



Dates for the Diary

Spring Term

Monday 22nd to Thursday 25th January – Reception National Child Measurement Programme
Thursday 25th January – Coffee Morning 9:00-10:00am
Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th February 2024 – Parent/Carer Evening – individual appointment slots.
Thursday 15th February – SEN Bike Club
Friday 16th February – Last day of term
Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February – Half term holidays
Monday 26th February – First day back for children 8:30am

Attendance Matters

Congratulations to:

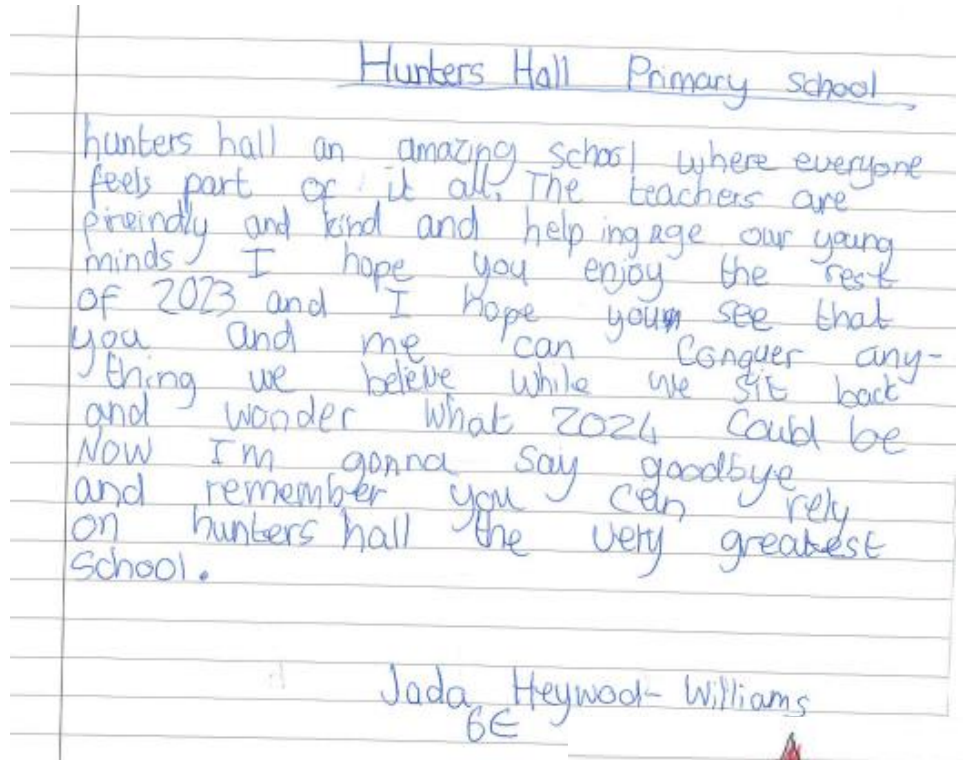
1KS, 3R & 4T with attendance above 96%

Attendance

Class 4T	97.71
Class 3R	96.92
Class 1KS	96.31
Class 2D	95.63
Class 4N	95.24
Class 4G	95.20
Class 1H	94.96
Class 6AM	94.89
Class 3Z	94.88
Class 6E	93.82
Class 5N	93.75
Class 5A	93.66
Class 6D	92.70
Class 5H	91.98
Class 1L	90.11
Class 2CR	88.93
Class RH	88.79
Class 2K	88.69
Class 3G	87.80
Class FM NURSERY	79.55
Class RR	77.66
Class RGM	77.22
Class AM NURSERY	74.29
Class FT Nursery	59.33

Dear Parent/Carer,

I thought that I would let Jada's words from 6E be my message this week.

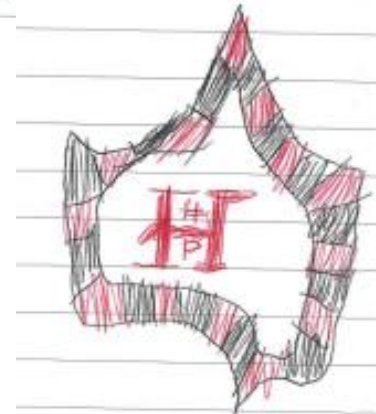


Let's indeed see what 2024 has in store for all of us. Remember that we can be the catalyst for change.

