



Dates for the Diary

Spring Term

Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th February 2024 – Parent/Carer Evening – individual appointment slots.
Thursday 15th February – SEND 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 the classes in green:

Class FT Nursery	98.33
Class 1L	96.67
Class 3G	96.12
Class 1KS	95.83
Class 6D	95.50
Class 5N	95.00
Class 2CR	94.83
Class 6E	94.83
Class 2D	94.64
Class 5H	94.20
Class 1H	93.75
Class 5A	93.75
Class 4G	93.33
Class 6AM	93.27
Class 2K	92.92
Class 3Z	90.74
Class 4T	90.52
Class RR	90.22
Class RGM	89.42
Class RH	89.00
Class AM NURSERY	87.50
Class 4N	83.93
Class PM NURSERY	83.72
Class 3R	65.52

Dear Parent/Carer,

Well done to those of you who “swam” to school this week(!) Quite a bit of flash flooding has been interesting to say the least and meant that our school community has navigated their way to ensure that they are in school for teaching and learning to take place. The ongoing roadworks did not deter us either.

Next week, I am looking forward to seeing most of you at the parent/carers evenings. Once again, apologies to the classes whose evenings have been postponed due to staff absence.

As it is Shrove Tuesday on the 13th, the school meal service will be serving pancakes as the dessert. Don't forget to select your child's meals on ParentPay.

Talking Mental Health is an animation designed to help begin conversations about mental health in the classroom and beyond.

TALKING
MENTAL
HEALTH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCrjv3-Js>

This week, we have been focusing even more on the topic of mental health. One of our key ambitions for our children is to empower them to talk openly about their feelings and emotions, and be able to use the toolkit that they develop when overcoming obstacles and challenges that affect their mood and wellbeing.

Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- 1 We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' – sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- 2 I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- 3 Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- 4 Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- 5 Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- 6 Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying – I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- 7 Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me – I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- 8 If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- 9 Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age – my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school – because they 'get it'.
- 10 Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

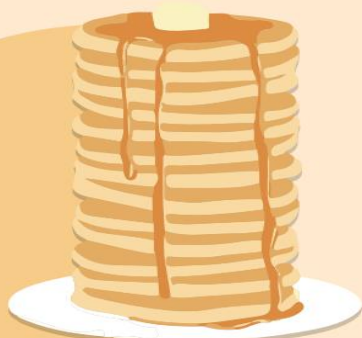
These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

📌 For primary children: bit.ly/3PzCG18

📌 For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wK

PANCAKE DAY

Tuesday 13th February 2024



TEAM POINTS



Tigers

506



Bears

775



Wolves

640



Sharks

528



Komodo Dragon

603

Gold Award Debit Card Recipients

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

Gold Award Recipients

Name	Class
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Health Reminder - Scarlet Fever/ Strep A



UK Health Security Agency

Fact sheet for schools and parents about Group A Streptococcus (GAS) and Scarlet Fever

What is Group A Streptococcus?

Group A Streptococcus or *Streptococcus pyogenes* is a bacterium that can be found in the throat and on the skin. People may carry it and have no symptoms of illness or may develop infection.

How is it spread?

Group A Streptococcus survives in throats and on skin for long enough to allow easy spread between people through sneezing and skin contact. People who are currently carrying the bacteria in the throat or on the skin may have symptoms of illness or they may have no symptoms and feel fine. In both cases, these bacteria can be passed on to others.

What kinds of illnesses are caused by Group A Streptococcus?

Most Group A Streptococcus illnesses are relatively mild, with symptoms including a sore throat ("strep throat"), scarlet fever or a skin infection such as impetigo. However, on rare occasions, these bacteria can cause other severe and sometimes life-threatening diseases.

Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others. Children should **stay at home until at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment** to avoid spreading the infection.

The **symptoms** of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On brown and black skin, it might be harder to see a change in colour, but you can still feel the sandpaper-like texture of the rash and see the raised bumps.

Children who have had **chickenpox** or **influenza ('flu)** recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling). If you are concerned for any reason, please seek medical assistance immediately.

What is invasive Group A Streptococcal (iGAS) disease?

The same bacteria which cause scarlet fever can also cause a range of other types of infection such as skin infections (impetigo) and sore throat. In very rare cases, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive group A strep (iGAS). Whilst still very uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years old. It is very rare for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection.

As a parent, you should trust your own judgement.

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.

