Homer First School & Nursery

Newsletter – Thursday 22nd October

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have made a wonderful start to the new academic year, with lots already happening across the school. It has been a pleasure welcoming our new Nursery and Reception pupils, and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the families who have recently joined the Homer community.

Throughout the term, we have welcomed a variety of visitors to the school, all of whom have commented positively on our pupils' engagement, behaviour and attitudes to learning. Visitors have also praised the calm, purposeful atmosphere that is evident throughout the school, and we are incredibly proud of the way our children represent our school community.

Our weekly Stars Assemblies have provided many opportunities to celebrate pupils' achievements both in and out of school. This term's assemblies have focused on our Vision and Values, Homer Rules, NSPCC Speak out, stay safe, British Values and Black History Month, alongside a special Harvest assembly led by Rev. Walker. Thank you for all your harvest donations, Mrs Clark, Mrs Buckley and a team of our Eco Warriors delivered these to Windsor Foodshare.

Macmillan Coffee Morning was a huge success and one that brings the whole school community together. Thank you to our amazing Year 4 pupils for all your hard work and to all of you who supported this event. We raised a total of £606.98.

We have appointed our School Council members, Eco Warriors, Reading Ambassadors and Wellbeing Champions for the year ahead. In addition, our Year 4 Sports Leaders have successfully completed their training and will play an important role in supporting and leading games during breaktimes and lunchtimes. We are incredibly proud of all our pupil representatives for taking on these leadership roles and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have across the school community this year.

Thank you for supporting Jeans for Genes Day, through which we raised £110. Our Blue Mufti Day and Feel-Good Friday event, held to mark World Mental Health Day, was a fantastic success. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and pupils dancing their way into school, helping us to raise £133.80 for Well Windsor. We would also like to thank Mrs Sheehan & Ms O'Brien, Pranic Healing UK, for organising and delivering wellbeing and meditation sessions across the school, which were enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.

Well done to our Year 4 pupils for representing the school so brilliantly at the Benchball Tournament. We are incredibly proud of their teamwork, determination and sporting attitude.

Our Skip2bFit workshops were great fun and provided an excellent reminder of the importance of staying active. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, which encouraged physical exercise in an engaging and enjoyable way.

Young Carers
A young carer is a child or young person who helps care for a family member with an illness, disability or other support needs.

If you feel your child may be a young carer, please speak to Miss Noon, our Young Carers Lead, or Mrs McBride, our Young Carers Champion. We provide support and guidance in school to help young carers feel recognised, valued and supported. We also offer additional Young Carer celebration activities and opportunities throughout the year to recognise and celebrate the important role they play.

London Marathon
Rubies class is pleased to share that Rory's dad is running the 2027 London Marathon in support of Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity, a small charity that makes a big difference to children living with complex, lifelong conditions. The charity works to ensure that every child with a serious medical need can access a specialist Roald Dahl Nurse, who provides expert care, guidance and emotional support for families navigating difficult and ongoing health challenges. These nurses help children and parents manage treatment, answer questions, coordinate care and offer reassurance, helping to make life a little easier at times when families need it most.

He is determined to raise as much as possible for this important cause, especially as the charity usually only receives a handful of marathon places each year, but has secured more this time, giving it a real opportunity to raise vital funds and increase its support for families. He is also looking forward to working in partnership with the school over the year to help with fundraising, including donation buckets at fireworks night for anyone who can contribute. Thank you for considering support for this worthy cause. Any donation, however small, will help make a difference. Please scan the QR code to visit the fundraising page.

I would like to thank our wonderful staff for their hard work and dedication, and our parents and carers for their continued support. It was wonderful to speak with so many families at Parents' Evening, whether in person or by phone, and to celebrate the great progress children have made so far this year. Together, we continue to make a real difference to our pupils' success.

A huge thank you to the Friends of Homer for their continued support and commitment to fundraising for our school. Their efforts make a significant difference to the opportunities we can offer our pupils. The Halloween Mufti Day was a fantastic success and thoroughly enjoyed by children.

Have a lovely half term and a well-deserved break. Thank you for all the chocolate donations for our chocolate tombola at our fireworks event.

Mrs Sharma







Updates & Curriculum News

Class teachers have updated their class pages, please use the link below. Here you will find information about what is being taught in school this term.

Class Pages | Homer First School & Nursery

Attendance

The Government has issued statutory guidance on attendance for all schools. We will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality.

Our overall school attendance is currently.

94.8%

Shoud I keep my child off school checklist poster (publishing.service.gov.uk)

We are aware that some schools within the borough have adopted a two-week half-term break. We understand that some of our pupils may have siblings attending those schools and appreciate that this can occasionally cause confusion when holiday dates differ. However, we would like to remind families that our half-term break remains **one week only**.

Our school will be closed for an INSET day on **Friday 23 October**. Half term runs from **Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October**. Following a further INSET day on **Monday 2 November**, all pupils are expected to return to school on **Tuesday 3 November**.

Please ensure that your child returns to school on the correct date. If your child is absent when school reopens, we will contact you to follow this up in accordance with our Attendance Policy.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Diary Dates & Reminders

Friday 23rd October – Inset Day (school closed to pupils)
Monday 26th – Friday 30th October – Half term
Monday 2nd November – Inset Day (school closed to pupils)
Thursday 5th November – FoH Firework night at Homer, 5pm – 7pm
Tuesday 24th November – KS2 trip to cinema
Thursday 26th November – FoH Wreath-making workshop, 6.45pm
Wednesday 9th December – EYFS Christmas performance, 9.15am
Thursday 10th December – KS1 Christmas performance, 9.15am
Wednesday 16th December – RockSteady concert at 9.15am
School Christmas lunch
Thursday 17th December – KS2 Christmas performance, 9.15am
Friday 18th December – Last day of term, 1.30pm finish




BOO!

Calling All Homer Writers… If You Dare!

A Spooktacular Story Writing Competition Is Here!

Do you love creepy castles and mysterious forests?

Can you write a tale that sends shivers down spines (but still lets everyone sleep at night)?

It's time to grab your pens and summon your imagination...

For pupils in **Nursery and Reception,** you can draw a Halloween picture as your entry or colour in the ghost above.

Write your own spooky story – filled with ghosts, witches, monsters, or magical mischief!

Make it spine-tingling, silly-scary, or mysteriously magical- just keep it school-appropriate!

A winner will be chosen from each year group

Each winner will receive a **terrifyingly terrific prize** and have their story shared with the school!

Deadline: Tuesday 3rd November

Hand your entries to: Your Class Teacher

So... light your lantern, sharpen your quill (or pencil), and get writing.

Will YOUR spooky story be the one that everyone's talking about?

Enter if you dare…!