



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Halley House School,

It has been a very busy 7 weeks of the Autumn term and, although we may still be facing some uncertainties at a national and global level, at Halley our community continues to thrive with strong levels of resilience, adaptability and – of course – our trademark unwavering positivity. Children’s progress across the school, and across the curriculum, alongside motivation for learning, continues to astound me from when we returned in September. I can safely say on behalf of all staff that we are collectively delighted to be fully operational this term, and are already eagerly anticipating what Autumn 2 will hold – we have reinstated our diary dates page in this edition so you can keep track of what is coming up! In the meantime, I hope you all have a restful and restorative half term break, with time for family and friends (in ways in which this is possible), and we look forward to welcoming *everyone* back on Monday 2nd November (we’d love to see a few more perfect attendance scores!)

Claire Syms

Attendance & Punctuality

Week Beginning	5 th October		12 th October	
	Attendance	Punctuality	Attendance	Punctuality
Comet	93.8%	98.6%	95.2%	95.2%
Eclipse	93.8%	95.5%	99.3%	99.2%
Galaxy	94.2%	95.8%	94.9%	94.9%
Cosmos	99.2%	99.2%	91.0%	94.9%
Hawking	97.2%	97.9%	96.9%	96.9%
Einstein	98.9%	100%	97.5%	98.2%
Jemison	94.8%	94.8%	94.1%	94.1%

Well done to **Cosmos** (05/10) and **Eclipse** (12/10) for your high attendance levels, and to **Einstein** and **Eclipse** for very good punctuality. There is still some room for improvement for everyone - it would be great if we could see some more 100% scores this week!

Monday Missions

Reception have been enjoying reading ‘The Gruffalo’! Can you make your very own forest picture using natural materials? Make sure you bring your pictures in for show and tell!

Year 1 have been exploring the 5 senses. Create a feely or smell box using something you can find in your house. Can your class guess what’s in the box by just feeling or smelling it?

Year 2 have been learning about human and physical features in our local area. You could use different materials and even try junk modelling! We would love to see your creations in class!

SUPER STARS!

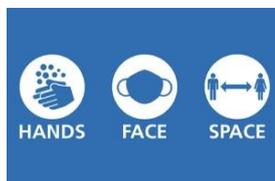
Our Super Stars of The Week are:

	09/10/2020		16/10/2020	
Reception				
Comet	Kelsie	Leila	Francis	Nyrah
Key Stage 1				
Eclipse	Arthur	Kaidy	Eli	Archie W
Cosmos	Leonard	Ayyub	Morayo	Leah
Galaxy	Jasper	Amalya	Terrell	Hakeely
Key Stage 2				
Hawking	Munachi	Luc	Tsubame	Zion-Levi
Einstein	Keziah	Iman	Yen	Kauthar
Jemison	Tiger-Rose	Oscar	Jahzara	Olivia

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

Social distancing

As of midnight last Friday (16th October), London moved to Tier Two (high alert) of Coronavirus restrictions, meaning alongside



existing measures, households can no longer meet indoors. Schools and educational settings have been advised they will stay fully open, subject to any individual instructions from the DfE/Public Health England as a result of a case or outbreak. As a school we continue to be mindful of reducing face-to-face interactions in accordance with our Risk Assessment whenever this is practical. It is imperative at this time that parents and carers kindly follow social distancing measures at drop off and collection, and **avoid congregating outside the main gate or front entrance**. Please do take heed of the social distancing signage and markers that are in place. This is for everyone's safety and to ensure we remain fully open as we have done successfully for the last 7 weeks. If you wish to speak to your child's class teacher or a member of staff, please arrange a telephone appointment with office staff. If you do need to enter the building, please ensure that you are wearing a face covering and observe all hygiene measures. Many thanks.

Preparations for possible home learning



We have nearly made it to the end of Autumn 1 without having to send a year group or groups home, although the possibility of this happening is ever-present. At this stage, we have no further indications of a 'circuit breaker' coming into effect over the half term break, but we would like to remind all parents and carers to prepare as much as possible for home learning, including stocking up on essential stationery supplies. **If you have not already responded to our school ICT survey, please let office staff know if you have any particular challenges with devices or connectivity.** Please note, if you are able to source devices from a family member, friend or neighbour for the purposes of home learning, we ask that you do so, as we have very limited capacity as a school to lend devices out. If you do have any additional devices (laptops, tablets etc) that you no longer need and would be willing to donate to the school or wider Trust group so that we can repurpose them, please do drop them into the school office. Sincere thanks.

INSET Day – reminder

Friday 23rd October is an INSET Day and school will not be open to children. Staff will be learning all about Cognitive Load Theory, using research to inform practice, and interactive sessions on assessment and unconscious bias!

FOHH & Fundraising!

