



Wednesday 7th
September 2016

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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Halley House School,
Welcome to a new school year at Halley House School! We hope you have all enjoyed a fantastic and restful summer break, and are looking forward to all the new adventures ahead. It was brilliant seeing so many smiling faces and hearing all the excited chatter on Monday this week as we prepared to more than double in size as a school. Reception children have made a wonderful start settling into their new classes, making new friends and learning routines. Year 1 children have also made an excellent transition and are determined to display new levels of responsibility and maturity, which is a delight to see! There's lots to look forward to next week, as Reception children stay for lunch (until 1pm) and Y1 start their off-site activities. Breakfast Club also starts next week, and After School services begin on 19th September. Please check our 'diary dates' page for information for the upcoming half term. This page will be a regular feature of our weekly newsletter – any changes or additions to these items will be highlighted in yellow as necessary. Thank you to all our families and members of the Halley House community for contributing to such a successful start to our Autumn Term – we hope you are as excited as we are about what lies ahead!

Claire Syms

New arrival!

We are delighted to inform you that Mrs Lim had a beautiful baby girl on Tuesday 30th August at 14.22, weighing in at a very healthy 8lbs! Soozii and her husband Colin have named their new arrival Alissa, meaning 'noble truth.' Parents and baby are all doing well (...if a little sleep deprived from the parents' point of view) and are enjoying spending their first precious few days and weeks together at home. We are sure you would all like to join us in passing on congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Lim and her family – we will keep you posted about Alissa's first visit to Halley!



Attendance & Punctuality

We have made a fantastic start to the school year in both year groups, with children arriving every day and on time!

School starts promptly at 8.55am, which means all children need to be in the school playground **by 8.45am** (gates open at 8.30am), ready to be escorted inside by class teachers. Parents and carers should supervise children until 8.45am and handover with the class teacher.

Assemblies are at 9am this year, which means children will go into the hall in the morning, rather than straight up the stairs.

It is vital that children attend school every day – good attendance and punctuality leads to a much calmer start to the day for your child, and ensures they do not miss out on any learning or activities. Children also receive special certificates and prizes every half term for exemplary attendance!

Please do inform the office if your child has a medical appointment or scheduled reason for absence *before* the period of absence whenever possible. **Family holidays during term time will not be authorised.**

Please telephone or email the office if your child is unwell and will be absent from school. Any paperwork (such as appointment confirmations) should also be handed to an office member of staff for copying and adding to your child's file.

SUPER STARS!

Every week we publish the names of two children from each class who have been recognised by staff for their outstanding behaviour or learning. Children will be presented with certificates at our Celebration Assembly on Fridays, ready to bring home at the end of the week and tell you all the brilliant things they have been up to!

Regular newsletters

It has been a wonderful – very busy! – start to the term, so our first newsletter is out later than usual. Newsletters this year will continue to be issued **every Monday**. Newsletters are sent by email. You can also find printed copies in the Parent Information Board by the school office, and a copy is posted on our external noticeboard in the playground every week. If you are having any issues receiving the newsletter by email, please do let the office know so that we can help resolve any problems!

Uniform

Please remember to check that ALL items of uniform (including ties!) are clearly labelled with your child's name. Please also ensure book bags and PE bags are clearly labelled so that if anything is misplaced it can be easily reunited with its owner!



Little Stars Stay & Play

Little Stars Stay & Play sessions start next week, on Tuesday 13th September. Little Stars is run by Rowena (Anna's mum – Y1), and the group would love to welcome new members and interested parties! If you would like to help with organising or promoting the group, please do speak to Rowena or leave a message for the school office to pass on – we would love to hear from you!



FOHH

It was great to see such a good turn-out to our first Friends meeting of the year. Congratulations to Lola (Mon'ay's mum – YR) who has volunteered to be Chairperson and to Michael (Elijah's dad – Y1) who has volunteered as Treasurer. We do still have a place for a Vice-Chairperson - please see Lola if you are interested in this.

The parents of Year 1 children have kindly suggested donating all second-hand uniform that their children have outgrown for the parents of current Reception children to pick up! Uniform can be expensive and children grow very quickly so please come along to our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 30th September where there will be a selection of uniform items for you to take (donations welcome). If you would like to donate any items of uniform that still have lots of wear please bring them into the school office by **Friday 23rd September**. If you have any questions, please see FOHH Chairperson Lola.

The next FOHH meeting will be held on Thursday 6th October at 9am and will be led by Lola and Mrs. Patel. All parents and carers are automatically members of FOHH, and any suggestions for events, fundraising or volunteering are always welcomed, so do come along to meetings when you can, or contact the Chair, and get involved!



Toys – a reminder

Children are not permitted to bring toys into school (unless specifically requested in writing by class teachers; for example relating to a topic or activities in class), to ensure items do not get lost or damaged. Toys that are brought in will be removed by class teachers and returned at the end of the week.

Allergies



A number of children in school have allergies and, as a nut-free school (this includes peanut butter in sandwiches), we request that families provide a suitable packed lunch that adheres to these guidelines, if you are providing one.

We encourage all children to have a healthy hot lunch in school, but if you do have any questions about recommended content of packed lunches, please speak to the school office.

Off-site Activities

Off-site activities start for Y1 in Week 2 (next week, w/c 12th Sept) and for YR in Week 6 (w/c 10th October).



Thank you to parents and carers who have already indicated that they are able to help. Sign up sheets are located next to the Information Board by the main office so do dig out your trainers or wellies and come along to support one of our PE or Outdoor Learning sessions!



DIARY DATES

Autumn 1

Thursday 1st September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSET Day. Children not in school.
Friday 2nd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSET Day. Children not in school.
Monday 5th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of Autumn 1! • Reception children in school until 12noon all week
Wednesday 7th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Halley House Meeting, 9-10am – all welcome!
Friday 9th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YR and Y1 Curriculum Booklets sent home
Monday 12th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast Club starts • Reception children in school until 1.00pm all week • Y1 Outdoor PE starts – PARENT/CARER VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED*
Tuesday 13th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Stars Stay & Play starts, 9-11am
Wednesday 14th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y1 Outdoor Learning starts – PARENT/CARER VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED*
Monday 19th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After School Clubs and After Care starts for all • Reception children in school full time
Tuesday 20th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YR TRIP/VISIT – Police visit to school
Wednesday 21st September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YR & Y1 Parent Workshops, 4-5pm
Friday 23rd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeans for Genes Day – wear jeans and make a donation to charity!
Wednesday 28th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YR & Y1 Maths Mastery Workshops, 9-10am and 5-6pm
Thursday 29th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y1 TRIP/VISIT – Trip to Hackney City Farm
Friday 30th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macmillan Coffee Morning, 9-10.30am – all welcome!
Tuesday 4th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions 2017 – Open Morning, 9-10am
Wednesday 5th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YR TRIP/VISIT – Trip to Discovery Centre • Y1 TRIP/VISIT – Trip tp Discovery Centre
Thursday 6th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOHH Meeting, 9-10am
Friday 7th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Questionnaire opens
Wednesday 12th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal Parents' Open Evening, 4-6pm
Thursday 13th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YR Outdoor Learning starts – PARENT/CARER VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED*
Friday 14th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for Parent Questionnaire submissions, 6pm
Tuesday 18th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions 2017 – Open Morning, 9-10am
Friday 21st October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of Autumn 1. School finishes at 2pm.

*Please sign up on the sheets by the main school office for supporting regular off-site activities