



Hawthorn Community Primary School



Weekly Newsletter 26/06/20



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What a busy week it has been both in and out of school for some of the children of Hawthorn School. It was fantastic to see many of you supporting the sponsored litter pick and getting out and about in the local environment on Wednesday to collect rubbish, at the same time as raising funds for Wicksteed Park. The children in our year 1 bubble in school did their bit around the school, and many of you improved the look of your streets or of the park itself by collecting rubbish. Well done to Corey for coming up with the idea, to all those of you who took part, and to everyone who donated to our just giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hawthorncommunityprimaryschool>

We have so far managed to raise a wonderful total of £600, far in excess of our original target, – but the page will remain open for 1 more week, so could we get even higher? Fingers crossed!



This morning we welcomed some new members into our Hawthorn family, when one of our parents arrived at school with some newts which needed re-homing because of a leaky garden pond! The children in school were fascinated to see them before they were placed in the pond in the garden of the middle playground area. We hope that they will thrive in their new home and be available for the children to study when they are learning about life cycles next year.



Thank you to everyone who has completed the short survey about on-line learning. The results will help us to plan how we may be able to move forward with home learning opportunities in the new academic year; not only in the event of the school not being able to reopen as normal in September, but also to support how we may set homework tasks in the future. We would love to get a whole school picture of the access our families have to the internet and children to devices which could support their learning

Thank you also to all those parents who have made arrangements to collect belongings that their children may have left in school since the end of March. Mrs Aitken in the office still has a few p.e. bags and coats that have not been claimed, so please contact her if you think that your child may have something left in school to arrange a time to collect it.

The DfE and the Home Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have updated advice and guidance to help parents and carers to keep children safe online during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak to include new information on apps to help children stay safe online.

The advice and guidance on keeping children safe online can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online>

FSM Vouchers

For those families who qualify for free school meals vouchers we are now issuing vouchers on a weekly basis. Our aim is to upload the batch on a Monday following the previous week. This means that vouchers should arrive with families on the Wednesday each week. Following feedback, the provider Edenred have updated the parent/carer user guide to make it more user friendly. This can be accessed on the following website:

https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/DfE/DfE_FSM-voucher-scheme_Parent-Carer-Userguide.pdf

Due to the unprecedented nature of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the government are providing additional funding for a Covid Summer Food Fund which will enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to claim vouchers for the 6-week holiday period. This will be in the form of a £90 voucher for each child who qualifies.

Does my child qualify for free school meals?

We're very conscious that the circumstances of many people have changed during the last few months, and that, sadly, job-cuts and unemployment are on the rise. Below are the details explaining how to apply for free school meals which also triggers some additional funding (known as the pupil premium). This additional funding stays with a child throughout their primary education, even if the circumstances which resulted in the entitlement are only short term and the free school meal entitlement ends.

If you are in receipt of any of the following, your child may be eligible for free school meals.

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, with no element of Working Tax Credit, and a household income below £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs)
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit - income dependant

Check your eligibility and apply for free school meals using the online form.

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/Pages/free-school-meals.aspx>

Your claim will be sent to the free school meals team for authorisation and the school will be informed within 3 working days when authorisation has been confirmed.

Please note, that in order to receive a voucher for the summer break, all applications will need to be in by 3rd July, and during September and October there is a longer wait for applications to be processed.

Any child who is eligible for free school meals also brings additional funding into school which can be used to provide extra support for your child. We currently offer children in receipt of free school meals a virtual voucher of £100 each academic year, which can be used towards payment for school trips, clubs and other approved items.

Transition

As is normal at this time of year we are beginning to make preparations for the children transitioning to their new year groups. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide the children with the chance to spend a day in their new class with their new teacher before the end of term, so this year we are having to adapt our plans.

We have not yet completed the class groupings but staff are working hard to try and include friendship information as well academic and social and emotional aspects when constructing the new classes. You will find out your child's new class when reports are sent out to you. We will be looking at ways to introduce the staff to your children to prepare them as much as possible. More details will follow shortly.

Annual Reports

The teachers have written their annual reports for all our children. The assessment information and personal comment relate directly to the period up to school closure at the end of March, rather than the full academic year. Attendance data is not required to be reported this year along with any statutory assessments as these were all cancelled for primary aged pupils.

We are planning for the reports to be available to parents between 8-10th July. As not all children are in school to take home as usual the system this year will be slightly different. Those in school on the 8th July will bring their reports home with them that evening including those for any siblings in our schools. For families with children not in school at present you will be able to come to school between 9.30am and 2pm on Wednesday 8th, Thursday 9th or Friday 10th July to pick your child's report up in person from the school office. Please note that you will not be able to enter the school building, so please use the buzzer at the main school entrance to alert the office staff to your presence and we will then bring the report out to you.

Reading Books

In order to help us re-stock reading material in preparation for September, please can you return all reading books and library books that your child may have to the school before the end of term. Any books can be dropped into the quarantine box on the resource station outside the main school entrance. If possible, please stick to 9.30am-2pm for dropping them off so there is not too much congestion with the drop off and pick up times for those in school. Thank you.

We know that the last few weeks have been very difficult for everyone, particularly for those children and families who have not been able to return to school and meet up with some of their friends. I would like thank you for all the support you have shown to the school. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school again in September for the start of the new academic year. For those year 6 children who will be moving onto new schools, please don't think we have forgotten you, we are busy thinking about how we can arrange a leaving party for you all during the autumn term, so please make sure that you let us know if your contact details change over the summer, so that we can make sure you get your invite to the party!

In the meantime, please keep sharing the work that your children have been doing at home on the Class Dojo, as staff really enjoy seeing what their classes are doing; and don't forget that work packs are still available to collect from the school office each week, if your child is unable to access the on-line learning materials.