



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 22nd October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has thankfully been a return to school and normality that we have all welcomed, especially our fantastic children who have shown such resilience. I have been impressed with their growing levels of independence, how they are able to enter school in morning saying their goodbyes to parents at the gates, this has made for a much better start to the day for them, they are able to get to class quicker and start the day promptly with their friends and peers.

This term we have seen the children enjoy changes in their school meals to healthy, home cooked food sourced locally, served by a chef in full regale; they are enjoying the wider range of choice they are offered and have responded positively to the change in the dining experience. Our new catering providers (Pabulum) are helping us to ensure our children's bodies and minds are nourished.

We have been delighted to be able to invite parents back into the school for learning consultations, Y5 Harvest assemblies and soon as parent readers; you are very welcome, and we are delighted to have you back part in person as vital parts of our school. The HSCA are full of enthusiasm and have a wide range of events planned over the coming year, we have the Fire show to look forward to on November 6th. Despite the HSCA being prevented from operating more public events over the past eighteen months, they have nonetheless used their creativity to continue fundraising and at their AGM in September kindly awarded Hook Junior School £3000, of the £6000 they had raised virtually. An amazing achievement, thank you to HSCA, what a team!

It has been refreshing for us to return to some sense of normality but we are mindful that as we face rising coronavirus cases in the area and nationally we must all remain vigilant. We will continue to be guided by the DfE regarding the situation, but we know that we have your full support to help us keep everyone safe should things change.

With that I shall wish you and the children a fantastic half term break. Enjoy and be safe!

Your sincerely

Mrs L Martin

Headteacher

Monday 1 November is an INSET day

Please remember that Monday 1 November is an INSET day and school is closed for teaching. Children return to school on Tuesday 2 November.

Learning Support Assistant and Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancies

We have vacancies for a Learning Support Assistant and a Lunchtime Supervisor. If you are interested in joining our dedicated school team for either of these roles, please register your interest by getting in touch with us via the school office. We can offer you a welcoming school

environment to work in with excellent facilities and resources, children who want to achieve, are happy, polite and give their best, a supportive and friendly staff team who believe in each and every child and opportunities for professional development.

Behaviour and Attendance guidance for Parents and Carers

Parental attitude has a key influence on a child's school attendance and parents/carers can do much to encourage even reluctant pupils to attend.

Good school attendance habits are best started early. Children learn from those around them and you as parents/carers set the standards and expectations for your child. Showing your child the importance of attending school every day not only helps your child to settle quickly when starting school but helps them to keep and maintain friendships and enjoy the school environment.

Your responsibilities as a parent

By law, all children of compulsory school age must receive a suitable full-time education. As a parent, you have a legal responsibility to make sure this happens. Once your child is registered at a school, you are legally responsible for making sure they attend regularly. This means your child should not have sessions of unauthorised absence.

Any absences will be recorded with a specific code depending on the type of absence. Absences fall into two main categories:

- **Authorised** – those which schools can give you permission for
- **Unauthorised** – those which they will not

Examples of absences which the school is **unlikely** to authorise can include:

- sickness of a parent, or other family member
- inadequate clothing for school
- child being used as a carer
- problems with transport
- non-urgent medical treatment
- school refusal or truancy
- days off for birthdays, shopping trips

Missing a few days of school here and there may not seem a big deal, but research shows that it can have a significant impact on children's learning.

Children who miss a substantial amount of school fall behind their peers, and struggle to catch up. Poor attendance often starts at primary school, and children who fall into this pattern are likely to underachieve at secondary school.

We can only teach those who attend

Prejudicial Language and Discrimination

“Prejudice and discrimination seriously limit children's development and growth. They lead to some children being left out and denied the opportunity to develop friendships and to learn new things...in the end, everybody loses out from the effects of prejudice and discrimination.”

Fairplay, Barnardos.

Every child and adult in our school community has the right to be protected from prejudicial views and behaviours. Prejudicial language or behaviour can be defined as words or acts based on preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience, for example, not liking someone based on their skin colour or sexual identity.

Within our school we will not tolerate any prejudicial language or behaviour aimed at pupils or adults.

The following quote was first recommended as a working definition for racist incidents by The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry and has since been extended to cover all incidents related to the protected characteristics set out in The Equality Act 2010:

“A prejudice-related incident is any incident which is perceived to be prejudice-related by the victim or any other person.”

The Act uses the term *protected characteristics* to refer to aspects of a person’s identity. Treating a person less favourably because they have one or more of these characteristics would be unlawful.

The protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity

The most common prejudice-related incidents take the form of:

- prejudicial language
- ridicule and jokes
- verbal abuse
- physical assault
- graffiti or damage to property
- discriminatory behaviour, e.g. refusing to work with a pupil because of their religion
- incitement to behave in a prejudicial manner, e.g. wearing racist badges, recruiting to racist organisations, bringing in homophobic literature
- cyber bullying

Psychological research has shown that stereotyping and prejudice create a negative impact on children’s young minds. They can play a major role in shaping their individuality as they grow up.

Playtime and Lunchtime

Miss Smith

It has been lovely to see the children playing with their friends across the classes this term and not being restricted to playing in their class zone. The children are always full of energy at these times and it has been great to see them run it off in the large grounds that we are very lucky to have. We have been able to reintroduce using the Trim Trail and Playdale as well as having a range of equipment for children to use at lunchtime such as hula hoops, skipping ropes and tennis rackets. When the weather allows, we have also been able to have football matches again on the field. The children have responded so positively to the changes after challenging times and it

Another great success of this term has been the school meals provided by Pabulum. The children have enjoyed trying new meals, as well as the fresh bread made daily, the salad bar and of course the choice of desserts.

I had the opportunity to speak to some pupils about their playtime and lunchtime experiences and here are some of the highlights:

‘We like eating in the hall with our friends and I enjoy the meat free Mondays and the chicken korma.’ Year 6 pupil

‘All the puddings are great, we enjoy the variety of choices.’ Year 6 pupil

‘I enjoy being able to play on the trim trail again.’ Year 5 pupil

‘There is lots of good choices and I enjoy the salad bar, especially the sweetcorn!’ Year 4 pupil

‘I like using the play equipment at lunchtime.’ Year 4 pupil

'I enjoy that I can play with my friends in all the Year 3 classes.' Year 3 pupil

'The waffles today were amazing! I like the choice of pudding.' Year 3 pupil

Messages from some of our children

How have year 3 settled into Hook Junior School?

When they joined Hook Junior School, the Year 3s felt excited but nervous at the same time. They said that it was different but very exciting to have more responsibility in junior school. The Year 3's said that they enjoy the school very much but the work is harder than Year 2. Golden time is different because they didn't have to earn it in Year 2 and they had a limit for it, but in Year 3, they earn the golden time through hard work.

The Year 3s said that the art is different; in the junior school the children are also taught the origins of the art style and about famous artists that used that style. The Year 3s that were interviewed like art and geography.

By Lydia and Pauravi, Year 6

How is being back in school compared to lockdown?

Life with Covid-19 has impacted many children's lives, but how much damage has really been done? After the national lockdown, it has been great to see the children socialising and living life at school to the peak.

Plenty of children have been seen talking to people they wouldn't normally speak to and definitely enjoying having no boundaries at break time! It has been great to see all pupils being social again without social distancing.

The virus has affected children's mental and physical health and the school has been glad to see a new healthy food company, Pabulum. Eating healthy and seeing old friends has definitely been good for every individual that attends Hook Junior School. Studies show being physically and mentally healthy can improve children's learning and lifestyle, this is great for the pupils of the school to recover after the seemingly never-ending pandemic.

Online school was tough for plenty of pupils as they couldn't ask teachers for the help they needed and parents don't always know the same things that children get taught these days. This has definitely been tough for most, so after lockdown it has been great to see the work being brilliant as it always has been with the help of the school's fantastic teachers.

Yes, lockdown has deeply affected children's lives but with Hook Junior school there has been no issues, children have come back to school better than ever.

By Eden, Year 6

What is learning like at Hook Junior School?

At Hook Junior School (HJS) learning is always fun and entertaining. There is lots of discussion as well as writing and it is scientifically proven that pupils at HJS make more progress than average. Usually pupils have English, maths and guided reading in the morning allowing them to have the afternoon filled with the other subjects like art, science, geography and more! Along with all the work, children get regular breaks to ensure they get lots of fresh air, allowing them to concentrate on the lessons a lot more making their work better overall.

By Jacob

Hello Hook Junior School, I am a prefect and I will tell you about what learning is like in this school. Many people I have interviewed have said Maths as they like challenging themselves. It is good to challenge yourself as it gives you a good mental health and a happy mind. Your child might find in maths that they will learn column addition and subtraction and number lines. These are useful strategies when you get older. You would also learn times tables which teachers give helpful songs

which will help them know 1-12 times tables. A quote from a child is 'I am really good at maths because I practice at home as well'.

