading. Reading for pleasure is always promoted and we do expect your child to read aloud to an adult AT LEAST 3 -5 times a week. This will make accessing learning in school so much more accessible. Thank you for your ongoing support with home reading.
- School uniform: Smart uniform is essential every day. On PE days for Class 2, please wear a school sweatshirt and trainers with leggings/ shorts/ track bottoms and trainers. Expectations include looking smart, sensible shoes and school jumpers. It makes such a difference when the children make the effort to look smart. Thank you for your support in this matter.
- Attendance: We strive to get all pupils into school every day and to motivate and engage them in all aspects of school life. If your child is unable to attend, it is important that you call into school before 9am to let us know. This week, our attendance is 95.6% for the whole school. Next week our target is 98%. Let's smash the target!

As we head into half term week, I heartily recommend that everyone takes time to relax with our loved ones and recharge our batteries. School ends on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May and

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reopens on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June and we look forward to seeing the children's smiling faces once again.

Have a wonderful weekend and half term week when it comes.

*A. Petersen*

## CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

### STAR OF THE WEEK (w/e 11th May)

Class 1: **Moss** - for some super independent writing this week and engaging well in Drama

Class 2: **Riley R** for poetry writing confidently and independently. Trying hard with decimals and asking for help on tricky questions.

Learner of the Week: **Brooklyn** for her continued focus and effort in Maths (fractions), also for working hard on presentation.

Ruby Heart: **Ruben** for giving encouragement and showing care when others find things difficult



### STAR OF THE WEEK (w/e 18th May)

Class 1: **Isla** for being a good reporter in history and listening well

Class 2: **Evie** for focussing on her work and being keen to learn

Learner of the Week: **Lexi** for brilliant listening, being ready to learn and prepared to try new things.

"When I did an eagle, I did a mummy eagle and a baby eagle. I try really hard."

Ruby Heart: **Archie** for really good manners



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# GALLERY



*Gardening Club*



*Focussing on coordination in sport*



*Spraying our potatoes and beans. "They need sun and water to grow big and strong!"*

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## Dates for your Diary

31 <sup>st</sup> May - 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Half Term Break
7 <sup>th</sup> June	All children return to school
11 <sup>th</sup> June	School Photos - School/Class/Family & Individual Photos
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Holsworthy College Transition Visit to Highampton School
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Swimming Starts for 6 weeks every Thursday pm
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Transition Meeting at Okehampton College
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Okehampton College Transition Day
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Outdoor Performance of Hansel & Gretel 2pm
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Okehampton College Transition Day
15/16 <sup>th</sup> July	Residential Expedition
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Last Day of Term