

Hatfield Heath Primary School

Newsletter

"Learners today, leaders tomorrow"

Issue 15



Hello there,

We're mid-way through January with the dark days and evenings and the cold and the rain.

Please take some time to look after yourselves as 'Blue Monday' approaches. It's a good time to snuggle up and read books with your children.

It is the **National Year of Reading** and the children have been thinking about how they might like to 'Go All In' <https://goallin.org.uk/>

Reading is on the decline as children and adults turn away from books and reading to scrolling on devices. This has a significant impact on life chances, as being literate and literary allows children to think deeply about the world that they are in. We have certainly noticed that some of the children are not reading as much and diaries are not being signed. Please support your child to read as it makes it difficult to learn in class.

If you would like to volunteer to read on a regular basis, please come and ask the office about a DBS form.

Attendance from September until now.

Nearly all classes have seen a drop in attendance since 10.11.25. Please do all you can to send your child to school.

Missed school means missed friendships, missed experiences and missed understanding of learning and it is hard to catch up once that part of learning has gone. Unfortunately, holidays in term time will be unauthorised.

Well done to those classes above 97%!

Overall attendance: 96.8% (-0.1%) from 10.11.25

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|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Year 1 | 97.4% (-0.1) | Year 4 | 96.9% (-1.1) |
| Year 2 | 95.6% (-0.3) | Year 5 | 97.1% (+0.4) |
| Year 3 | 97.5% (-0.1) | Year 6 | 96.8% (0.0) |

Working on Life Skills

During the cutlery workshops, the teachers noticed that not all children had mastered this skill, even in the older years. As part of our A (Ambition), please practice this skill at home.

Census Day

Thank you so much for those of you who signed your child up for a school dinner. We had a large number of children who stayed for lunch. This means there will be greater funding for the children.

MCAS

Well done to all who have signed up to MCAS. **Please remember to select your children's meal and discuss this with them as they are sometimes surprised when they have something that they would not normally have!**

If your child is in Reception, or Years 1 and 2 or in receipt of Free School Meals, you will still need to sign up to select the meals.

Upcoming Dates

22.1.26 INSET day- Hatfield Heath Closed

30.1.26 PFA- Family Fun Bingo

2.2.26 Children's Mental Health Week

3.2.26 – Year 1 – Great fire of London Workshop

9.2.26 (Monday) Parents Consultations 3.40-6.30

9.2.26 Safer internet

11.2.26 (Wednesday) Parents Consultations 3.40 – 6.00

12.2.26- PFA Glow Disco

Half Term

5.3.26 World Book Day-Details to follow

19.3.26 and 20.3.26- Bikeability -Group 1

23.3.26-25.3.26 Bikeability Group 2



Children from Year 5 & 6 took part in the Harlow Schools Hockey Qualifiers at Passmore's Academy. Such brave souls, the weather was around freezing, but not a single complaint was made. They were superb throughout, wonderful attitudes and some great performances. Both teams just missed qualifying for the finals, but all were a credit to the school. Thanks to Adam for giving his afternoon up to coach a team.



This week year 2 have been looking at materials and how they are used. We worked in groups to explore the use of materials inside and outside our classroom and recorded our findings.

School Dinner Review

On Monday, Mr Estes from our catering supplier came into school to deliver our cutlery workshop, but to also talk to the school council and some classes about their school lunches.

Before Christmas children took part in a survey and held class council meetings.

61% described themselves as adventurous eaters! Most children liked the school dinners or said that they were OK.

We found out that some of the older children said the portion sizes of food were too small and they were sometimes hungry. We explored this a little further and found that not all children were taking what was on offer (often vegetables), so this meant that they were leaving with a third less food on their plate. Stir Food will make sure that bread is available on the days when there are not other bread products on e.g. pizza. Stir food will operate a 'full plate policy' so all food will be put on plates for children. Different sized ladles (spoodles) are used for different aged children.

Salad is available ,but not all children take this. The cucumber, carrot and sweetcorn were the most popular and pepper and tomato less so. The children said that they would like coleslaw too. As a result coleslaw will also be on offer.

The children said that the yoghurt dessert sometimes runs out. Stir Food are waiting for a new yoghurt machine, but in the meantime have given us more smaller machines and yoghurt with fruit sauce will be available throughout lunch, or children can choose the fruit salad or a cookie.

With the new MCAS system, dinner numbers are more precise, so there is less waste. This means that there are not as many 'leftovers' as before.

Looking to the future, we asked the children what they would like on the menu and their answers included chilli, tacos, sausages and chicken nuggets. Our catering team have to follow some strict governmental guidelines about how much processed food is served, due to its high fat and salt content and this can only be served with limitations. I have been told by staff that the food now is far nicer than previously as the food is cooked from scratch with only a few processed products e.g. fish fingers.

The chefs at Stir Food are working on the new recipes for the next round of meals and have asked us if we would like to work with them to try out the food before making adaptions. The school council said that they would.

When the new menu comes around, we will again give it sometime to settle in and once again ask their children of their thoughts.

Supporting Families

From time to time, families need some support with parenting and understanding the child's needs. Here are some useful links that may assist you.

Support groups

[SPACE - Supporting Parents and Carers in Essex | Essex Local Offer](#) - SPACE is a free, parent to parent service, offering 1 to 1 support and online group sessions, run by peer educators - all are parent carers with lived experience.

[Parent4Parent \(P4P\) | Essex Local Offer](#) - A support group in Uttlesford for parents and carers of children aged 0 to 25 who have social communication difficulties.

ACL courses

[ACL Essex HO4C40OL25 Positive Parenting](#) = This course is designed to support you to understand your children and provide parenting support. It covers boundaries, communication skills, understanding feelings and emotions and most importantly how to have fun as a family. 6 sessions over 6 weeks – some in Jan and Feb online.

[ACL Essex HO2C41OL25 Assertive Parenting](#)

[ACL Essex HO5A13OL25 Understanding ADHD in Children](#) = This online course is designed to help parents and carers gain a clearer understanding of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in children. Led by an experienced tutor, the session explores common behaviours, challenges with focus and impulsivity, and practical strategies to support children at home and in school. It offers a welcoming space to ask questions, share experiences, and build confidence in supporting your child's unique needs.

[ACL Essex HO4C41OL25 Understanding ADHD & ASD in Children](#) A broad weekly course which covers a range of subjects which Neurodiverse children often struggle with, such as timekeeping, sleeping, eating, and understanding the world around them.

[ACL Essex HO4A45OL25 SEND Support for Families](#) = Navigating the world of Special Educational Needs can be challenging, but help is available. Our 4 session support offers guidance, resources, and a listening ear for families who need it most. Whether you're looking for practical advice, emotional support, or simply a place to connect with others who understand, we're here for you.