

# Handsworth News

## Dates for your diary:

MacMillan Coffee Morning  
School Hall  
28th September

Early Years Phonics Morning  
3rd October

National Poetry Day  
4th October

Individual School Photos  
17th October

International Day  
19th October

Year 6 Greek WOW Day  
30th October

Year 4 Roman WOW Day &  
Assembly  
30th October

**Half-term**  
22nd-26th October

Open Evening for  
Prospective Parents  
7th November

Parents' Evenings  
13th & 14th November

Children in Need  
(Non-uniform day)  
16th November

FOH Christmas Fayre  
1st December

KS1 Nativity  
11th & 12th December

Nursery Nativity  
14th December

### Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We are looking forward to another exciting year at Handsworth. We hope that your summer was a fabulous one.

We would like to say a big welcome to our new starters in Nursery and Reception as well as the children who have recently joined us from other schools. It has been lovely to see how quickly they have settled in. We are sure this is the start of a wonderful learning journey for them.

For all the families who celebrated Eid al Adha we hope you had a wonderful time. Best wishes too to our families who celebrated Rosh Hashanah.

### School Leaders

Once again our Year 6 children will be taking on the role of School Leaders. They will have the opportunity to lead the school as playleaders and to organize different fundraising events. We would like to say a special welcome and well done to our new House Captains, Vice House Captains and Bronze Ambassadors.

### Class Webpages & Newsletters

As always, there is a great deal going on in the life of the school and the best way to stay up to date with any changes is to visit our school website. Please take some time to look at the class webpages. The class newsletters are available for this half term and contain information about what your child will be learning and how you can support them. The Curriculum Overview will provide you with information about the topics your child is covering. A PowerPoint presentation of the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions is also available on your child's class page.

### Attendance and Punctuality

We have the highest aspirations for your child and every lesson counts towards your child's achievement. We also know that you, as your child's parent/carer, want your child to get on well in life. Children only get one chance at school so please continue to support us in providing your children with the best start by making sure they are in every day and on time. Late arrivals in the morning can be disruptive for whole class learning and unsettling for children.

### School Uniform

At Handsworth we believe that our school uniform plays an important role in promoting a sense of inclusivity. We believe it is important to encourage children to take pride in their uniform and the fact that when they are wearing it they are part of a community and they represent the school. We appreciate your support as parents in ensuring that high expectations regarding uniform are met.

### School Meals

We are holding another popular 'themed' meals day on 4th October, as part of our celebrations to promote Black History Month. Pupils who do not normally have a school meal can purchase one just for the day. Please make payments via the school on-line shop. School meals continue to cost £2.16 per day and £10.80 per week. Don't forget School Meals **must** be purchased in advance.

## What is important this year?

Key Priorities 2018/19



This year at school:

- We want to make sure that you enjoy **Maths**, that your lessons are not too easy or too hard and that you understand what you need to do to improve.
- We want to make sure that you are taught **Reading** in a way that is interesting so that you understand and can confidently answer questions about what you have read.
- We want to make sure that your work is **challenging** enough for you to always learn and develop new skills.
- We want to make sure all lessons are interesting so that **boys** have as many opportunities as **girls** to achieve their best.

We are delighted to continue to work with the **National Youth Theatre**. The children will perform three plays over the course of the year. More details to follow.

### The Tate Year 3 Project

The Tate Year 3 Project sees Turner Prize and Oscar-winning artist Steve McQueen create one of the world's most ambitious contemporary art projects.

This partnership between Tate, Artangel and A New Direction will invite every primary school in London to be part of a giant collective portrait. It will capture tens of thousands of Year 3 school children in a milestone year in their development and be an epic picture of the city's present and an intimation of its future. We are delighted that our pupil's will participate.

### Educational Visits

At Handsworth, we pride ourselves on providing an engaging, high-quality creative curriculum. Over the course of an academic year, each Year Group is given the opportunity to attend educational visits to help contextualise and consolidate their learning.

We also invite a large number of professionals into school to support a wide variety of skills and learning. For these events to be able to take place, we will occasionally request voluntary contributions. The school never profits from the trips we run and we will ensure that we do not ask for more than £15 per child over the course of the year (this excludes the Year 6 Residential).

### Healthy School, Healthy Children

Children in Early Years and KS1 are given fruit during the first break. Children in KS2 are encouraged to bring fruit in for playtime. This should be kept in your child's book bag, not their lunchbox. As we are committed to being a healthy school, we ask that your child's playtime snack is limited to fruit and not biscuits, chocolate or other high sugar snacks. We would like to remind parents that **Handsworth is a Nut-Free Zone**. Please ensure that packed lunches and snacks do not contain any nuts.

We are delighted to have been awarded the School Games Mark at the gold level for the fourth successive year for the wide range of sports provision we offer. Well done to Mr Tromans and the PE Team. We are already well underway to achieving platinum level next year.

*Please inform the school office if there are any changes to emergency contact details including mobile phone numbers and work numbers. Please contact the school office if your child has any medical needs of which we are not aware. Mrs Struthers is also available to discuss any specific medical needs.*

*A polite reminder that pupil's are to walk scooters and bikes on and off the school premises. We do not want any accidents.*

A copy of the Home-School Agreement was sent to you in the Summer term. Please sign and return this to school if you have not done so already. A copy of the agreement is also on the school website.

I am available at the start and the end of each day. Please pop in to see me if you have any queries, ideas or concerns.

Jill

**The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best for today**