

**HUNTON & ARRATHORNE C P SCHOOL**  
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**HEADTEACHER: Mrs J Grainger**



Caring - Aspiring - Excelling

**WELCOME BACK  
TO SCHOOL**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely summer and are ready to start a new school year.

### **New Starters**

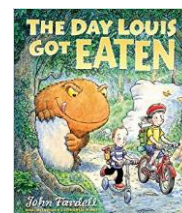


Welcome to the new children in our Foundation Stage: Sadie, Georgia, Annabel, Sophie, Phoebe, Pip, Jude, Anna and Matilda. In other year groups we welcome Elizabeth to Y1, Joshua to Y2, Brooke to Y3, Molly to Y5 and Emma, Dylan and John to Y6.

### **Curriculum**

#### **FS/Y1 (Class 1)**

Class 1's theme for this term is 'There Are No Monsters Living Here'. In English they will be reading a variety of books including 'The Day Louis Got Eaten' and they will use these books as a stimulus for their English work. In maths they will be developing their number work. In science they will be learning about 'Living Things and Habitats' and they will be developing their mapping skills in geography. They will be improving their colour-mixing skills in art and will study the artist Joan Miro. In PE they will be developing their gymnastic skills and will be learning about contrasts in music. For PSHE they will be learning about 'Me and My Relationships' and in RE they will be introduced to stories from Islam.



#### **Y2/3/4 (Class 2)**

Class 2 will be learning about North America in geography. They will read 'The Terrible Chenoo', a North American story in English. In DT they will learn about simple pneumatic systems. They will be learning about keeping healthy and developing fitness in PE. In science they will be learning about the human body and also what animals need to eat to survive and in music they will be learning to play a tuned instrument. Their RE work will centre on Beliefs and Questions. In computing they will learning about coding and internet safety. Their PSHE work will develop from 'Me and My Relationships'. In art, they will begin by studying the work of Matthew Sewell and in music they will be listening to Early and Baroque music before moving onto building up rhythms into ostinato compositions. Years 3 & 4 will be learning about colours, numbers and basic greetings in French and recapping on previous work.



#### **Y5/6 (Class 3)**

Class 3 will be studying the same themes in geography, art, DT, music, PE and PSHE as Class 2. Their English work will initially be inspired by 'The Princess' Blankets' by Carol Ann Duffy and they will be studying animals including humans (anatomy and nutrition) with Miss Munro who will be teaching science and computing to Class 3. In computing they will be learning about coding and online safety. In French they will be learning about breakfast food and drink.



## Phonics Talk

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 2.45 p.m. in the ICT suite, Mrs Saunders has arranged to give a talk to parents about the teaching of phonics and how it is approached at school. She will look at how it develops from supporting reading to spelling and also how it is assessed. Please let Mrs Godlee know if you are planning to attend.

## Reading



A big request from all staff at school is for you to try to hear your child read at least 5 times a week. This is part of their homework quota and it really does make a difference to the progress the children make in their reading and a greater love of books seems to develop in children where reading is obviously valued at home. If they have left their book at school or forgotten to read it, they could read something that you have at home. Older readers should spend some time talking about their book- explaining the plot and sharing their thoughts on the book and actually read their book to themselves. Please sign their diary to show that you have done this. Remember that reading five times a week means their name goes in the hat for the end of term lucky dip for a book token – one for each class! More times in the hat means more chance of winning. Discussions with children show that they still love hearing you read to them – even our oldest children!



## Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival has been arranged for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at Hunton Methodist Church beginning at 2.30 p.m. Families and friends are welcome to join us.



## Homework Activities

Following a revision of our homework policy, each class will receive a breakdown of activities they will be expected to complete. We hope that you will encourage and support them with this in line with the home-school agreement.

## Parent Pay

If you haven't already done so, please could you make sure you can log onto Parent Pay without any difficulties. In line with other schools, we will be giving you the opportunity to book your own slots for Parents' Evening later this term but need to make sure, in the first instance, that that is not a problem for anyone. If there is an issue, please pop in to see Mrs Godlee in the office but not Wednesdays please as Mrs Godlee is not in school on that day.

## Parent View

It is nearly four years since our last OFSTED report so we are expecting a visit from them in the near future. When they visit they will look at completed questionnaires on Parent View which parents can complete at any time in any school year but a reminder will be sent out when a visit is confirmed. If you wish to have a look, the link is:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

There is also a link from the home page of our website.

