



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Halley House School,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring term (and new decade!) at Halley. I hope you all had an enjoyable and peaceful break. Staff enjoyed two days of training and development before children returned on Tuesday last week, including a very busy day last Monday during our annual BPET INSET Day – all staff across the Trust managed to squeeze together in Rutherford House for an inspiring and motivating day. Keep an eye out in our upcoming newsletters for developments we are bringing back to Halley! Additional curriculum lessons start this term for Years 2, 3, and 4 (swimming) and 3 and 4 (African Drumming & Dance) – we are already looking forward to performances at the end of the Spring term. Please also see the following page for some important staffing changes during this term. Have a great week!

Claire Syms

Monday Missions

Reception: Our topic this half term is 'All Around the World'. Can you draw a picture to show some of the places you may have been on holiday?



Year 1 This week we have started our new topic 'Toys'. We are comparing toys from the past to toys now. Please talk to your child about the toys you had when you were younger. How are they the same or different from the toys we have now?

Year 2 We are solving problems to do with place value. Can you find my mystery number? I am thinking of a number that is greater than 60 but less than 80. My number has 6 tens. My ones digit is three greater than my tens digit. What is my number?

Year 3 Please refer to your child's homework passport

Year 4 Please refer to your child's homework passport

Attendance & Punctuality

Week Beginning	16 th December		7 th January	
	Attendance	Punctuality	Attendance	Punctuality
Comet	86.7%	98.5%	92.1%	99.5%
Eclipse	87.8%	95.0%	94.0%	97.7%
Quasar	98.4%	98.4%	99.5%	98.5%
Galaxy	97.4%	98.1%	96.1%	99.1%
Hawking	97.3%	98.6%	98.3%	99.2%
Herschel	87.3%	94.7%	94.2%	95.6%
Einstein	90.7%	99.6%	93.8%	99.5%

Well done to Quasar for a fantastic start to their attendance in the Spring term, with Hawking hot on their heels. Four of our 7 classes also managed punctuality of over 99% – keep it up! The days might technically be getting longer, but please do ensure children continue to be wrapped up warm and provided with appropriate clothing for OA and PE. Plenty of rest and a healthy diet are important, too!

★ ★ SUPER STARS! ★ ★

Our Super Stars of The Week are:
10/01/2020

Reception	Comet	Eclipse	Quasar	Galaxy	Hawking	Herschel	Einstein
	Jahrelle	Leah	Jahmil	Isabelle	Kyrone	Freddie	Summayah
	Xanthe	Oscar	Terrell	Kaan	Logan	Mekal	Sultan
	Kingsley						

Well done to everyone for being such good role models by showing our school values and trying your best!

Staffing update

Jo Kessel, our wonderful Office Manager, will be leaving Halley House on February 6th to pursue a career in the police force! Jo was successful in completing a rigorous recruitment process and is due to start her formal training to become a police officer later in February.



She started with the school as our part-time Receptionist in December 2016, and has taken the Office Manager role to new heights, both within our school and the Trust group as a whole, where she is deeply respected for her wealth of knowledge and expertise. Jo will be sincerely missed by the whole school community – staff, children and parents alike – and her ability to make ‘going above and beyond’ the norm will be hard to replicate. Jo has promised to return – both informally to pop in and see us, as well as in her new official capacity, and we hope to ensure she keeps a permanent spot in our school community! We are sure you would like to join us in profusely thanking Jo for all her efforts during the time she has been with us, as well as wishing her all the very best for her future endeavours.

Ms Katanya and Ms Natasha will be assuming Office Manager responsibilities as part of a job share for the remainder of this academic year. Ms Natasha will continue as Extended Schools Lead, and will be taking on the ‘Finance & Facilities’ aspects of the Office Manager Role. Ms Katanya will continue with her administrative responsibilities and Lead Midday Supervisor role, and will assume the ‘People and Business’ aspects. We will be recruiting for a permanent position for September 2020.

Halley House Playground Pals

Playground staff have trained a group of willing and enthusiastic children from KS2 to be our first Halley House Playground Pals. The children are Kauthar, Arthur, Yen, Isla, Theo, Olivia, Anna, Hailey, Beatrix and Eleanor.



What is a playground pal?

Playground Pals are pupils who help the staff to make playtimes an enjoyable and friendly time for everyone. They are asked to be good role models and good friends. They are responsible for managing conflicts, looking after the equipment in the playground and ensuring all pupils are being respectful towards each other. This helps to grow the pupils’ confidence and to take on responsibilities while being supervised by the lunchtime staff. The Playground Pals initiative has been established by our Well Being Team and is part of our commitment to positive mental health and well-being across our school community.



September Admissions 2020 – deadline 15th Jan

Reception class applications must be completed by **15 January 2020**. This includes applications for siblings for children who already attend the school. Parents must create an account and complete an online application form; www.eadmissions.org.uk. Further information regarding the Reception class admissions process can be found here: www.learningtrust.co.uk/primaryschools. If parents have any questions regarding the process, they can contact the Hackney Learning Trust admissions team: 0208 820 7000 (option 3) or email: reception.class@learningtrust.co.uk. Families are also always welcome to come into our Halley House School office for any help or advice.