This week, I was delighted to discover that one young lady in Year 4 has received a Blue Peter badge. A copy of Sophia's letter is within this edition of Snippets.



Have a wonderful weekend!
Michael Kaitell, Headteacher








Importance of eating breakfast

Please make sure your children have breakfast at home as it really is the most important meal of the day. With its benefits to mental well-being, skills needed to do well in school, physical health and lifestyle benefits, eating breakfast looks like an easy way for students to improve.



Team Points

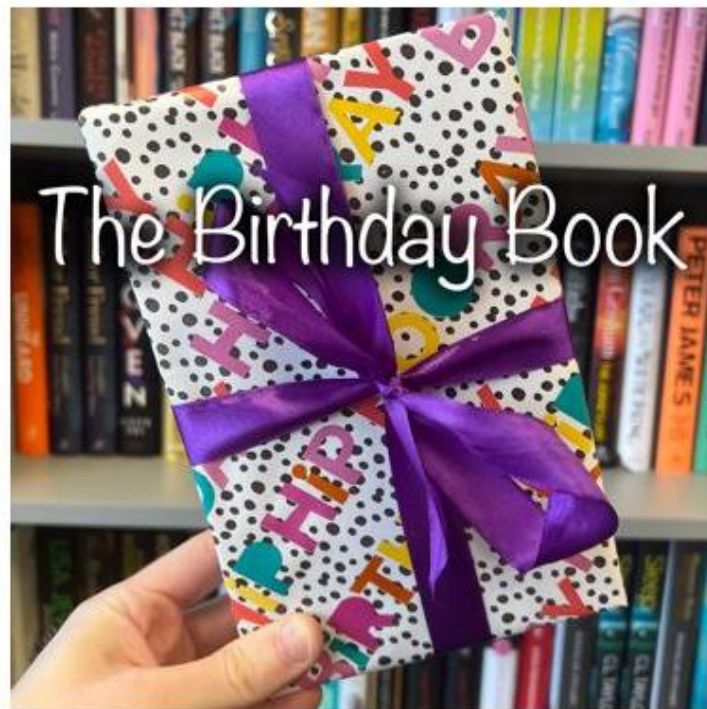
TEAM POINTS		
	Tigers	850
	Bears	728
	Wolves	714
	Sharks	780
	Komodo Dragon	852

Birthday Celebrations

Please remember that as a Healthy School we do not expect parents/carers to purchase party bags when celebrating their child's birthday with their classmates. Instead, if you wish to share the celebrations, we ask for a donation of a book. This book will have a special birthday certificate placed inside and the book will be shared with the class.

This book celebrates the birthday of _____

who is currently in class _____



Gold Award Debit Card Recipients

Each week we publish any recipients of the new Gold Award Debit Card.

Gold Award Recipients

Name	Class

School Uniform

School uniform can be purchased from 3:00-4:00pm in the dining hall. The dates vary throughout the year.

In a hope to reduce the cost of school uniform, from September, you will have the option to purchase iron-on badges for plain white polo shirts and plain red jumpers. Badges will cost £1.20 and should make uniform more affordable.

Uniform can also be purchased online:

www.schooluniformdirect.org.uk/schools/product-category/schools-and-clubs/hunters-hall-primary/

Or Telephone: 01992 763679 / Email: info@schooluniformdirect.org.uk



Parent Hub

We would like all parents/carers to join us on Parent Hub.

Parent Hub is a FREE app that helps keep you up to date with what's going on at school. You'll receive messages, pictures, documents and newsletters, all in one handy place.



1. Download the Parent Hub app from your app store (iPhone or Android).
2. Create yourself an account.
3. Choose "Add a School" and enter:

@HuntersHallIPS

How to translate messages in the Parent Hub app (guidance for schools)

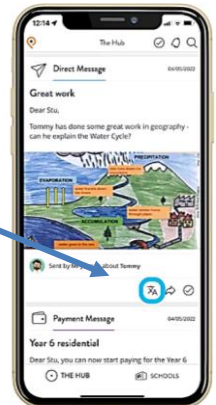
In the app, parents just tap the 'translate' button in the bottom right of a message.

