

7 September 2018



Heptonstall
Junior, Infant and
Nursery School

Newsletter

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the new school year, I hope you all had a fantastic summer. Your children (or *you!!*) must have really missed school as we had 100% attendance on the first day back!

We all look forward to working with you again this school year.

Flexi-Play!

As you will recall, one of the reasons we put forward for suggesting a 3.10pm finish in our consultation last school year was that we as a staff did not feel the “rigid” afternoon break of 2.10pm was always conducive to the best learning experiences we could give the children in the afternoon period.

As you know, the 3.10pm finish was not wanted by many of you and therefore we did not push ahead with this.

However the afternoon issue remains and still needs to be dealt with!

Therefore, this term, we are going to pilot a flexible approach to the afternoon break.

Children will still get a break in the afternoon but it will not be set as a whole school time of 2.10pm – 2.30pm. Each teacher will take an afternoon break with their class when it is a natural break in the work the children are doing that afternoon.

Therefore, for example, if Class 4 were doing a project which Miss Priestley felt needed to run from the start of the afternoon session (1.15pm) until 2.45pm the children could complete this before than having a break.

This is much harder for the teachers as they will therefore be “on duty” every afternoon (instead of being able to share duty times like in the past). However all teachers were absolutely convinced that this will improve the learning experiences of children and the teaching that they are able to do.

The breaks will be of varying length depending on the time of afternoon they are taken and the needs of the children.

There **WILL** be an **outside break** (weather permitting) **EVERYDAY** for children in Class 2 at some point in the afternoon. For children in Classes 3 and 4 there will *usually* be an outside afternoon break at some point each afternoon but it might be that on some occasions if the children are really fired up with a project that they just take a quick indoor break at times – or perhaps even on some occasions work straight through (although this will be very much the exception and not the rule!)

Our Nursery and Reception children’s outdoor afternoon ‘playtimes’ will be met through continuous provision in the outdoor area in the afternoon anyway so they will also not have “set” playtimes in the afternoon.

All classes will continue to have the same shared morning and lunchtime breaks

As stated, this is something we are going to try until Christmas and then evaluate the success of it.

As always we would appreciate any feedback you have – or you get from your children – once the system has had a chance to run for a while.

It is very early days yet but one Class 4 pupil said to Miss Priestley yesterday “This flexi-play is the best thing ever!” So far so good then!

Dojo Continues!



We are going to continue with our popular Class Dojo this year.

If you are a parent/carer already signed up to Class Dojo from last year you **do not** need to sign up again, you can use the same log-in as last year, you will just need your new code to

‘find’ your child’s new avatar. You should have received this, this week.

It is possible to have several users signed up to each pupil as long as each immediate parent/carer has their own email address it is the same ‘signing up’ process. However, due to new data protection laws please can we refrain from having extended members of family signing up (immediate parents/carers only please).

Responsible Parking Planning Our Year

I have already had an email from one local resident about one of our parents parking on the Keep Clear lines and blocking entrances.

PLEASE for the benefit of our local residents – and the safety of all our children park considerately at the beginning and end of the school day.

On next week’s Newsletter we will be sending you out a calendar of the “School Year Ahead” which will include dates such as Parents’ Evenings, the Nativity performances, Sports Day etc. I know many of you found this very useful last year to have this information as early as possible – so don’t miss it!

Cool Milk

If you wish your child to have school milk this term, and haven’t already done so, please register online at www.coolmilk.com

School Dinners

If your child has moved up to Class 3 this term school dinners are no longer free, unless you are eligible for Free School Meals—please click [here](#) for more information

Lost & Found

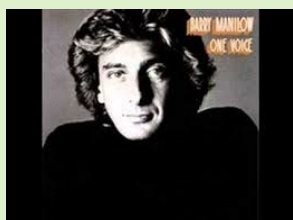
Quick reminder to please ensure all your child's clothes, PE Kit, shoes etc are clearly labelled with their name on.

Good Work Is Back Next Week!

Our Good Work Assemblies begin again next Friday 14th September. They will then be every Friday from 3pm – 3.30pm. If on any particular Friday there is **NOT** to be a Good Work Assembly we will let you know as soon as possible – and you can also check our school website.

Talented Assemblies

The theme of our assemblies next week is “Our Talents” and how by combining them together and working as a team we can be so much stronger. One of the In/Out songs will be the Barry Manilow song “One Voice”



Click on Barry to listen the song!

Just One Voice,
Singing in the darkness,
All it takes is One Voice,
Singing so they hear what's
on your mind,
And when you look around
you'll find
There's more than
One Voice,

Singing in the darkness,
Joining with your One Voice,
Each and every note another octave,
Hands are joined and fears unlocked,
If only
One Voice
Would start it on its own
We need just One Voice
Facing the unknown,
And that One Voice
Would never be alone
It takes that One Voice.