## Staffing

Unfortunately, Miss Porter has been unable to join us as a Teaching Assistant and so we have extended Mrs Shanley's hours so that she will be working with Class 2 on Mondays and Tuesdays, many of whom she has worked with before.

## **Procedure Reminders**

At the beginning of a new school year and with so many new starters, it is prudent to recap some of our procedures.

### **Attendance**

The level of absence that your child can be off school before becoming a Persistent Absentee (PA) is 10%. To avoid children becoming a PA, contact will be made if your child's attendance is below 94%, to make you aware of their attendance.

In order to support improved attendance we want to make parents aware that children can attend school with most childhood illness. There are very few illnesses that we would ask children to be kept home from school for. Unsettled sleep or tiredness are not authorised reasons for absence. All relevant advice for illness and subsequent absence is available on this link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/522337/Guidance\\_on\\_infection\\_control\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522337/Guidance_on_infection_control_in_schools.pdf)

If your child is absent due to sickness a phone call to school is expected before 8.45 a.m. on the first day of absence - a message can be left if staff are not available. A letter is required on the child's return to school for our records.

Staff are prepared to give prescribed medication to children if parents have completed the appropriate form which is available in the school office or on our website if you want to complete it before bringing it into school.

**Lateness** can affect your child's attendance levels. School begins at 9a.m. each morning. Doors open at 8.55 a.m. (8.50 for Foundation Stage) to facilitate a smooth start to the day and finishes at 3.15 p.m. Please ensure that your child is in school each day on time to avoid late marks. Children who arrive after the register closes at 9.15 a.m. receive a U as their session mark. A U marks the whole session as unauthorised and affects your child's attendance.

**Medical appointments** If your child requires a medical/dental appointment please endeavour to make them outside school time where possible. We need to see appointment cards for all medical appointments to allow us to authorise the absence. Children should not miss whole days for medical appointments. If your child is absent for either morning or afternoon registration due to an appointment they will receive an authorised absence mark for that session.

### **Application for Pupil Leave of Absence During Term Time**

The local authority guidance states that applications should be completed by the parent/carer and returned to the school as far in advance as possible and at least **6 weeks** before the first date of the period of leave being requested. Parents/carers must obtain the school's permission **before making any arrangements for leave in exceptional circumstances, otherwise the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.**

**No parent/carer can demand leave of absence as of right.** The Education regulations state that applications for leave must be made in advance by a parent with whom the child lives and can only be authorised by the school in exceptional circumstances. Each application is considered individually by the school.

The following are examples of the criteria for leave of absence, which may be considered as 'exceptional':

- Service personnel returning from active deployment
- Where inflexibility of the parent's leave or working arrangement is part of the organisational or company policy. This would need to be evidenced by the production or confirmation from the organisation/company

- Where leave is recommended as part of a parents' or child's rehabilitation from medical or emotional problems. Evidence must be provided.
- When a family needs to spend time together to support each other during or after a crisis

**Please note: Headteachers would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional.**

Taking a pupil on leave during term time interrupts teaching and learning and can disrupt educational progress. Children's attendance will be looked at when considering applications. It is unlikely that children with attendance below 95% will have applications upheld.

### **Beginning and End of the School Day**

To ensure that there is adequate supervision, please can you make certain that your children do not use the climbing equipment before 8.50 a.m. or after 3.25 p.m. Young siblings of children at school should be supervised by parents/carers.

Children arriving in the playground before 8.50 when staff go outside on duty should be supervised by parents/carers.

If you wish for your child to walk home from school on their own, please complete and return the attached form. A copy of our Children Not Collected from School Policy is available on our website.

### **PE**

Class 1 are expected to have their PE kit of black shorts and white t shirt in school on Tuesdays and, on Wednesdays, Classes 2 + 3 also need a sweatshirt (not the one they wear to school), tracksuit/jogging bottoms, trainers and socks (if they are wearing tights to school). We have a couple of spare kits in school for emergencies in limited sizes and these should not be relied upon for the children to use. If kit is borrowed, please wash and return it for the next person. Training the children to be prepared for the activities in the day ahead is part of fostering their independence in their learning.

Please make sure all uniform and PE kit is named – one sweatshirt looks very like another at the end of the day. Most clothes have a space on the label for a name – biro lasts for a long time so no special pens are needed.

A reminder that the wearing of jewellery is not permitted in school PE sessions and that children wearing ear-rings must be capable of removing the ear-rings themselves – it is better if children with pierced ears do not wear ear-rings on days when they have PE.