This applies to old messages, as well as new ones.

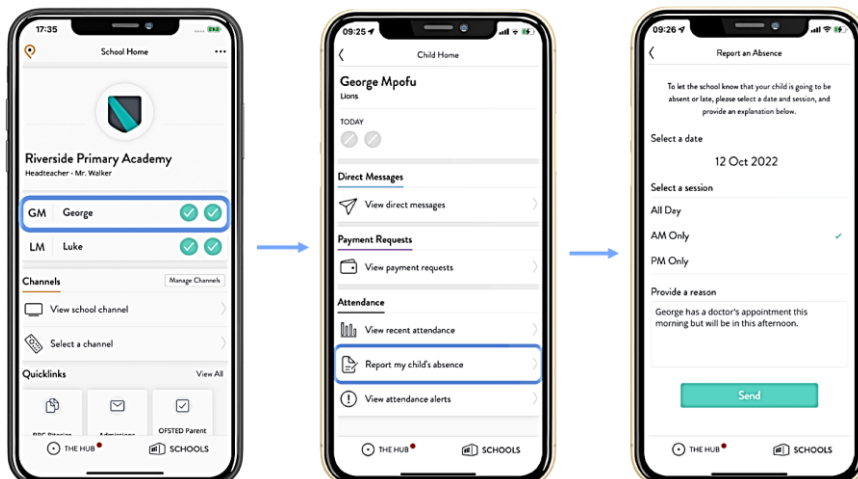
link below for a useful guide.

<https://support.parenthub.co.uk/hc/en-us/articles/6172951020689-How-to-translate-messages-in-the-Parent-Hub-app>

To find out more, click the



Reporting absence



Uniform Reminder & PE Days 2023-2024

During the course of this academic year, we are phasing out some of our school uniform in an effort to make it more affordable for our parent body.

Our school uniform provider now sells school badges for £1.20 so that you are able to purchase plain white polo shirts/ plain red jumpers/cardigans and iron on the badge. (Our current provider will continue to sell their stock of red and grey uniform items and staff has been informed that it is a gradual phase out)

We have reduced the number of days that children require their school uniform by allowing them to wear their PE kit on two days of the week. (You will be notified if there is a special day such as school photographs so that you can ensure that children are dressed appropriately.)

School Uniform

White Polo Shirt (with logo/ iron-on badge)

Red jumper/ Cardigan (with logo/ iron-on badge)

Grey school trousers/ skirt/ shorts

Summer Dress

Plain black shoes/ trainers



PE Kit

Plain white t-shirt

Red shorts

Red/ Grey jogging bottoms

Red fleece

Black plimsolls



PE Days 2023-2024

PE Days

Year Group	PE Day 1	PE Day 2
Reception	Thursday	
Year 1	Monday	Tuesday
Year 2	Monday	Wednesday
Year 3	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 4	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 5	Tuesday	Friday
Year 6	Tuesday	Thursday

Swimming is part of the national curriculum. Children in Year 4 and 6 are offered swimming lessons. From time to time, other selected pupils are given the opportunity.

Children must have a suitable swimming costume, a towel and a swimming hat.

This year, we will be operating a mobile swimming pool on the school site during June and July. |



05 January 2024

Your card number is 2678135

Dear Sophia

Thank you for getting in touch with us at Blue Peter. We were interested to read your thoughts on Robinson Crusoe. If you're looking for more to read, you can visit the Blue Peter Book Club on our website for suggestions, fun book quizzes and to join the chat.

Please find enclosed your Blue Peter Book Badge designed by Sir Quentin Blake, which is especially for Blue Peter viewers who have opened up a book and shared in the joy of reading. We hope you will enjoy wearing it!

You'll also receive a Blue Peter Badge Card, to gain free access to over 200 Blue Peter Badge Attractions throughout the UK. Please be aware that Badge Cards are issued on a monthly basis and it could take up to 6 weeks for you to receive yours.