By Morgan

How are the new school lunches?

We have decided to tell you about the new lunches as they are amazing. We are very happy to say the lunches are better quality and have a healthy, varied choice every day. "The puddings are absolutely amazing" (year 6 pupil). After listening to lots of students, us prefects have decided that the new school cooks are amazing. As well as having healthy food, there is a lovely dining experience with extra food if needed. We don't think the extra food is needed as they serve up the right amount of food. The new school lunches have been very popular.

By Eloise, Year 6

How are the new classes at Hook Junior School?

This year, Year 6 changed classes. A lot of children were worried at first but soon realised it benefited them as a learner. So far children have enjoyed being in smaller classes as teachers can help them quicker as there is less people in the class. They have also made new friends. Year 3 have also changed classes from year 2. They have made new friends and have played with their old friends from year 2 at break times and lunch times. It is going very well.

By George

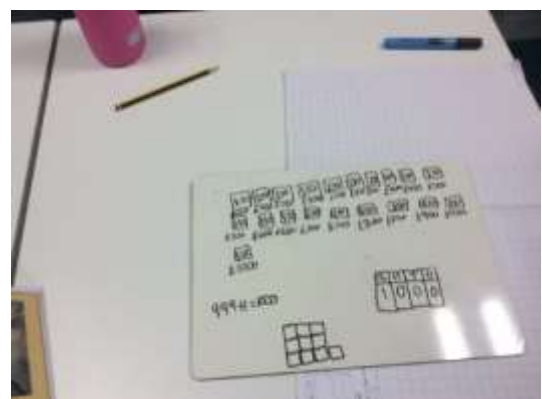
A Message from Miss Cooke

What an amazing half term this has been for English and Maths! From a fascinating visit from a rocket scientist to writing instructions for gardening club, all year groups have had an amazing start to the new academic year!

This week, some of the prefects choose questions they would like to ask pupils and report back to you. Here are the questions they created and their responses:

In Year 3, children have been immersed in their non-fiction text, 'The Magic and Mystery of Trees.' From this, they wrote some spectacular rainforest descriptions that included some amazing adjectives. More recently, Year 3 have been writing informative instructions which linked to the unit on planting cress seeds in Science. These will then be shared with gardening club which Mrs McDonald will be starting after half term. In Maths, the children have been learning about numbers up to 1000 and mastering the mental methods for addition. We have been so impressed by how well the Year 3 children have settled in and it has been a pleasure watching their confidence grow!

In Year 4, the children have been reading Shackleton's Journey where they have been writing emotive diary entries. More recently, they have carried out their own research on Ernest Shackleton, eventually writing biographies on his incredible life! In Maths, they have been busy extending their knowledge of number and place value to four-digit numbers, enjoying some outdoor learning by drawing their own number lines on the play ground and using this to help them round numbers to the nearest 10 and 100



