



FRIDAY FLYER

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday filled with lots of fun and plenty of time to relax. I would like to welcome to all our new children and families who have joined our school community. We are thrilled to have you here and look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Our school is a place where everyone is valued and respected, and we are confident that you will feel right at home.

My Child at School will continue to be our primary communication tool, so please make sure to check your inbox regularly. It is through MCAS that you will receive important announcements, reminders, and updates about upcoming events. If you are having any difficulties with MCAS, please contact Mrs Cain in the school office on office@midhurstprimary.co.uk

Our school website will be updated with new information in the next few weeks. This will include curriculum updates, details about school policies and resources to support your child's learning.

HOMEWORK AND READING

For all classes, spelling homework is set every Friday and then tested every following Thursday. We cannot stress enough the importance of regular reading at home, along with times tables and spelling practice. These are a crucial element of your child's weekly homework. Experience and research tell us that the impact of these on children's academic development cannot be underestimated. If you are in any doubt about the effect that your support has on your child's education and life chances, please look at table below.

WHY READ FOR 20 MINUTES AT HOME EACH DAY?		
Pupil A reads	Pupil B reads	Pupil C reads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 minutes per day • 3,600 minutes per school year • 1,800,000 words per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 minutes per day • 900 minutes per school year • 282,000 words per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 minute per day • 180 minutes per school year • 8,000 words per year
• Scores in the top 10% of national assessments	• Scores in the top 50% of national assessments	• Scores in the bottom 10% of national assessments
If a child starts reading for 20 minutes per night in Reception, by the end of Year 6, Pupil A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Pupil B will have read for 12 school days and Pupil C will have read for 3 school days.		
WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? IT'S SIMPLE - READ!		

Reading logs will be checked weekly. Children are expected to read a minimum of 5 times per week and reading diaries should be signed by an adult to confirm that this has happened. We may ask children to stay in and read during break-times if they persistently do not hand in their reading log or if it does not show that they have read the required number of times.

Returning to school after a long summer can be a nerve-wracking experience for children and caregivers alike, especially if your child is new to primary school. To help make that transition as stress-free as possible, here are a few useful tips that can help ease those first-day nerves:

- Get your children excited about going to school by preparing as much as possible for the day. This can include packing their school bag with everything they need and lining up their uniform.
- Ask them about some of the new curriculum topics they'll be taught during the year to get them curious about their subjects. Starting a discussion is an easy way to inspire excitement amongst the children and help them grow more enthusiastic about their lessons.
- Encourage the children to share any worries or concerns they may be feeling about going back to school. No problem is too small, and encouraging open conversation is the best policy for easing anxiety. This might involve writing a list which parents and caregivers can look through and see what advice to give.

Once again, welcome back to school – I am confident that this will be another fantastic year!

With every best wish

Mark

FORTNITE

I am concerned that during a Year 1 lesson today a number of children were able to talk about how they are playing Fortnite. As this is a 12+ game and children in Year 1 are 5/6yrs old you hopefully share my concerns.

I recognise that, as parents, it is very difficult to know which games are suitable and which are not, especially as we as adults are not playing the games.

Fortnite is immensely popular at the moment (with merchandise such as toys, cards and lunchboxes on sale!) and whilst it does not appear as aggressive as other games as it is bright and the characters are cartoonish, it is in fact an aggressive concept.

My concerns in particular relate to

- the addictiveness of the game and the amount of time that children are spending on it
- the fact that the children are playing 'live' with potentially 100 other people. We do not know who they are, indeed, they could be adults!!
- the chat facility which means that players can be exposed to offensive language or mature content from strangers.
- the violence and use of guns and weapons
- the rewards and incentives within the game which children get for killing people!!
- the in-game purchases which can put parents into financial difficulties

Primary children are at a very impressionable age and we do not want the violence and language to become embedded in their psyche as this can be very dangerous. Indeed, schools are already seeing the impact that this is having on some children's behaviour in school.

Sadly, at present, as a school, we have very young children coming into school knowing more about the characters in Fortnite than they do about Fairy Tale Characters!! We appreciate that this may be because they have older siblings and are, therefore, more likely to be exposed to these but it is very important that parents are responsible and vigilant and know the dangers that you may unwittingly be exposing your children to.

As a school community, with our children's welfare a concern to us all, I know that parents would be grateful for this overview.

HELP TOMMY SUPPORT THE KENT SURREY SUSSEX AIR AMBULANCE



On October 5th Tommy Glue from Hazel Class is taking part in the Heli Hike to raise money for the air ambulance. Tommy is raising money for Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) by walking to keep my local Air Ambulance flying. He was keen for this after meeting some of the team at the town cup polo and loves watching them on TV

Tommy would love it if people could help him raise money for the air ambulance.

The funds raised from his walk will help KSS to continue saving lives across Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Below is the link for his fundraising page. He can also receive offline donations also.