With best wishes from Joel, Abby, Henry and all of us at Blue Peter.

Yours sincerely

Ellen Evans
Editor
BLUE PETER

It's
each a Book Badge



British Broadcasting Corporation Blue Peter MediaCityUK Salford M50 2BH

E-mail bluepeter@bbc.co.uk Website www.bbc.co.uk/bluepeter

For information how the BBC will process your personal data when applying for a Blue Peter Badge, please read the Blue Peter Badges Privacy Notice: www.bbc.co.uk/1/mediacentre/2013/01/blue-peter-badges-privacy-notice



Coffee Morning

Dear Parents/Carers

Come join me for a
coffee/tea and a chat

on

Thursday 25th January 2024

from

9:00-10:00 am

in our Dining Hall

Looking forward to seeing as
many of you as possible.

Patrick Bellevue

Family Support Worker



Who's Who? Miss Phillips

Why do you work at Hunters Hall?

I work at Hunters Hall because I like children. I like teaching them new things and having fun. I've got lots of energy and can play games over and over again without getting bored!

What's your role?

I work in Breakfast Club and I also work in our Nursery with Mrs McCarthy and the rest of the nursery staff.

Favourite things...

I like Disney films and I also enjoy watching the Harry Potter films. I've lost count of how many times I've watched them. I think I am quite creative so I like making things. I really enjoy doing face painting and creating characters with makeup.

Own School Memories

I am an ex pupil of Hunters Hall. My favourite memories include singing in the playground with my friend, putting on shows for the teacher, school trips and ... lunchtimes!

Hopes & Dreams

Family are really important to me so I would like to have a family of my own. I would really like to visit every Disneyland in the world. So far I've visited Paris and Orlando.

How long have you been at Hunters Hall?

I've worked at Hunters Hall for 8 years. I started as a Midday Assistant and then was taken on as a 1:1 Support. After that I became a Teaching Assistant in Year 1, then 4 then Reception and now Nursery.

Achievements to date (in order)

I am dyslexic so I had to work extra hard at school and college to learn. I'm proud that I achieved a level 3 in child care and now work in a school. I know how it feels to struggle to learn to read so I can help.

I was meant to run the London Marathon but due to the lockdown in 2020, it was cancelled. I had trained so hard for it that I ran the marathon anyway – 26.3 miles around the streets of Dagenham. I raised £800 for a charity called Bliss for premature babies.



Young Writers Competitions

We have so many talented writers that it would be great if they can enter one or more of the Young Writers' Competitions.

EYFS

My First Poem

youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/eyfs/mfp24?view=ind

Reception

Me & My Family

youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/eyfs/family?view=ind

KS1 The Poetry Bus youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS1/bus24?view=ind

KS2 Once Upon a Dream

youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS2/once24?view=ind

All Ages

Winter Wonderland

youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/all-ages/winter-wonderland-24?view=ind

The Spook Squad

youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS2/ghost-stories-u12



Ideal for ages: 5-7

The Poetry Bus 2024

Get pupils inspired to write amazing poems by hopping on board The Poetry Bus!

SCHOOLS



PARENTS



Ideal for ages: 4-5

Me and My Family

Get your reception pupils drawing with this brand-new art competition!

SCHOOLS



PARENTS



Ideal for: EYFS

My First Poem 2024

My First Poem is a fun and engaging way to introduce poetry to your children...

SCHOOLS



PARENTS



Ideal for ages: 4-18

Winter Wonderland 2024

Whatever your thoughts about wintertime, write a poem in any style and let us know!

SCHOOLS



PARENTS



The Spook Squad (For 5-11 Year-Olds)



5-12 Years

What lurks in your child's imagination...? Get them involved today in this ghost story writing competition for writers aged 5-11 years!

Open All Year

VIEW



Once Upon A Dream 2024



7-12 Years

Set imaginations alight with Once Upon A Dream, the poetry competition that encourages creativity and gives 7-12 year-olds a purpose to write.

