



## Headteacher's Newsletter - 2023/4 Summer term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you rejuvenated after the Easter holiday.

First and foremost, I hope you all had a wonderful time during the break, filled with joy and cherished moments. Now that we are all back together again, myself and the HCJS team are excited to resume our educational journey together and, as ever, strive to make the most of the term ahead. As usual, this newsletter endeavours to share both recent school news and give some important information and dates for the upcoming term.

We have a variety of engaging and enriching activities planned for the coming term, including residential field trips, special projects, sporting, cultural and community events. We will keep you informed about these and encourage your involvement and participation whenever possible. Please see the key dates section of this newsletter for more information.

### **New medical room**

During your time as a parent or carer of a HCJS pupil, I've no doubt that many of you will have visited our school's welfare room for one reason or another, particularly if you needed to come in and chat with Mrs Dunsmore, our school Welfare Assistant or to discuss your child's care plan if they have one. It has been a long held ambition of mine to create a much nicer, purpose built room to replace this rather cobbled together, haphazard space. On our return to school last Monday, I was delighted to see the work that had been completed over the Easter holiday to create our brand new school welfare and medical room. This vital resource will help us to better prioritise both the health, well-being, and safety of our pupils and support our positive and nurturing school environment.



The new welfare room is located centrally within the school in the former girl's changing room, easily accessible to all students and staff. It is away from the main administrative area and better adheres to strict hygiene standards, with easy-to-clean surfaces and proper ventilation to prevent the spread of germs.

### **Dame Jacqueline Wilson**

Last week, we were honoured to welcome a very important guest into school for assembly. **Dame Jacqueline Wilson**, arguably the UK's most famous living children's author, stopped by to give a talk to the children and meet our school librarians. World renowned for her captivating books, Jacqueline brought an air of excitement and creativity to HCJS. It's fair to say, our pupils were buzzing with anticipation, eagerly awaiting the chance to hear this beloved author talk and discuss her stories, which have captured their imaginations. I know this for sure, as a short pre visit talk to upper school pupils quickly provided me with an extensive list of HCJS's favourite Jacqueline Wilson titles!

Jacqueline shared anecdotes from her own childhood and the inspiration behind some of her most famous characters. She talked to the children about her writing process, encouraging our young writers to embrace their creativity and pursue their dreams. The children had the opportunity to ask lots of questions; which they did with aplomb!

## **Staffing News**

It is with not a small amount of sadness that I announce the departure of a much-loved member of our school staff, Mrs Sally Lee. After 7 years of dedicated service and unwavering commitment to our school community, Mrs Lee has decided to move on to pastures new and embark on a new chapter in her professional life.

Sally has been an integral part of the HCJS family, bringing passion, creativity, and warmth to her role as Home-School Link worker. In both this capacity and as a key member of our pastoral team who has delivered Forest School, Yoga and nurture support, she has touched the lives of many children and their families with her kindness, professionalism, and genuine care for others; always going above and beyond to ensure their success and well-being.

The current Inclusion Team mobile phone number will now be used for outgoing calls only. If you require support please contact the school office on 01844 291829 or contact your child's class teacher directly and they will then reach out to the Inclusion team.

## **Thank You Sally and Good luck**

Also leaving us at Easter were Mrs Nadia Haida and Mrs Zainab Kulume. Both ladies worked as Catering Assistants in our dining room and although Zainab hadn't been with us too long, Nadia has been serving up our hot school lunches to hungry pupils with her customary smile and good cheer for nearly 3 years. My thanks and best wishes to both of them.

We have a new arrangement with our good friends at Haddenham St Mary's School (who provide our food of course). For the time being they will support us in the lunch hall by providing us with their staff to help dish up the food.

## **OFSTED**

On behalf of myself and the HCJS staff and Governing Board, I'd like to offer you my sincere thanks again for your contribution to our recent ofsted inspection. It was humbling to read how happy and proud of our school many of you are. As always with outside scrutiny such as an ofsted inspection, there are things for us to celebrate and things for us to work on; as it was an 'ungraded' inspection we do not receive a full /detailed report, but I will share the final letter from the inspector with you when we have received it and will reserve any further comments on our experience until then.

## **Federation with HCIS**

As you are now aware the consultation period for the proposed federation with Haddenham Community Infant School has now ended. Our Governing Board will be in touch in the not too distant future to share the next steps.

## **Thank You PTA!**

We recently took delivery of 32 new Chromebook laptops to replace the rather ancient desktop PCs in the STEM room. These were funded by our brilliant PTA, I'd like to formally thank them here for the continuing support they give us, it is very much appreciated. To all you parents and carers who have attended a PTA event or funded your child's attendance at a film night or disco- thank you to; you have contributed to this vital improvement to our school's educational provision - and it makes a real difference.

## **Sporting Success**

The Spring term was full of sporting triumph for HCJS pupils, with success in Swimming (**District Champions** and 3rd in the Buckinghamshire Finals), Girl's football (**District Champions**) Gymnastics (4th place in Bucks), Handball (**District Champions**). As well as these we've sent teams to compete in inter-school fixtures and take part in participation events and festivals too such as Netball, Dodgeball and even ten pin bowling! It was a brilliant sporting term. As always our pupils represented the HCJS badge with outstanding commitment, pride and sporting values.

Don't forget to check the WEDUC news feed regularly for photographs and brief descriptions of all the wonderful things our children get up to, both inside and outside of school.

## **And finally...**

We are looking forward to another term of growth, discovery, and achievement. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you and your child every step of the way.

Andy Leach, Headteacher

Summer 1- 15th April- 23rd May 2024	
Monday 8th April	Open Books 3.30 - 4.00pm
Monday 13th-Thursday 16th May	SATs week and Spring assessments
Wednesday 8th & 15th May	Class photographs

Summer 2- 3rd June- 23rd July 2024	
Monday 3rd June	Open Books 3.30 - 4.00pm
Monday 17th- Friday 21st June	Year 6 residential trip (Willersley Castle)
Monday 13th May	Secondary Transfer Information Evening (Year 5 parents only)
Friday 14th June	Report deadline for teachers
Monday 1st July- Friday 5th July	School Games Days
Monday 1st July	Open Books 3.30 - 4.00pm
Tuesday 2nd July	Bucks transition day
Monday 8th - Wednesday 10th July	Year 4 Woodrow trip
Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd May	Year 6 show
Tuesday 16th July	Reports out
Wednesday 17th July (9.15am)	Leavers' assembly
Tuesday 23rd July - 1.30pm	School closes for the summer