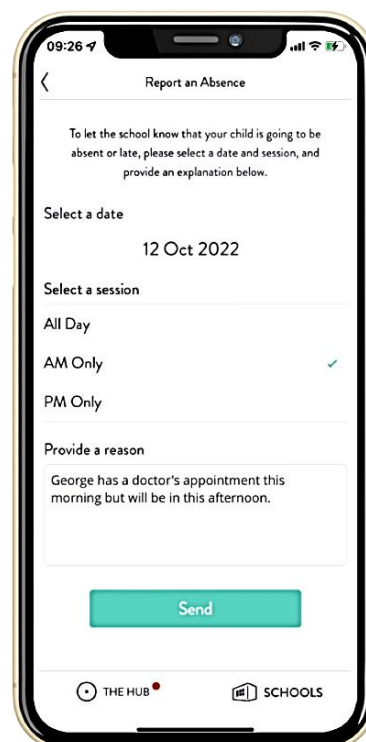
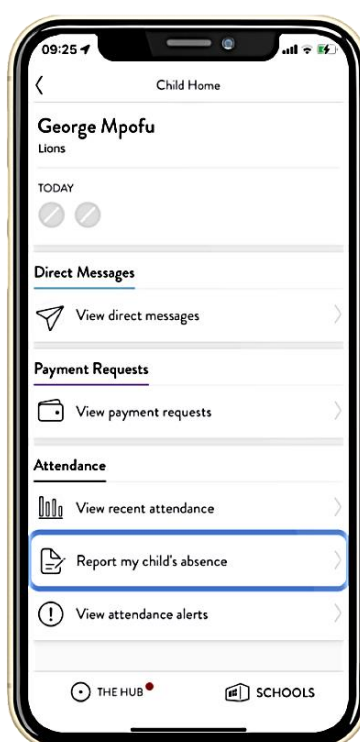
link below for a useful guide.

<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. |



EKF KYU GRADE, CHILDRENS AND VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024



Who's Who? Mrs Blease

Why do you work at Hunters Hall?

I came here as a cleaner 3 years ago and was made to feel so welcome. I instantly loved the school and wanted to work more closely with the children so I jumped at the chance when a teaching assistant position was offered to me.

What's your role?

I enjoy socialising with my family and friends. We go to concerts, listen to live bands and go to the theatre.

Favourite things...

My favourite holiday destination is the Balearic Islands. I am lucky enough to be going on holiday with my family this year and I can't wait! I also enjoy caravan holidays and as we have family in Skegness, I get to enjoy these quite often

Own School Memories

Most of my fond memories of school are during my primary school years. I loved drama the most and often starred in school plays!

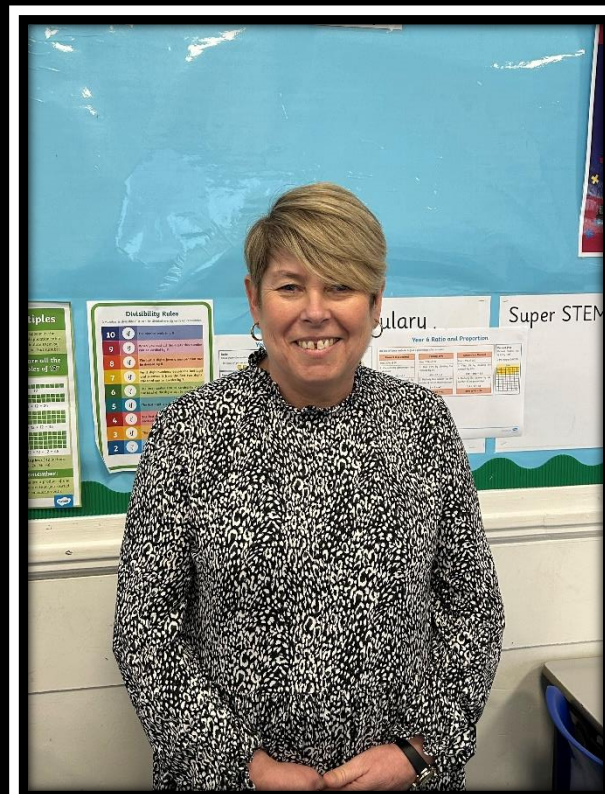
How long have you been at Hunters Hall?

I have worked at Hunters Hall for 3 years as a cleaner and this is my second school year working in the classroom. I am currently a one to one support in Year 3.

Achievements to date (in order)

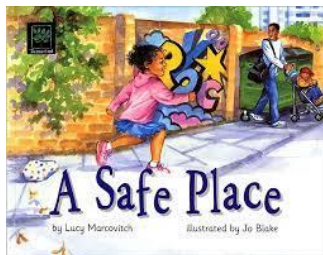
I have been married for 37 years, I have 3 lovely children and 4 grandchildren.