Closing Date
Friday 10th February 2024

SCHOOLS



PARENTS



Enter our Design a Sustainable School Competition

Calling all children aged 5-11! We want to see how the next generation of learners would design a sustainable school that would fit into a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

The winning pupils will secure funding through the **British Gas Positive Energy Grants** to help their school become more sustainable and accessible!

In addition to **1 x school receiving £15,000** and **4 x schools receiving £2,500**, they will also receive expert advice from British Gas on how to make their school more energy efficient, as well as advice from ParalympicsGB on how to make it more accessible to everyone.

Find out more in our FAQs.

Download our competition entry pack

Terms and conditions apply

Download the competition entry pack here:

https://getset.scdn4.secure.raxcdn.com/media/view/GSPE/Competition_pack.zip?0=2



MAYOR OF LONDON

Date: 9 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the new term begins, I wanted to share some fantastic news about my Universal Free School Meals programme – it's extending until the middle of 2025!

As the Mayor of London, I'm so proud we've funded more than 17 million free school meals for around 287,000 primary school children in London since September.

However, I know times are still tough for many Londoners and I am committed to doing all that I can to support families through these difficult times.

I am now extending funding for Universal Free School Meals for another academic school year between September 2024 and July 2025. This means that primary school aged children who attend a state funded school in London will continue to receive a healthy, nutritious meal so that no child goes hungry in the classroom, and all pupils can better concentrate on their studies.

I am also increasing the amount of money boroughs and schools receive to £3 per meal. The grant that I provide is now 18.5% higher than the offer from national Government for Universal Infant Free School Meals.

This extension will provide a safety net for families and could save parents and carers up to £1,000 per child across the two years.

Eating a nutritious meal everyday is hugely beneficial to children and families both in the short and long term. As someone who received free school meals myself growing up, I know they can be a lifeline, helping children to reach their full potential.



MAYOR OF LONDON

As Mayor of London, I also fundamentally believe that feeding our children shouldn't be an optional luxury but should rank as one of our society's top priorities. Making sure our children are properly fed and healthy is vital to building a better London for everyone – a city that is fairer, safer, more inclusive and more prosperous for all. This is why I will continue to call on the Government to step forward and provide the funding needed to make our Universal Free School Meal programme permanent.

Even though your child is receiving their free school meals automatically, it is still vitally important – if you have not done so already – to complete your school or borough's short registration form in case your child is eligible for extra funding for their school from the Government, worth over £1,300 per year. That's more money for extracurricular activities, teacher development and support for children who need it most. This will ensure you'll also receive any other benefits you may be entitled to, like food vouchers during the holidays. Ask your school for more info or visit your borough website.

For more information about this and anything else about the scheme please visit our online hub: <https://www.london.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Families who are having difficulties with their financial situation can also access advice and support by visiting my cost-of-living hub here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/communities-and-social-justice/help-cost-living>

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2024. I will continue to do everything I can to support families across London.

Warmest wishes,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE
mayor@london.gov.uk • london.gov.uk • 020 7983 4000

<https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-mayor-does/priorities-london/free-school-meals>

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CALENDAR 2024



JANUARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Key

- * Holy day that usually begins in the evening or at sunset of the previous day
- ** Date may vary to this because of religious customs
- Religious/cultural ■ Awareness and events ■ Public holiday

January is cervical cancer awareness month, celebration of life month, Alcohol Change UK's dry January and thyroid awareness month.

■ Religious/cultural

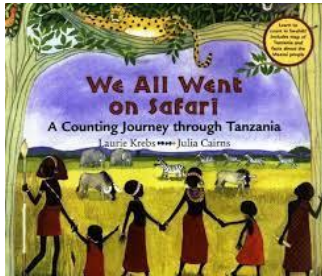
- 1 - Solemnity of Mary, mother of God *Catholic Christian*
- 1 - Gantan-sai (new year) *Shinto*
- 5 - Twelfth night *Christian*
- 6 - Epiphany *Christian*
- 7 - Feast of the nativity *Orthodox Christian*
- 7 - Baptism of the lord Jesus *Catholic Christian*
- 8 - Seijin no Hi *Shinto*
- 13 - Lohri/Maghi *Hindu and Sikh*
- 14 - Old new year *Orthodox Christian*
- 15 - Makar Sankranti ** *Hindu*
- 15-18 - Pongal ** *Hindu*
- 17 - Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh *Sikh*
- 18-25 - Week of prayer for Christian unity *Christian*
- 20 - Timkat *Ethiopian Orthodox Christian*
- 25 - Conversion of saint Paul *Christian*
- 25 - Thaipusam ** *Hindu*
- 25 - Tu BiShvat * *Judaism*
- 25-27 - Mahayana new year ** *Buddhist*