Yours sincerely,

*Joanne Grainger*

(Headteacher)



We're working  
towards Artsmark  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



## Dates for Diaries:

11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Swimming lessons begin for years 1-6
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Phonics Talk for parents/carers – Mrs Saunders in ICT suite
19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Sponsored run
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	School photographer
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Richmond School Open Evening for Y6 parents + children
28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	NSPCC assembly
28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	SFX Open Evening for Y6 parents and children
3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Risedale School Open Evening for Y6 parents + children
5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Bedale High School Open Evening for Y6 parents + children
9 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Class 3 residential visit to Bewerley Park
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	DEEL afternoon for Class 1
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Wensleydale School Open Evening for Y6 parents + children
18 <sup>th</sup> +19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parents' Evenings
20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Harvest festival at Hunton Methodist Church
20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Break up for half term

## Term Dates:

A copy of this is always available on our school website.

## Academic Year 2017/2018

4 September 2017, 8 January 2018, 16 April 2018, 23 & 24 July 2018 are teacher training days.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
<b>Autumn 2017 - first half term</b>	<b>Monday 4 September 2017</b>	<b>Friday 20 October 2017</b>
Half term holiday	Monday 23 October 2017	Friday 27 October 2017
<b>Autumn 2017 - second half term</b>	<b>Monday 30 October 2017</b>	<b>Friday 22 December 2017</b>
Christmas holiday	Monday 25 December 2017	Friday 5 January 2018
<b>Spring 2018 - first half term</b>	<b>Monday 8 January 2018</b>	<b>Friday 9 February 2018</b>
Half term holiday	Monday 12 February 2018	Friday 16 February 2018
<b>Spring 2018 - second half term</b>	<b>Monday 19 February 2018</b>	<b>Thursday 29 March 2018</b>
Easter holiday	Friday 30 March 2018	Friday 13 April 2018
<b>Summer 2018 - first half term</b>	<b>Monday 16 April 2018</b>	<b>Friday 25 May 2018</b>
May bank holiday	Monday 7 May 2018	
Half term holiday	Monday 28 May 2018	Friday 1 June 2018
<b>Summer 2018 - second half term</b>	<b>Monday 4 June 2018</b>	<b>Friday 20 July 2018</b>

## **Governors' Corner**

I cannot believe how quickly the summer has passed and I very much hope that you all enjoyed the holiday period and quality time with your children. As Governors of the school we were sorry to lose both Sarah McAndrew (Co-opted governor) and Julie Morgan (Parent governor) and wish them all the best in their new endeavours. Arrangements are in hand to fill the resultant vacancies and please keep an eye open for information from the school about this.

Whilst I fully appreciate that holidays seem far away so soon after the summer break it does remind me of one of the roles of the Governing Body in setting targets for a range of objectives one of which is attendance. We aim to achieve a minimum of 95% attendance across all year groups and this is only possible with the help and assistance of parents when planning holidays with their children and ensuring that children are at school on time for registration otherwise this will count as an unauthorised absence. We have all read in the press about the confused position about taking children out of school during term time. What is clear is that the responsibility for approving 'in term' absences rests with the Headteacher and this is an unenviable task and a very difficult balancing act when there is no clear guidance from the Department for Education of the Local Authority. The Courts have also been guilty of sending confused messages but I think it is evident from recent cases that Local Authorities are likely to take action in cases of unauthorised absences. In addition OFSTED takes a close look at attendance rates in schools and in particular the number of pupils who fall below 90% attendance. In these cases this can trigger an OFSTED inspection. At Hunton we have a history of parents fully supporting the school and I very much hope that this continues and that at the end of the new academic year we can boast an overall attendance rate well above 95%. As governors we fully support the decisions taken by the Headteacher in either approving or rejecting applications for absence during term time.

Looking forward to the year ahead and as a Governing Body we have agreed that we will meet on 8 occasions over the year with our first meeting being on 21<sup>st</sup> September. This is usually a meeting which we all dread because it deals with the business of putting everything in place for the year such as reviewing the scheme of delegation, membership of committees, link governors, timetable of governor visits to the school etc. This is all pretty boring stuff but essential in ensuring that we meet our statutory responsibilities. To also make sure we cover everything that we should do we have a work planner which guides the business of all the meetings and this year we have set aside one meeting to have a quality open discussion about how we are doing, the direction of travel for the school and other areas which we seldom get to discuss. It is a simple fact of life that sometimes in dealing with all the statutory work we can miss the luxury of a simple open discussion without a restriction on time or other items on the agenda. This is new territory for us and I hope that we will all savour this opportunity and make the most of it to the benefit of the school and ourselves. Other meetings this term are on 2<sup>nd</sup> November when we will concentrate on the resources needed to keep the school running (finance, staffing, health and safety, building maintenance etc.). On 7<sup>th</sup> December we will have our last meeting of the term and will be concentrating on School Performance Data, behaviour and attendance, the report from our School Improvement Adviser and a range of other performance related issues. The meetings promise to be fairly intensive, but absolutely critical for our role as governors.