<https://aakss.enthuse.com/pf/sabrina-glue/post/8922208>

LETTERS HOME

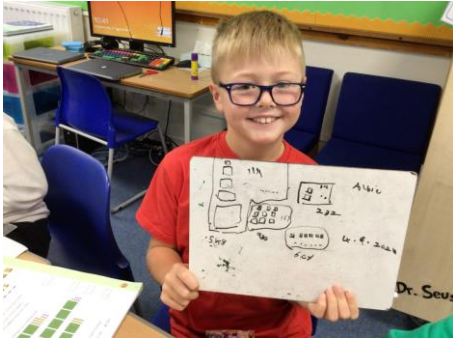
As it is the start of the new term, during next week you will be receiving a lot of extra information and forms to complete – with the exception of our Reception children who have already provided much of this already. This includes a new contact form for you all to complete and return. You could argue that this is duplicated information, but family situations do change along with mobile numbers, and it is a vital part of our Safeguarding that we have the most up to date details in school so please help us to keep your child safe.

I would also ask you to speak to our amazing office team about any new medical issues or allergies we need to be made aware of.

All children will be bringing home an Acceptable Use document for you to read, discuss with your child and return to school signed. This is centred around our expectations regarding using the internet and our policy on digital images and video in school.

If your child is in Year 3 you will also receive a copy of the Home-School Agreement. This is an agreement that all children and parents sign when they join our school in Reception, however we feel it is important to revisit this as your child moves into Keystage 2 at the start of Year 3, particularly as your children have a better understanding of the school and our expectations. We would welcome you spending some time with your child reading through the agreement before signing and returning them to school.

FANTASTIC START FROM BEECH CLASS



What a fantastic start we have had in Beech Class. The children have settled in well and I am proud of their achievements. Here they are in maths working at place value with numbers to 1000. They have listened well and all tried their hardest. I look forward to another great week – *Mrs Griffiths*

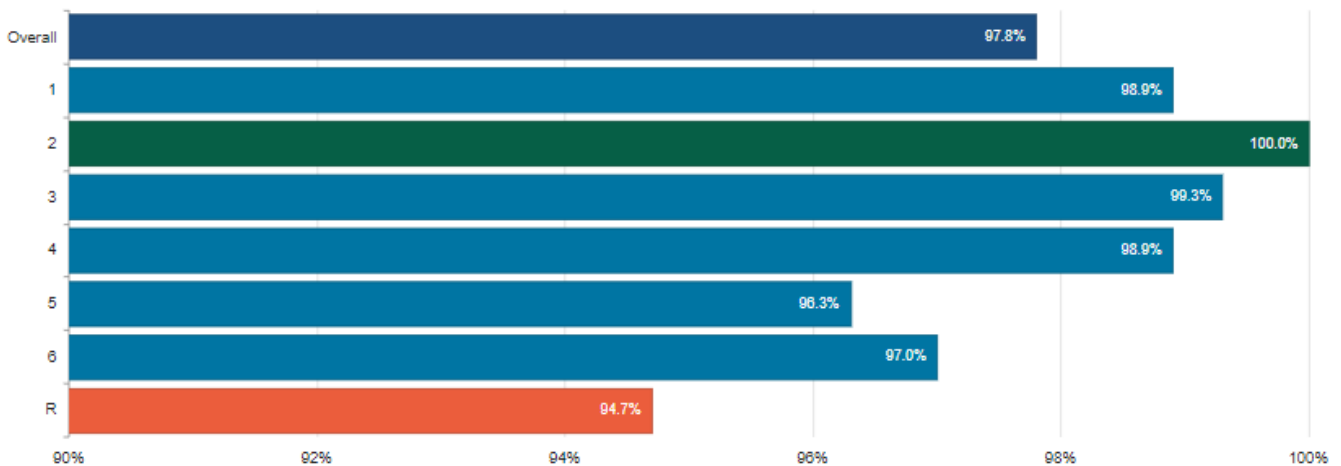
BEHAVIOUR POINTS

Congratulations to Hazel Class for gaining the most Reward Points this week with 237 points. Well done Hazel Class on a great start to the new year!



WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

This week's overall attendance is 97.8%, 2.8% above our target of 95%. Great start!



THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE CHAMPION

Once again, congratulations to Hazel Class, this week's attendance champions with 100%

DIARY DATES

Date	Event/Activity	Details
Monday 9 th September	Hazel and Beech - PE today Dance club	Please come in PE kit 3.30-4.30pm
Tuesday 10 th September	Acorns, Birch & Hazel - PE today	Please come in PE kit
Wednesday 11 th September	Maple, Beech, Pine & Oak - PE today Dance club	Please come in PE kit 3.30-4.30pm
Thursday 12 th September	Birch & Oak - PE today Forest schools	Please come in PE kit Year 6 group 1 (please bring kit)
Friday 13 th September	Maple & Pine PE today Pine Class – 5 ways to wellbeing Forest Schools	Please come in PE kit Year 6 group 2 (please bring kit)
Monday 16 th September	Hazel and Beech - PE today Dance club	Please come in PE kit 3.30-4.30pm
Tuesday 17 th September	Acorns, Birch & Hazel - PE today	Please come in PE kit
Wednesday 18 th September	Maple, Beech & Pine PE today Oak class - MRC Experience day Dance club	Please come in PE kit 9.30 - 2pm – packed lunch and coats required as children will be walking to MRC 3.30-4.30pm
Thursday 19 th September	Birch & Oak - PE today Forest schools	Please come in PE kit Year 6 group 1 (please bring kit)
Friday 20 th September	Maple & Pine PE today Forest schools	Please come in PE kit Year 6 group 1 (please bring kit)