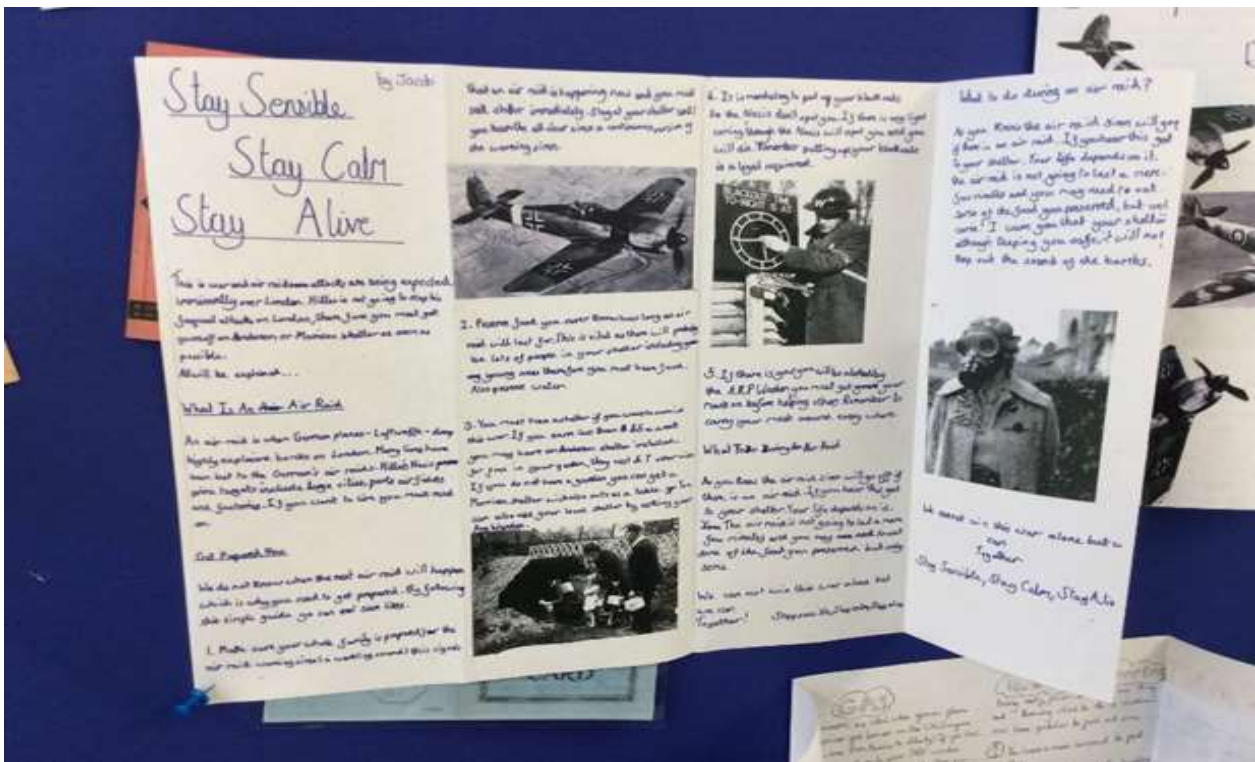
In Year 5, children have been captivated by the book 'Curiosity' which is all about the Rover landing on Mars. Fortunately, Miss Orchard's Dad (a scientist who worked on the mission) came in and explained all about how the Rover was designed, its journey to Mars and the important work it is undertaking on the surface of the red planet. The question and answer session not only inspired the children in writing their own news broadcast on the landing but some now want to become a scientist, making important discoveries in the future! In Maths, the children have been busy extending their number and place value knowledge of both whole and decimal numbers. They have been extremely accurate when placing decimals on a number line.



Year 5 children have put their baking hats on and made their own bread. They could choose which flavours to incorporate into their dough including olives, garlic, courgette, feta, rosemary and sun-dried tomatoes.



In Year 6, the children have settled into their new classes beautifully! In English, children have thoroughly enjoyed reading Goodnight Mr Tom which is linked to their topic on WWII. From this, the children have been able to empathise with what life must have been like through writing an informative leaflet on 'How to Stay Safe in an Air Raid' as well as writing in role as an evacuee. These spectacular pieces were published on tea-stained paper and looked extremely realistic. The children should be very proud of their achievements! In Maths, children have extended their number and place value knowledge up to ten million. More recently, they have been revising the column method, trying to solve tricky missing number problems on the playground, enjoying yet more outdoor learning!



Guitar and Ukulele with Adrian Maycock

The guitar and ukulele lessons have been going really well this half term and I've enjoyed seeing the great progress the children have made. If your child is interested in learning guitar or ukulele, another set of pupils is joining Adrian for lessons at school after half term. In order to register interest in a lesson place for your child, please send an email to adrianmaycock@gmail.com clearly stating your that your child attends Hook Junior School, the year group they are currently in, your child's name and also include a phone number.

For further details [visit the Clubs page in the Parents section of the school website.](#)

Bag2School collection

Having a half-term or pre-Christmas clear out?

Please save your unwanted clothes and linen for the next Bag2School collection and drop these off outside the Junior School before 9am on Wednesday 17th November in one of the vacant spaces adjacent to our main entrance.