I was pleased that the last parent survey indicated that many of you find 'Governors' Corner' to be helpful in understanding our role in the school and I will endeavour to produce two 'Governors' Corner' per term and keep you up-to-date on what we are doing and how that impacts on the school. Impact is the new buzz word in schools and with OFSTED and whilst it is easy to be dismissive of this there is a great deal of sense in ensuring that any initiative has a positive impact for the benefit of the pupils hence we need to be certain that impact is measurable and forms an everyday part of our thinking and actions.

An important aspect of our role is to ensure that we engage effectively with all stakeholders and this includes the parent body. As mentioned above we do undertake a survey of parents/carers each year and the feedback we receive is very important to us and helps to guide the direction of the school. Attached to this Newsletter are the collated outcomes of the questionnaire. These were considered by the Governing Body at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July and governors were pleased at the very positive responses to the questions in general. One aspect from the questionnaire is that of forming a PTA and I was asked to open the discussion about this possibility. As we all know PTA's can be an important part of the School interface with parents and others and in these stringent times it can play an important role in helping to raise funds which can then be applied for the benefit of pupils. On the other side of the coin the running of a PTA requires hard work and dedication from those involved. I would really like feedback on whether you would be willing to set up a PTA and I am happy to offer to host a meeting at the school of interested parents/carers if there is sufficient interest. Anyone interested should contact me via the school. Whilst writing about the views of parents/carers may I remind everyone that OFSTED has an online portal called 'Parent View' on which parents/carers can at any time leave views about the school. This can be accessed via: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>



On a final note if you wish to write to me or contact me then you can do this through the school either by letter or e-mail (cofg@huntonarrathorne.n-yorks.sch.uk). You can be assured that any communication addressed to me is treated in the strictest confidence.

David Lawrenson (Chair)



Hunton & Arrathorne Community Primary School Parent/Carers' Feedback  
Spring 2017 Returns 14 out of 34 (41%)

	Please tick under the headings closest to your overall opinion (please feel free to add comments on the second sheet) PLEASE TRY TO COMPLETE. WE DO WANT EVERYONE'S VIEWS!	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometime s/mainly</u>	<u>Not applicable/ unable to comment</u>
1	Do you think the school has a good reputation in the local community?	14			
2	Does your child feel safe and secure coming to this school?	14			
3	If your child has joined our school since April 2016, do you think our transition arrangements were helpful in settling him/her into their new school?	6		1	7
4	In your experience, do the <u>majority</u> of current pupils behave well in school time?	14			
5	Do you think parents/carers have a part to play in supporting the school's behaviour policy?	13			1
6	Does school encourage good attendance, punctuality and positive attitudes?	14			
7	In your experience do you think the school has a warm, friendly and caring approach to the pupils?	12		2	
8	Are parents/carers sufficiently encouraged to support their child through work at home?	12		2	
9	Does your child enjoy their learning experiences?	12		2	
10	Is your child encouraged to work to his/her full potential?	13			1
11	In your experience, are the needs of children with special or additional needs met appropriately?	4			10
12	Are you satisfied with the opportunities you are given to discuss your child's progress or welfare with his or her class teacher or other staff?	11		3	
13	Do you feel welcome when you visit or contact the school?	14			
14	If applicable, do you feel any concerns or questions you have raised are dealt with professionally?	8			6
15	Are parents/carers kept sufficiently well informed about their child's progress?	11		3	
16	Do you think parents/carers should be actively involved in fundraising for the school?	10		3	1
17	Do you think a PTA would be a useful addition to the school?	9	1	2	2
18	Do you feel governors are accessible?	9	1	1	3
19	Do you feel that governors communicate effectively with parents and the local community?	7		4	3
20	Do you feel the Governors' Corner section on our newsletters is useful?	11	1	2	





**North**

**Yorkshire County Council**

Children and Young People's Service



**Hunton & Arrathorne CP School**

**Collecting Children from School Policy**

**Permission for my child to walk home alone**

Dear Mrs Grainger

I give permission for my child to walk home alone, as stated in the Collecting Children from School Policy

Child's name: .....

Class: .....

Signed: .....

Date: .....