■ Awareness and events

- 4 - World braille day
- 15 - Martin Luther King Jr day
- 21 - World religion day
- 24 - International day of education
- 25 - Robert Burns night (Burns night)
- 27 - Holocaust memorial day

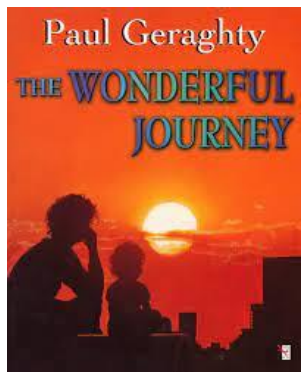
Reading for Pleasure Matters at Hunters Hall

We are currently thinking about stories set in different countries. Come and see our Reading Around the World display. Here are our next three stories set in three different countries. Have you got a favourite story that is set in a different country? Please let us know so we can add it to our library.



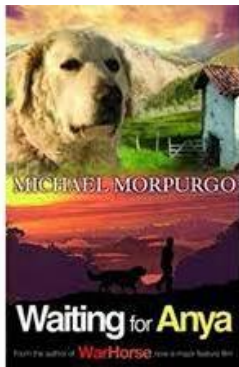
Reading interest: 4-8

'We all Went on Safari' by Laurie Krebs and Julia Cairns is set in Tanzania. It is a counting picture book with a rhyming text. The children in Reception were interested in the animal facts at the end of the book and how to count in Swahili.



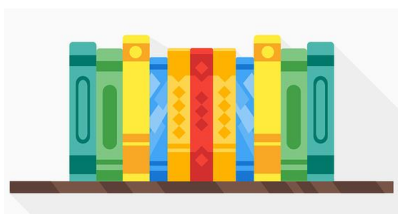
Reading interest: 8-12

'The Wonderful Journey' by Paul Geraghty is set in South Africa, the land of his birth. Sam's Grandma tells him stories from far away places. When it is time for Grandma to leave, Sam knows he can close his eyes and will be able to see her, just by remembering her stories.



Reading interest: 10-adult

'The Wonderful Journey' by Michael Morpurgo is set in France during World War II. Jo discovers that Jewish children are being smuggled away from the Nazis and into Spain. The story explores the bravery of the individuals that stood up and did what was right. A real page turner!





FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS

INSPIRING ACTIVITY

Premier Education



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
or visit premier-education.com/holiday-camps



Trustpilot
Based on over 20,000 reviews

Premier Camps Near You

Manor Junior School - Barking Multi Activity Camp
9am - 3pm
19th - 23rd February

St Mary's Primary School - Hornchurch Multi Activity Camp
9am - 3pm
19th - 23rd February

Sacred Heart of Mary's - Upminster Multi Activity Camp
9am - 4pm
19th - 23rd February
Gymnastics - 19th, 21st & 23rd 9am - 12pm
Dance - 20th & 22nd - 9am - 12pm

PLEASE BRING

Plenty of water
Suitable clothing
Loads of energy!

Mix it up this half-term with our multi-activity holiday camps!

These camps are a perfect blend of activities for all ages, combining different sports with a variety of team games.

Everyday is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before - from roller skating to fencing, lacrosse to cheer.

30% discount till 2nd February!

Book now for a half term full of fun!



Scan here for more information



Or visit www.premiereducation.com/holidaycamps Based on over 20,000 reviews

Warmer Clothing Reminder





As winter approaches the days are getting darker, wetter and colder, it's time for the winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves to be worn.

We have had a selection of children's coats, hats, scarves and gloves donated to us. We recognise this is an expensive time of year and our children are all still growing.