Stars of the Week

Year 3: Caleb LF, Cooper O, Pavel P, Brody HF

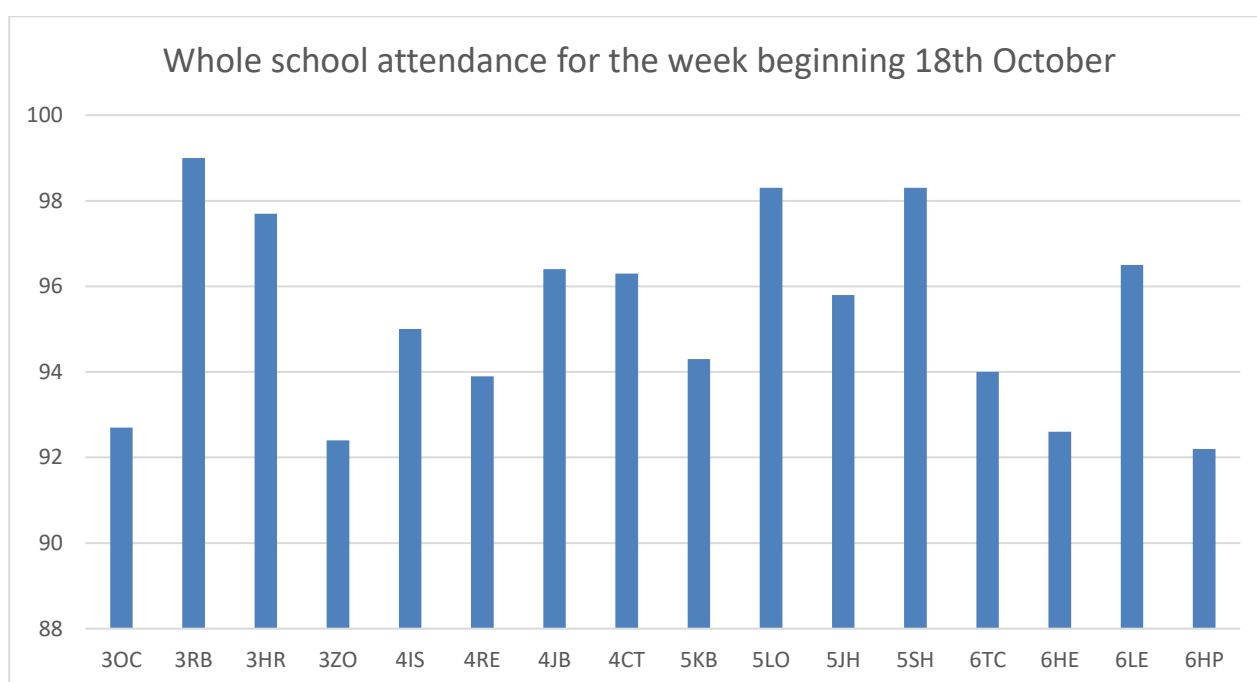
Year 4: George M, Josh I, Sehansa S, Will C

Year 5: Archie L, Kaiyoori J, Jacob A, William M

Year 6: Sophie W, Samuel P, Amy D, Harry R, Jaxon H

House point winners this week: **Austen**

Attendance This Week



Every day counts... Your child's attendance matters!

Find out more...

Follow [@hookjunior on Twitter](#) and [visit our Facebook page](#) for more updates and photos.

Key Dates

- 25 Oct** Autumn Half Term
- 25 Oct** Bikeability for Year 6 Pupils only
- 01 Nov** INSET Day
- 02 Nov** Pupils return to school
- 06 Nov** HSCA Fireshow
- 17 Nov** HSCA Bag2school

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| 27 Nov | HSCA Christmas Fair |
| 07 Dec | Year 4 Christmas Play, 9:15 to parents / carers |
| 07 Dec | Year 4 Christmas Play, 1:45 to parents / carers |
| 08 Dec | Year 4 Christmas Play, 1:45 to parents / carers |
| 17 Dec | End of Term – 1:30 finish |
| 28 Feb | INSET Day |
| 03 Mar | HSCA Bag2school |
| 19 Mar | HSCA Beer Festival |
| 22 Mar | HSCA Mothers Day Sale |
| 24 Mar | HSCA Mothers Day Sale |
| 27 Apr | Happy's Circus |
| 28 Apr | Happy's Circus |
| 19 May | Class Photos |
| 8 Jun | HSCA Bag2School |
| 25 Jun | HSCA Gin Festival |
| 16 Jul | HSCA Summer Fair |



Juniors Fireworks Competition

The HSCA Spectacular Fireworks display is being held on Saturday 6th November and for this year's voluntary competition for Junior school we invite you to write a poem about fireworks! It doesn't need to be long, or even rhyme, but just something written by you, when you think about fireworks.

Please bring your entry (with your name and class on the back) to school on **Thursday 4th November by 9am** and all entries will be returned on the same day.

One overall winner will be chosen from each school. Both school winners will receive a free **family ticket*** for the fireworks event AND on the big night will be invited onto the stage to lead the countdown to start the fireworks! Other additional certificates and prizes may also be awarded.

If you have any questions, please get in touch at hscaevents@gmail.com

For more information about the event or to buy tickets see www.pta-events.co.uk/hsca

Have fun being creative!

Thank you from the HSCA Events Team

* If the winner has already purchased an event ticket, a refund can be arranged.