If you would like to join your child's year group WhatsApp and/or the FOHH WhatsApp group, please confirm with the school office so that your details can be added. We are raising funds for a new multi-use sports area inside the school building, which would involve renovating some of our existing spaces to make a second hall/gym area. Last year, FOHH contributed to one of the school's annual priorities by fundraising for some fantastic gym equipment and we would love to be able to set this up in a new permanent home on site!



Around the World PE Challenge - reminder

As you will be aware, Halley House is taking part in this term's friendly inter-Trust competition with the other 7 schools in BPET. We are collectively trying to see if we can make it around the circumference of the Earth (40,075km), whilst also enjoying some (literally) healthy competition to see which school can travel the furthest, and raising some vital funds on the way! The challenge is intended to be as inclusive, accessible and family-friendly to as many of our school community as possible, so you can walk, run, or cycle from just 1km to a maximum of 5km in a day. **The deadline to complete the challenge is Friday 4th December 5pm.** In agreement with FOHH, we have chosen to raise funds for our PE Department. We hope that all our families will encourage their children to walk, cycle or run a total distance as suggested below (and even better if they can exceed it!). Any sponsorship and donations will go a long way; a suggested sponsorship amount is £1 per km covered. **There will also be prizes awarded for effort, distance covered and fundraising totals for individuals in each year group!** During the week beginning 16th November, each year group (including staff) will take part in a timed run around Hackney Downs during allocated PE sessions to see how much distance we can cover at once! Parents will be able to make sponsorship/donation payments through SchoolsBuddy from today – Around the World Challenge tab. *Let's do this!*

Reception	15km
Y1	20km
Y2	25km
Y3	30km
Y4	35km
Y5	40km



Reception Admissions September 2021

Applications for Reception places for September 2021 are open now. All applications go through the Pan-London e-admissions process, and parents and carers can apply [here](#). Hackney Education is also offering a number of information briefings, which you can sign up to [here](#). We hugely appreciate our existing parents and carers continuing to spread the word about our school!

The Big Draw

The Big Green Draw in Halley House School's Art Room was linked to our curriculum topics in each year group. Year 1 and 5 drew flowers donated by a local florist, whilst other classes painted rivers, salads and jungles! In art sessions in Reception children used chalk to draw Life Cycles. The Big Draw paintings and artwork will be on display after one more art journal session after half term, with the exciting addition of a chalk drawing by all the school staff!



Relationships and health education became statutory from September 2020. All year groups will start their units of work in the Summer term 2021. Our draft RSE policy is available to view on our school website for parent comments and feedback. If you do wish to provide any feedback, please email the school office, with 'RSE policy' as the subject. The consultation period will close on Friday 30th October. You may recall that we had planned a series of workshops for parents in all year groups to outline the specific curriculum for your child/ren and to ask any further questions – these have been rearranged for Spring 2021; hopefully we will be able to conduct these in person, but if not, they will be held virtually. Confirmed dates will be shared nearer the time.

Relationships Policy (RSE)

'Flu Vaccinations – November 2020

'Flu Vaccinations – November 2020

All children in primary school are eligible to have the 'flu vaccination, which is given as a nasal spray. Consent forms will be sent home for all parents and carers ahead of the vaccinations, which are scheduled at HHS for 23rd November. The co-circulation of flu and COVID-19 is of particular concern this coming Winter. 'Flu vaccination remains the best defence we have against flu and protects those people who are most vulnerable. It also supports efforts to reduce the harms of COVID-19. Please also have a look at the attached information about 'flu vaccinations.



Extended schools

Please ensure that if you have any outstanding debts that they are cleared by Friday 23rd October. If you are having any difficulties making payments, please speak to Ms Natasha in the office. It is important that all parents book in to Breakfast Club and After Care so we have an up-to-date list of children attending and can satisfy our stringent safety measures including staffing ratios and fire safety precautions

Comet Class – Outdoor Adventures

Comet Class are very excited about beginning their Outdoor Adventure sessions after half term. We will now be going every **Monday** afternoon, starting on **Monday 9th November**. If you are available to help then please let a member of the Reception team know. Thank you.

Water Aid

As part of Black History Month, the children in Comet Class shared the story 'The Water Princess'.



We talked about how lucky we are to have clean water so readily available and the children then decided that they wanted to help give clean water to others. We talked about how we could do this; including parachuting water bottles in or sending our water through the post! However, in the end we decided that the best way that we could help would be to raise money for the charity Water Aid. We will be coming up with lots of fun fundraising raising ideas after half term but are also getting started straight away by asking for any small change donations to help fill the 'large water bottle' that we are keeping in class. The children are very excited about seeing it fill up with coins!

Hawking Class take on the outdoors!

It was fantastic taking our learning outside and enjoying some quality time in the fresh air. The children were busy using natural resources to recreate the diverse fauna we were learning about in our topic lessons, Rivers of the World. We then went on to make 'journey sticks'.

