



HECKINGTON ST. ANDREW'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

28th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We do hope that you will be able to join us for our Harvest Festival at St. Andrew's church on Monday.

We will be holding our parent consultation evenings on the 11th and 12th October; this will give you an opportunity to discuss how your child is settling in to their new class. These meetings will be held in school and bookings will be open at the end of the school day tomorrow and can be accessed via this link: [SchoolCloud - Heckington St Andrew's](#).

We will also be starting a range of clubs after October half term and the bookings for these will also open at the end of the school day tomorrow on the same link as above.

Mondays: Para Sports Club (Years 1 - 6) 3.30 - 4.30

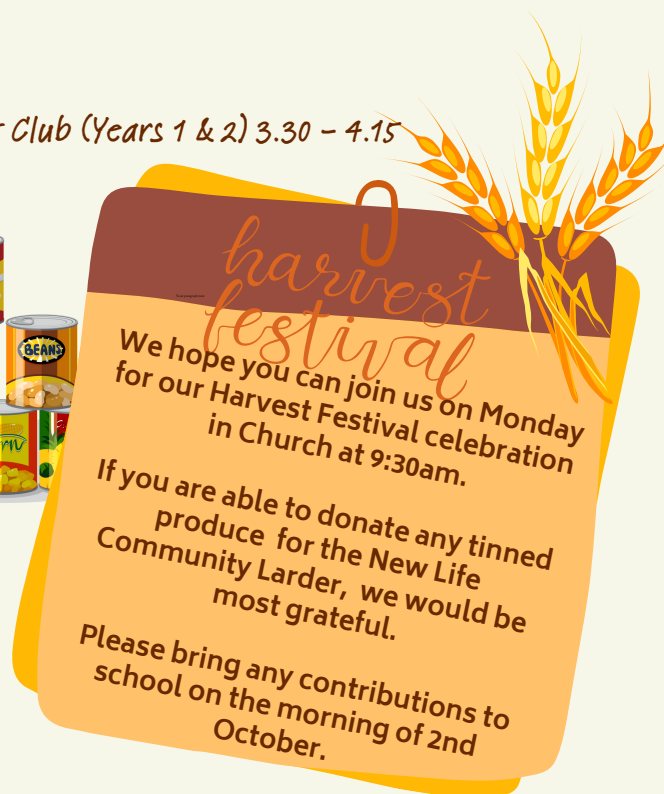
Tuesdays: Choir (Years 1 - 6) 3.30 - 4.15

Wednesdays: Chess (Years 5 & 6) 12.00 - 12.30

Thursdays: TT Rockstars (Years 3 - 6) 3.30 - 4.15 and Story/Craft Club (Years 1 & 2) 3.30 - 4.15

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Bentley



Upcoming Events

Monday 2nd October - Harvest Festival 9.30am in Church

Tuesday 3rd October - PTFA meeting 9:00am in school

11th and 12th October - Parents evenings - bookings open tomorrow

19th October - Year 6 Class worship 9:00am in school

Friday 20th October - Last day of term

Tuesday 31st October - First day back of term

Tuesday 2nd November - Wrates school photographs

Wednesday 15th November - NHS Flu nasal spray - whole school



Attendance Matters!

Our attendance target is 97% because we want all of our students to achieve their full potential. We want every student to attend Heckington to learn and thrive.

What is good attendance?

There is sometimes a perception that an attendance rate of 90% is good. However, an attendance rate of 90% equates to missing 19 days per year.

Fact:
Authorised and unauthorised absences have the same negative effect on pupil academic performance.



What might the impact of poor attendance be on your child?

Government research shows that students who have less than 90% attendance (19 or more days missed in a year) achieve, on average, much lower than expected in examinations. There is a link between the number of days a child is absent and their average earnings in later life.

Having good attendance is not all about attainment; your child is also developing essential social skills which will benefit them in their future endeavours.

A parent/carer has a legal responsibility to ensure that his/her child attends school regularly.

Why is good attendance important?

Every lesson really does count for your child! Children can quickly fall behind if even one day is missed, catching up even a little lost time from school can be really difficult. Good attendance is linked to achievement, better relationships with other children and better overall behaviour in school. Good attendance is not just about what happens in school; absences when your child is young can limit their future opportunities and set up bad habits for work and life. As parents and school we need to support our children in maximizing their achievements.

How can you support and encourage our child to have excellent attendance and punctuality?

- Ensure your child is fully prepared for school each day.
- Ensure your child attends school every day and arrives on time, in order to keep up with school work.
- Show your child that you think school is very important.
- Get them into good habits early on.
- Recognise that children can get into bad habits from an early age and that these are hard to break later.
- Attend any meetings in school to which you are invited.
- Let the school know as soon as there are any problems or changes.
- Do not keep your child at home if your child is worried or has a problem, e.g. bullying. The best way to support your child is to ask for a meeting in school to explain any difficulties and to address problems. The more time your child is absent from school, the harder it will be for them to return.
- Organise non-urgent medical appointments outside of school time.
- Take time to talk to your child about what they have done in school.
- Contact the school at the first opportunity if your child is genuinely ill or is unable to attend.
- Talk to someone at the school if there is a problem or reason why your child finds it difficult to attend

Fact:
Half of students who
miss 2 - 4 days in
September will go on to
miss nearly a month of
school.

Excellent attendance gives your child a better opportunity to:

- make new friends;
- learn and enjoy new experiences;
- develop skills that they will need in later life;
- learn how to look after themselves and encourage independence;
- feel safe and listened to;
- improve their chances of having a good career or life chances;
- make a positive contribution to the Heckington community.

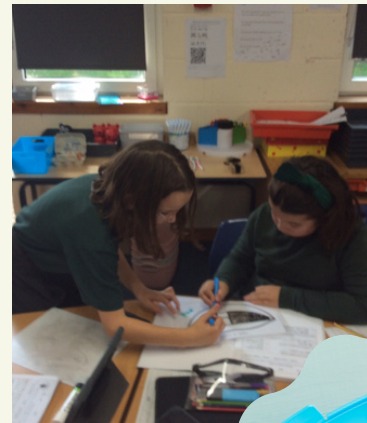
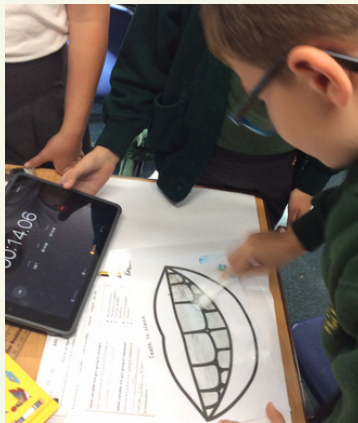
The importance of punctuality

Whilst the majority of our pupils arrive at school on time, we can still have a small number of pupils who can arrive late to school. Parents may not be aware of the difficulties experienced by children even when they are only a few minutes late each day.

A few important points to remember:

- Being late to school reduces learning time.
- 10 minutes late a day = almost a whole hour of lessons missed each week, over the school year this equates to 2 whole weeks.
- Your child will miss his/her teacher's announcements for the day or will miss collective worship when we gather together as a whole school. Children can feel very self-conscious when they are walking late into the hall when worship has started.
- Arriving late causes disruption to the whole class as well as to your child.
- Children are often very embarrassed and upset at coming into class late.

In science, Rowan Class investigated which toothbrushes were the most effective when cleaning teeth.



LUNCH



Please can we remind you to send your child in with a healthy lunch and snack.

Please no sweets, no chocolate bars (chocolate biscuits are acceptable) and no fizzy drinks.

NUT FREE

We are a nut free school due to severe nut allergies