Music tuition

We are delighted that our Music tuition has started already, including for our most recent addition to our programme - drumming! There are still a limited number of places left in keyboard, guitar and drumming tuition so do speak to Ms Natasha and sign up before it’s too late! After a very successful Autumn term in our ‘PE department’, Mr Challens joins Sarah and Heather in our music team this term, and for the remainder of the year. Coach Abdou continues to lead our PE sessions in the curriculum and Extended Schools provision for all year groups.

The Book People Big Book Boost

The Book People (www.thebookpeople.co.uk) is a well-known online supplier of great value books that appeal to all ages of children and they have established ‘The Big Book Boost’. This aims to help schools buy new books for their classrooms or libraries to help instil the love of reading in children. Every time you place an order with us over £10, we’ll donate £1 to a school of your choice for them to spend on books! When your order qualifies for Big Book Boost, you will be asked to pick one school to give your boost to. Just type in ‘Halley House’ and we will appear in the drop down list!



Donations – consumables and resources

As a reminder, we always welcome (year round!) the following items listed below to use in school, whether in lessons, clubs or the playground. If you are able to donate any resources (those listed or any others you think may be useful), they are always very gratefully received – please just pop them into the office or give to your child’s class teacher. Thank you!



Books	Board games	Play doh pots
Craft supplies	Lego	Glue sticks

Year 3

Year 3 had a fantastic start to the term and are settling in well. They had a splashing start to their first swimming lesson this year and were ecstatic to meet the same coaches they had in previous years. We have also had our first African Drumming lesson and it was lovely to see children remembering the hand beats from last year. We are looking forward to all our curriculum opportunities this term!

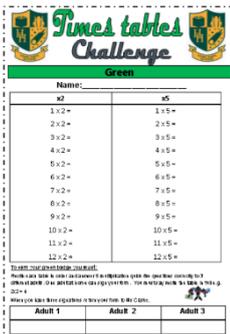


Enthusiastic Einstein!

It has been a wonderful start to the Spring term! The children have got stuck into science as we start to look at electricity, how we stay safe around electricity and looking at conductors and insulators of electricity. It's all been electrifying!

We have started reading the text 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty to coincide with our topic, 'British History'. We have been discussing what life was like as a child during the Victorian times and how this has impacted Britain today. Please do ask the children more about this story, it's a must read!

Einstein have been working incredibly hard with their multiplication facts as part of their home learning as well as in class. The children have been set a **challenge** to recite their multiplication facts to progress on to the next level. They can either ask members of staff at school or any adult outside of school (all the instructions are on the sheet). You may start seeing the children darting around the playground or at home with a 'Times tables Challenge' sheet, please do stop any of the Y4s and ask a few quick-fire questions, or ask them to recite their sheet to keep them on their toes and progress through their challenges. Happy multiplying!



HHS BPET Learning Review

Our annual BPET Learning Review is on 11th and 12th February (the last week of this half term). The review is completed by a Head and Deputy from different Trust schools, alongside an external consultant or member of the Central Team. It is an excellent opportunity for schools to share good practice within the group, provide constructive support and challenge and explore different ways forward to ensure on-going development. As part of the review, feedback from a range of stakeholders is always welcome – if you would like to be part of a parent discussion group (approx. 30 mins) during the morning of Wednesday 12th, please let Ms Syms know. Thank you!

EXTENDED SCHOOL

Welcome back!

Extended School got off to a brilliant start during the first week back. It was great to see the launch of our new clubs we now have available! The children were seen to be delighted and thoroughly enjoying their clubs across the week. Thank you to all parents who have been proactive in ensuring they book their child's places into desired clubs. We always work hard to accommodate all requests to the best of our ability; however, all clubs are allocated via Schools Buddy and preferences must be submitted before our deadline. We will accommodate late requests wherever we can but these can only be allocated to clubs where there are spaces. If you have any issues or queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Natasha via the school office.



Payments /Breakfast Club



Please be reminded that all payments for after school clubs need to be paid in full before the start of the term. Failure to do so will result in your child not being able to attend any of our Extended Schools' provision.

There have been several children attending breakfast club without pre-booking their place beforehand. The only time adhoc places are available are in cases of emergencies or unforeseen circumstances, where we will do our utmost to support families. Pre-booking a place in breakfast club enables us to resource the provision effectively – both in terms of food supplies and child/adult ratios.

We have recently moved to two rooms for our BC provision – in the hall for Reception and KS1 and in Solar (Play Room) for KS2. Children have really been enjoying the changes so far, which promote independence and ensure a calm and enjoyable start to everyone's day – come and join us!

Trips and Visits

A big thank you to all parents who take the time out to volunteer for our off-site activities and contribute payments towards our trips and visits. As you are aware, we rely on parent contributions to support and help us coordinate/facilitate external visits for the children. All year groups currently have a shortfall in contributions – please do make any outstanding payments if you are able to do so, as it enables us to maintain our huge range of fantastic opportunities for all our children.



