

Herne Flyer 12 - Autumn Term 2024



Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day

Friday 29th November 2024



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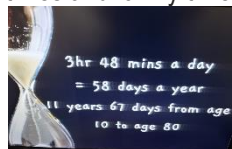
A Note from our Headteacher

Dear Parents & Carers,

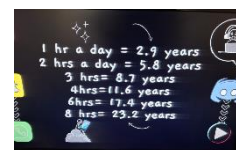


In a week when the Australian parliament has passed a law to ban **social media access for under-16s**, I'd like to return to the subject of Smart Phones. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c89vji0lxx9o.amp>

We have far less phones being brought in by children this year so it's clear that our collective schools' message is getting through. Staff were shocked by the two slides from recent presentations in school which give equivalent "lost" years from hours of online usage. It's a salient thought! One member of staff even has a box which all family members put their phones into during meal times and family time together. What a great idea!



I've attached a link to an article from the BBC: an experiment where teenagers charted their experiences off not having their phones with them for a week - it was aired in September.



Panorama: Can we live without our phones? <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0022n0f>

There is also a Channel 4, 2- part programme, hosted by Emma Willis, which follows a school which bans Smartphones for 21 days and shows the impact on cognition and learning. **Swiped: The School that Banned Smartphones.**

Year 6 parents may well be thinking of buying children phones ready for Secondary school. We would urge you not to allow children to bring them in, but to let them practise over the summer. You may also want to buy a very simple phone which gives call access but not Smart Phones. Research shows that camera misuse on phones is one of the biggest issues in terms of safeguarding of children, particularly at Secondary age. As adults, we can make choices which keep our children safer. There are many on the market but I was talking to a group of parents who looking at **Parentshield**, who offer not only simple phones but a SIM which limits existing phone capacity.

This week, we have completed our **Pupil Tracking Meetings**. This is an opportunity, termly, for SLT to sit with each teacher and discuss academic and pastoral needs of every child. It enables us to tweak our provision and make changes by adding programmes or adapting teaching in order to meet all pupil needs. It's also a good way of seeing whole school or family patterns and enables us to look holistically at personal and social needs.

Over the last two weeks we have also been streamlining our **lunchtime systems** to make the experience of eating in the hall more enjoyable for children. Many of you will have heard that Hampshire are pulling out of their contract with the current catering company. We are working with 11 other local schools on a procurement process to choose a new provider.



More staff celebrations: congratulations to **Mrs Joan Wason and Mrs Sammy Irving** who have completed **their TALA (Talking & Listening Assistant)** training. We now have a TALA in every year group which means that, in addition to our current Nurture, ELSA and Thrive trained staff, there are even more ways to support our children with their worries. Well done both – we are proud of you!



HUGE THANKS to HAFS and the team of parent & staff volunteers who manned the **Christmas Discos**. I boogied away at the Yr4 and Year 6 ones – the children were so much fun to be with. Particular thanks to the brave souls who manned the car park...it was freezing!

And finally...whatever you are up to this weekend, enjoy. I hope to see some of you in the square tonight for the turning on of the Christmas lights. The choir will be singing. This is always the start of the Christmas period for me. See you there!

Best wishes

Sue Sayers

Headteacher



Twilight Club

Please look out for the notice of a change to our Terms and Conditions from January. Current members will have received an email today. We will also give a letter to your child.

Travel Survey

Our school is developing a travel plan, and we need your input! In collaboration with Hampshire County Council's Travel Planning Team, we've launched a travel survey to hear about your school run experience. Your feedback will help us identify initiatives to make school runs safer and healthier. Please complete the school travel survey before the 6th December.

<https://hampshirecc.welcomesyourfeedback.net/HerneJuniorSchoolParentSurvey2024>



Lunch Option Change

Please note that due to popular demand, the pizza choice on Week 3, has been permanently changed to cheese & tomato pizza instead of the BBQ chicken.

Citizens Advice Bureau coming to Herne

Is that the cost of living becoming trickier to manage? Whether you work or not, there is help available for you to ease the cost of living for you and your family. A representative from CAB will be at Herne on Tuesday 3rd of December from 9.00-10.00am. Come along and find out in a friendly environment how you can access the help you need and have a cuppa and a chat while you are here. Please note this session will not be for individual advice but is aimed at giving everyone general advice, signposting and leaflets to help, and remember whether you work or not we may be able to help you.



P.A.C.E.

Parent And Carer Events are holding a free event in Alton on 23rd January 2025 to understand the needs and difficulties that young people can face. This event is **FREE** and can be booked or more enquiries made on this link.

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/p-a-c-e-21-nov-copy/>

Keeping Children Safe Online

Following on from last week's focus of online safety please take a look at this link from the NSPCC about safer gaming on line, parental responsibility and the setting option found on most games and apps where parents can sometimes considerably reduce the risk for their children.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>



Christmas Maths and English Doodling!

Between the 1st-24th of December, children can open the calendar doors by completing one exercise a day in DoodleMaths and/or DoodleEnglish. Don't worry if your child misses a day on their calendar, they can use their stars to open any doors they've missed! They'll find festive rewards waiting behind each door, including unique accessories and songs for their jukebox – and if they open all the doors, they'll receive an exclusive in-app badge!

Friday After-school Football Club

Today (29th of November), will be our final football club this term because of the light levels and increasingly muddy pitches. We will start the club again in February, watch out in the Flyer for the exact date in the new year.

December		January	
Mon 2 nd	Open School 3.30 – 4.30pm	Mon 6 th	Start of the new term
Thurs 12 th & 13 th	Year 3 Christmas Performances Thursday 12 th December at 5.30pm Friday 13 th December at 1:30pm	<h1>Christmas Postbox Goes Up on Monday 2nd December.</h1>	
Fri 13 th	RockSteady Concert		
Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th	HAFS Christmas Activity Week		
Mon 16 th	Year 5 Christmas Carol Service (St Peters) 2pm		
Fri 20 th	Final Day of Term (12.30pm finish)		