If you need winter items for your child/children, please contact **Mr Bellevue** who will be happy to support you to access the donations.




Toy Donations



Second Hand Toy Donation

If you have any unwanted toys in good condition, please donate to the school.

Items such as...



Wooden Puzzles

Fidget toys

Sensory baby & toddler toys



Mental Health Support Team



Who are we?

We are four Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP), offering early intervention for young people with mild to moderate difficulties. Our team work closely with young people, parents, and school staff to think together about ways to improve mental wellbeing within your school environment

Who do we work with?

Parents or Carers of pupils from reception to year 6 with mild-moderate levels of:

- **Anxiety** (e.g. fears, phobias, feeling panicky)
- **Challenging behaviour** (e.g. struggling to follow rules, temper tantrums, difficulty following requests)

Whole classes or year groups (delivering assemblies and workshops)



Aims of our Team

- Provide early psychological support
- Support the school's whole-school approach to wellbeing
- Signposting to specialist service

For more information please speak to your mental health lead or get in touch MHST.BD@nelft.nhs.uk



BREAKFAST CLUB



Our breakfast club is open term time only Monday to Friday, 7:45 to 8:30am.

No booking is required, you can turn up on the day and pay.

The charge is **£3** per day, you are required to accompany your child into our breakfast club and stay with them until they have been marked in on our daily register.

You are required to have the correct money for payment.

Please note that payments in advance are non-refundable and non-transferable therefore if you choose to pay in advance and your child does not attend you lose that money.



WANTED

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

DONATIONS NEEDED

A big thank you to everyone who has previously donated. We always need more good quality second hand uniform items. Has your child grown out of theirs? Please donate to the school and come along to one of our sales for bargain replacements!

Winter coats and shoes also welcome.

Please bring any donations in a bag to the school office.



Thank you



DHP Scheme

Are you struggling to afford your rent payments?



Do you have rent arrears?

Do you need help with a deposit?

Help is available through the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham's Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) scheme

Visit <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/discretionary-hardship-support/discretionary-housing-payments-dhp>

To find out more and apply online

You must be in receipt of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit housing costs to qualify for a DHP



Barking & Dagenham

Household Support Fund

Are you struggling with the rising cost of living?



Do you have utility debts?

Help is available to support the rising cost of living for energy & utility costs, food and other emergency need through the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham's Hardship schemes

Visit <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/discretionary-hardship-support/hardship-payment-schemes/household-support-fund>

to find out more and apply online



Barking & Dagenham



MINI ROCKERS

FOR RECEPTION TO YEAR 2

Fun and inclusive in-school rock and pop band lessons, for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. No experience or instrument required.



ROCK HEROES

FOR YEARS 3 AND 4

Fun and inclusive in-school rock and pop band lessons, for Years 3 and 4. No experience or instrument required.



ROCK ICONS

FOR YEARS 5 AND 6

Fun and inclusive in-school rock and pop band lessons, for Years 5 and 6. No experience or instrument required.

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/info-for-parents>

- ✓ **Learn to play in a band**
Learning an instrument should be fun. Your child can choose from the electric guitar, keyboard, drums or vocals and enjoy playing in a happy, supportive environment with their friends.
- ✓ **Lead by real musicians**
Your child's music teacher should also be their role model. Which is why all Rocksteady Band Leaders are carefully chosen, extensively trained musicians who know how to inspire a life-long love of playing music.
- ✓ **In school time**
Lessons are 30 minutes long and take place in school time with all instruments provided, making it hassle-free for parents.
- ✓ **From first notes to favourite songs**
The Rocksteady Programme is for all children aged 4-11 and is proven to progress musicianship, confidence and teamwork skills with no prior experience necessary.
- ✓ **With regular live performances**
Playing on stage is a huge confidence booster. With termly concerts at school assemblies, your child will be able to show off their progress to friends, teachers and parents with the rest of their band.
- ✓ **And happily affordable**
Rocksteady is one of the most hassle-free ways to learn an instrument on a rolling subscription that you can cancel at any time. It's risk free too – cancel in the first month and you'll get a full refund.

Call 0330 113 0330