I am proud of myself for completing my qualifications throughout my 22-year career as a teaching assistant as I always found school work a challenge.



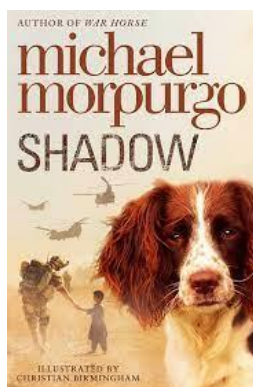
Reading for Pleasure Matters at Hunters Hall

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. Ms Caisey would particularly like to hear from a parent/carer or pupil who has a favourite children's book set in Romania, Lithuania, Albania or Bulgaria. The text does not have to be in English.



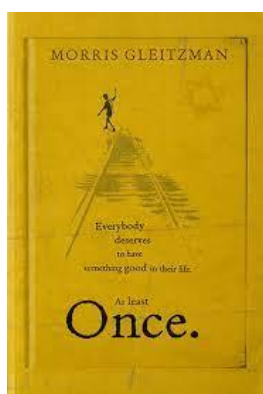
Reading interest: 4-8

'A Safe Place' by Lucy Markovitch is a story about a little girl who tries hard to keep granny's birthday present safe. That's not easy when the world is full of distractions. Set in London, England it's a good book for talking about journeys and different types of transport.



Reading interest: 8-12

'Shadow' by Michael Morpurgo begins in war torn Afghanistan. Aman and his mum befriend a springer spaniel. It is thin and starving but Aman nurses the dog back to health. As life in Afghanistan becomes more dangerous the three set off on the dangerous journey to a relative's home in Manchester England. This book is a gripping read.



Reading interest: 10-adult

'Once', by Morris Gleitzman is a story of an orphan boy called Felix. It is 1942 and Poland is no place for a Jewish boy. Can Felix keep one step ahead of the Nazis and find happiness, even if it is just once in his life?



Iron Men

Ted Hughes' "The Iron Man" has inspired our Year 4s to design and make their own version. If you would like to re-read the story or read it for the first time, click this link:

<https://www.etherleylane-pri.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/96/2021/06/The-Iron-Man.pdf>



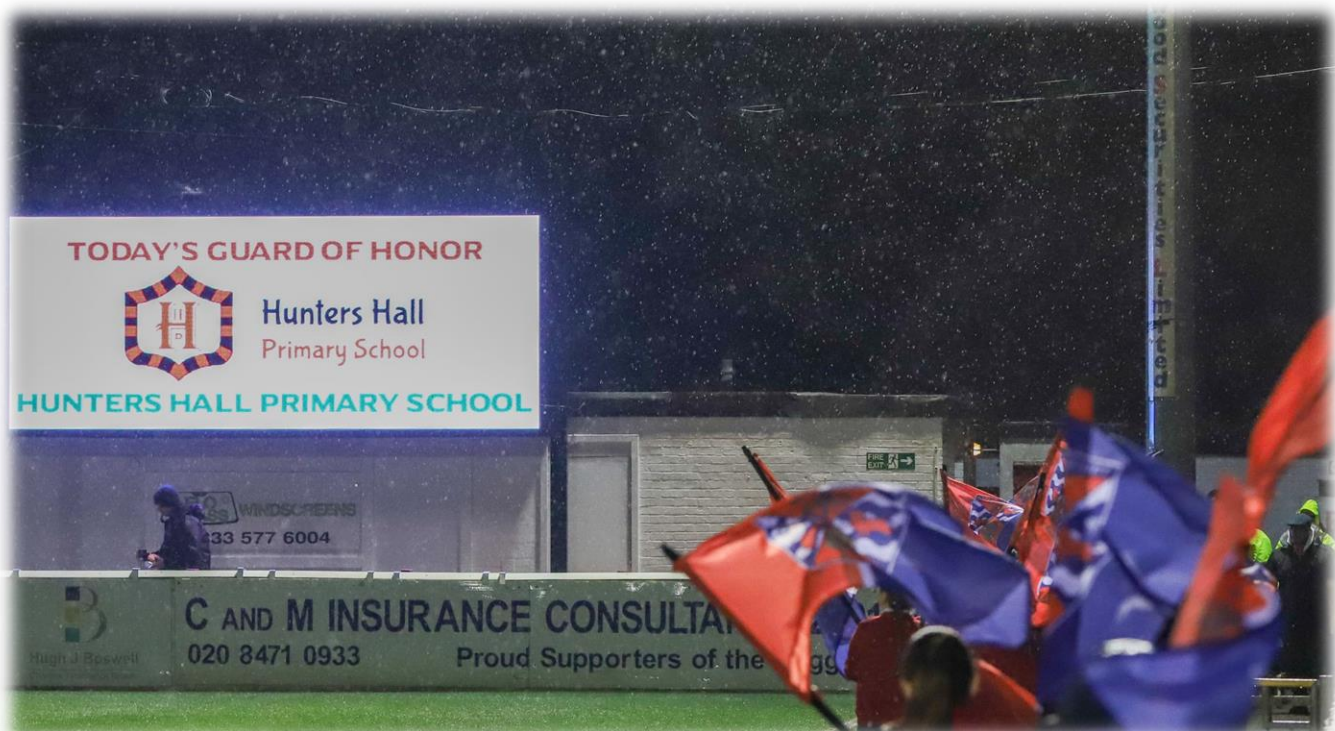
'Reckoned one of the greatest of modern fairy tales.' *Observer*

