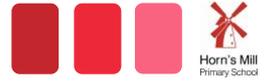

Welcome Back!



Happy New School Year! I hope you all had a lovely Summer Break.

It was a delight to see the children coming in this morning, plenty of smiles and shiny shoes! I met several of you this morning and will endeavour to be around to catch the rest of you over the next few weeks. I am very pleased to be here and extremely excited at the prospect of driving improvement at your school. Please feel free to catch me at any time about anything - if you are unable to catch me in person then please email head@hornsmill.cheshire.sch.uk and I will respond as quickly as I can.

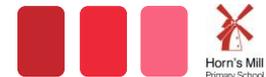


New Logo

You may have noticed that we are using a new Logo for Horn's Mill. This was actually created by Mr Melville and some of the children a while ago. We will eventually be phasing out the other two that were used previously but this will be a gradual process!



Water Bottles



In order to ensure children have a continuous supply of water, we have purchased a set of water bottles for each class that will remain in school. They will be filled with fresh water each day from our water coolers and will be washed regularly in our new dishwasher! Children will have access to them throughout the day.



Fruit and Snacks

In addition to the new water bottles we have decided to subsidise the free fruit we get for our Reception and Key Stage 1 children so that all children in school will now be offered a piece of fruit every day. They will have this at 10 o'clock during a snack break. Playtime will now be at 11am at which time children from Year 1-6 may choose to buy toast prepared by the kitchen. Hopefully this will support rumbling tummies during what is an intense morning of learning in our new timetable which places Reading, Writing and Maths every morning.



Decoration



Hopefully you will have noticed that we have been working extremely hard over the Summer holidays to improve the learning environment in school. Some classrooms and the entrance hall and staffroom have had a coat of paint and more than two skips have been filled due to intense de cluttering!! Mr Webb had been very busy!! With the approach of the new financial year next April, I will be making plans for further refurbishment over the coming years.



Morning Challenges

As you may know, all children at Horn's Mill complete 'Morning Challenges' between 8.40-8.50am when they come into school in the morning. We would like to offer a warm welcome to Reception, Team 1 and 2 parents to stay with their child to work on these challenges together. We want to build on the open door policy that exists here, to ensure that clear channels of communication are available between us and this is one of the ways we will start this. We hope you are able to stay and we promise not to make the challenges too difficult!!





Mouse Mania!



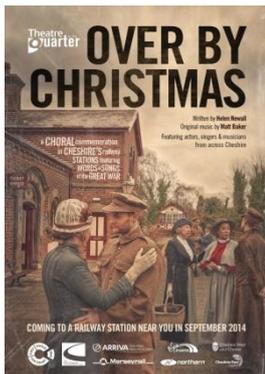
Your children may come home today excited and motivated about Mouse Mania, Mouse Merits and Big Cheeses!! Please don't be alarmed! This is our new reward and behaviour policy! To provide you with full details of this, I am planning a parents information evening soon, so watch this space!



Safeguarding

In order to ensure our school is a secure site and on the advice of the Local Authority lead for Safeguarding, we are making some changes to our morning routine. From Monday 8th September both of the side wooden gates will remain locked between 9.15-2.55pm. At 8.40am the Main Entrance will be opened for access into school for Reception, Team 1 and Team 2 children. The side door to the infants will now be locked so that the office staff and I can be visible and able to see who is coming into school. Pre-School will meet parents/carers at the side gate during periods when their children and families arrive and leave. Access to pre school will be gained during the times the gates locked by phoning pre-school. This ensures that our school site is fully locked and secure during all times when our children are in school. The routine for our junior children remains unchanged, although they are very welcome to come in through the main door if they wish!! If you have any queries about this please don't hesitate to ask.

Over by Christmas



We have been lucky enough to have been given the opportunity to work with Matt Baker, an extremely talented Musician from Chester. He works with several Music and Theatre companies and his recent production "Over by Christmas" is to be performed at Helsby Station on Friday 19th September. Our Team 5 and 6 children will be working with Matt in school over the next few weeks to learn some of the songs so they can join in when we take them to the performance! Mr Melville will be providing more information near the time but the performance is open to the public so feel free to come along! For more information please go to

<http://theatreinthequarter.co.uk/over-by-christmas>



Children Addressing Adults



This year we have asked the children to call our Teaching Assistants by their surname in the same way as teachers. The role of a teaching assistant has changed significantly over recent years and they are now equally accountable for children's learning with supporting teaching taking up the vast majority of their time in school. We want the children to value all of the adults in school as the people who support their learning and help them make progress. We feel that asking the children to address everybody in the same way offers equal respect to all adults. We are happy for parents to address us either way, teaching assistants, teachers or Head-teachers!!

And Finally...



I am hoping that over the coming weeks I can learn all of the children's names and become familiar with all of you. I am privileged to be working with your children and I hope we can work together to make Horn's Mill the excellent provision they deserve.

If you want to chat about anything in this first newsletter or anything else, please catch me in school, or phone or email.

Thanks Everyone,

Sharon Wyatt (Head Teacher)