We hunted for more natural resources and as we found them, we attached them to our nature sticks and took our journey sticks home as a memoir.



Spanish Club

¡Hola! In the afternoons we also have a great time in each of our After School Clubs. The Spanish Club wants to tell you how much we have been learning so far. In this fun Club, we have learned to say "Hola" very loud and clear, we also know how



to introduce ourselves, tell someone what our name is and how old we are to any Spanish speaker we interact with, and of course, to dance, play and sing. The Song "El twist de los ratoncitos", is one of our favorites! Ana, one of our friends from Spain, sends us a letter in Spanish every week. Although you may think it is difficult, we understand almost everything! Ms Hernandez helps us understand some parts. But this week, it has been even



more special! Ana has recorded a video for us in the most emblematic places of Madrid. We have loved being even closer to Spain!

¡Os esperamos a la vuelta de vacaciones!

Hawking Class homework projects

Hawking class have been working incredibly hard at home with their homework projects and we just wanted to show a few of them off! Don't they look great?



Strings Club – October half term.

The fantastic Strings Club will be based at Halley over the half term break, adhering to all our safety and hygiene measures to provide a hugely enjoyable and interactive week of music and activities. If you would like to sign up for a space, please email: info@thestringsclub.org

KS2 Mindfulness and Dialogue Club

James, our play therapist, has started running a KS2 Mindfulness and Dialogue club on Friday lunchtimes this term, which is already proving very popular with many of our children! Children can choose to visit the library for 15-20 minutes to discuss a range of topics and ideas and participate in some mindful activities with some of their peers. The session is facilitated by James but very much led by children, their interests and their conversation starters.



Hackney Parent Champions

Hackney Council and Peabody Housing are partnering with Coram Family and Childcare to become an official provider of the "Parent Champions" volunteer scheme.

Who are 'Parent Champions'?

Parent Champions are parent volunteers who spend time with other parents to share information, explain the benefits of early help and raise awareness of local services. They normally meet other parents in a variety of settings including schools, youth clubs and playgroups, to hear from parents and signpost them to services that could support them.

What impact does it have?

Without knowing what services are available, parents in Hackney can feel lost and their children might miss out on available support. The programme is based on the idea that parents are the best people to connect with other parents, as they can speak informally and share their own positive experiences of early help.

What are the benefits for the volunteers?

- The opportunity to benefit local families
- Training and development opportunities
- Expand networks with like-minded peers and professionals
- Full reimbursement of expenses, *plus lots more!*

Please read the attached overview and contact elp@hackney.gov.uk if you would like more details or to get involved.

Y2 Phonics Screening Check

Our current Y2 cohort will be taking their delayed Y1 Phonics Screening Check this Autumn term. Children will be taking a check from a previous year (2017, 2018 or 2019 - one with which they are not familiar!) The check is always conducted in a very child-friendly way, usually with their class teacher or other familiar adult. We are sure our Y2 children will showcase their brilliant decoding! Keep reading at home in the meantime!

Extended schools!

Ukulele Club



Street Dance

Lego Club



Clay Club



DIARY DATES	
Autumn 1 2020	
Monday 19th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Draw culmination
Thursday 22nd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black History Month celebrations, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Dress up day ➢ Gallery of work ➢ Cultural Tuck shop • Last day of Autumn 1. All ASCs continue to run as normal
Friday 23rd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSET Day. Children not in school.
Autumn 2 2020	
Monday 2nd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of Autumn 2
Tuesday 3rd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-Safety Parent workshops (released as videos)
Thursday 5th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Morning Reception Admissions September 2021 (webinar) • Outdoor Classroom Day
Friday 6th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Raffle tickets to go on sale
Monday 9th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off site Outdoor Adventures commences for Reception
Thursday 12th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Morning Reception Admissions September 2021 (webinar) • Scholastic online book fair opens
Friday 13th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in Need Day • FOHH Meeting
w/c Monday 16th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE lessons on Hackney Downs for 'Around the World' challenge
Thursday 19th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Morning Reception Admissions September 2021 (webinar)
Monday 23rd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Flu vaccinations (nasal spray) in school • Art Week starts
Thursday 26th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Morning Reception Admissions September 2021 (webinar) • Scholastic online book fair closes
Monday 30th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Weeks start
Thursday 3rd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Morning Reception Admissions September 2021 (webinar)
Friday 4th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wreath making workshop
w/c Monday 7th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter show performances
Friday 11th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Raffle draw! • Christmas/Winter Jumper Day – fundraising for book gifts for all • Writing Weeks finish • FOHH Meeting
Friday 18th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day of Autumn 2. School finishes at 2pm.

Please note some dates and events may be subject to change due to Coronavirus restrictions in place at the time.