'Starts superbly with a clanking iron giant toppling from a cliff and lying smashed on the rocks below. Then his various parts get up and search for each other. Hughes has never written more compellingly.' *The Times*

Daggers' Guards of Honour



After school this week, a selection of our children were chosen to be guards of honour at Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club. This prestigious invitation meant that the children were allowed onto the pitch prior to kick-off.



ARP Fundraiser

Next week the ARP pupils will be selling bouncy balls and slinky springs at playtime to raise some funds and make a wish come true! The toys are 50p each and will be available in the ball and pagoda playgrounds to KS2 pupils. Please support the children in this fundraising activity if you can.



For Sale
Slinky Springs and bouncy balls
50p each

Where: ball and pagoda playground

When: Break

Date: 12th/16th of February.

Warning: Do not bounce the bouncy balls in the playground.



SATURDAY AFTERNOON PICTURES

MINUSCULE
VALLEY OF THE LOST ANTS

2.00pm

17 Feb 2024

Free, family friendly (but please prepare that seats are limited)

My Heathway, Unit 30, Dagenham Heathway Shopping

Fim Hub London LONDON FAN The National Lottery eFirst heathway shopping MY HEATHWAY

PLAY AND COMMUNICATE

0-5 YEARS WITH SPEECH & LANGUAGE NEEDS

CYPD-Hub

SIX WEEKS PROGRAM, THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS

Come along with your child to explore different range of activities that support their communication. You will meet other parents/guardians and you will be able to speak to professionals about concerns related to your child's growth and development for advice and suggestions. This session is for children with SEN/D.

<p>THURSDAYS: 4:00-5:30PM</p> <p>Click https://app.10to8.com/book/cypd-hub/1921925</p> <p>FRIDAYS: 10:00-11:30AM</p> <p>Click https://app.10to8.com/book/cypd-hub/1921928</p> <p>020 8227 5500/07849836795</p>	<p>Address: Becontree Community Hub Stevens Road Dagenham RM8 2QR Main Hall</p>
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CYPD Disability Hub

CYP-Disability Hub PRESENT

FABULOUS FEBRUARY

WHEN

TUESDAY 20TH, WEDNESDAY 21TH AND THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2024

WHERE

Becontree Community Hub

RM8 2QR

BOOKING INFORMATION:

Click on the link to book a place for your child/ren for Whacky Wednesday/Fun-tastic Thursday

<https://app.10to8.com/book/cypd-hub/1925262/>

For Sensory Tuesday click on:

<https://app.10to8.com/book/cypd-hub/1928459>

AGE AND ALLOCATED TIME SLOT: WHACKY WEDNESDAY AND FUN-TASTIC THURSDAY

10am – 11:00am (0-5years)
11:30am - 12:30am (6-10years)
2:00pm – 3:00pm (0-5years)
3:30pm – 4:30pm (6-10years)
5:00pm - 6:00pm (10+ years)

ACTIVITIES INCLUDES:

Fake snow
Bird feeder
Play dough.
Smash ice
Food decoration
Small world
Finger printing
Messy Play
Soft play area
Bikini and

SENSORY TUESDAY SLOT:

9:00AM – 9:30AM

10:00 - 10:30AM

11:00AM - 11:30AM

12:00PM - 12:30PM

2:00PM – 2:30PM

3:00PM – 3:30PM

4:00PM – 4:30PM

5:00PM – 5:30PM

PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK:

[HTTPS://APP.10TO8.COM/BOOK/CYPD-HUB/1928459](https://app.10to8.com/book/cypd-hub/1928459)

Our outdoor play area will be available for 30 mins following your sensory session.

Note: You're able to book 2 sessions per family, this includes sensory room. Please be advised, families that have failed to cancel activities during the schools out programme are limited to 1 bookable session however, you can be added to the waiting list.



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

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