GAMING GAINS: THE SURPRISING BENEFITS OF VIDEO GAMING

I'm sure that many of our children have had a new console or smart device arriving in their home over the holiday. Children love video games, and parents often love telling them to stop playing them. But it's not time to put down the console just yet – because it seems gaming can provide a range of social and mental wellbeing benefits for kids of all ages.

Although research in the industry is still in its infancy, studies show that there are lots of advantages to be gained from online gaming. As well as helping to develop social skills, such as taking turns and collaborating, games can also nurture strategic and conceptual thinking that can prove valuable in later life.

Five ways gaming can be beneficial for children:

1. Games can nurture strategic thinking through puzzle solving.
2. Playing alongside others online or locally can improve social, communicative and sharing skills.
3. Playing online games can be a great way for a family to bond and spend quality time together.
4. They can make children better decision makers, as fast-paced games often require players to act quickly.
5. Some online games can even help your child to stay active by incorporating physical activity into what's happening on-screen.

Have we convinced you yet? If so, here's what you should do to make sure they get the most out of their gaming...

Make sure games are age-appropriate

In order for gaming to be healthy, it's important to make sure you're happy that the content in each game is appropriate for your child's age. The statutory PEGI rating system is a useful tool when identifying whether a game is suitable or not.

Let's say your kid is particularly sensitive to violence or horror, for example. The PEGI signs at the back of each game cover will make it clear what it contains, making it easy to weed out any online games that might not be appropriate.

Set up parental controls

A good way to ensure they're not viewing inappropriate content or spending too much time playing and making in-game purchases, is to activate parental controls – these are offered by all of the big video games consoles. They can really help avoid any nasty surprises on your next bank statement and work wonders for your own peace of mind. You can also make sure any content deemed inappropriate is hidden and can only be accessed by a password or PIN (which you set yourself). If you do activate these controls, it's important to explain to them why you've done this to avoid any frustration or arguments.

Ensure regular breaks

Screen time studies vary from one source to the next, but all agree that regular breaks are essential. Ideally, all gamers should be taking breaks every 45 minutes to one hour. The blue lights from the screen can cause fatigue and sore eyes if the gaming session is not broken up into intervals with short breaks in between.

If your TV/monitor/screen supports it, the best thing is to activate the blue light filter which emphasises the screen's warmer colours and reduces eye strain.

Join in!

Picking up the controller and playing video games together is a great way of promoting healthy gaming habits. There are lots of fun, family-friendly games out there that the whole gang can join in with, and many are also very educational.

Also, try to keep games consoles in communal areas. If a child has entertainment systems or tablets in their room, it's much harder to monitor what is going on and makes gaming much less sociable.

If you would like any further information, please feel free to talk to Mr Oxford.



Extended Schools



Fencing

Ukulele



Street Dance

Cooking

Art



Choir

Drama

Table Tennis

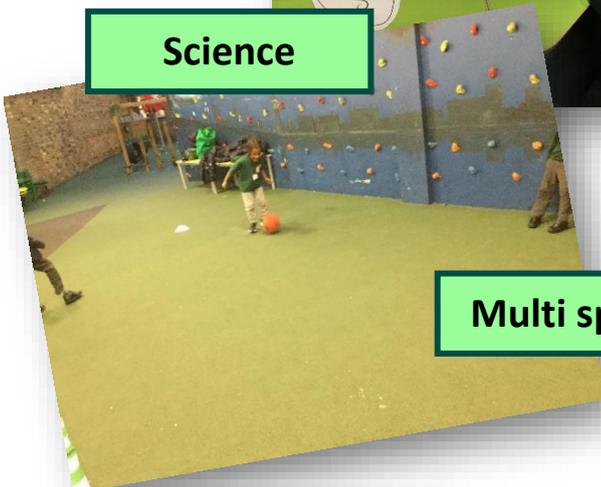


Science



African Drumming & Dance

Multi sports



DIARY DATES	
Spring 1 2020	
Friday 3rd January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSET Day, children not in school
Monday 6th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSET Day, children not in school
Tuesday 7th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of Spring 1; all extended provision starts
Wednesday 8th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Morning, Admissions 2020, 9.15-10.15am • Swimming lessons start for Y2 and Y3 (Lesson 1 of 10) • African Drumming & Dance starts for Y3 and Y4
Thursday 9th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming lessons start for Y4 (Lesson 1 of 10)
Tuesday 14th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRIP/VISIT – Y4 trip to Museum of London for Suffragettes Workshop
Wednesday 15th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for Reception admissions September 2020
Thursday 16th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRIP/VISIT – YR and Y1 Zoolab Workshop
Monday 20th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRIP/VISIT – YR Trip to Azizye Mosque
Tuesday 24st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRIP/VISIT – Y2 to Science Musuem for Domestic Appliances workshop
Wednesday 29th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental hygiene assembly
Monday 3rd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Weeks start
Wednesday 5th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Morning, Admissions 2020, 9.15-10.15am
Friday 7th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSPCC Number Day – dress up and make a donation to the NSPCC
Tuesday 11th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Internet Day • BPET Learning Review Day 1
Wednesday 12th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BPET Learning Review Day 2
Friday 14th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crazy Hair Day! • End of Spring 1. School finishes at 3.45pm; ASC run as normal.