



Hobb Lane
Hedge End, Southampton
Hampshire, SO30 0GG

Telephone: (01489) 782295

E-mail: admin@freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk

Website: www.freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Ryan O'Hearn, BA (Hons)

No. 1

School Newsletter

September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have made a fantastic start to the new school year and it has been great to see their positive attitudes towards their new topics and learning. We are extremely proud of how they have started back!

Despite feeling very different to the past 18 months, it has been lovely to see the children interacting outside across their year groups during break and lunch times. Returning to whole-school lunch times has given us the opportunity to provide a wider range of games and activities for children to engage with during this time.

Myself and all the staff are excited for the year ahead and look forward to working with you and your children.

Ryan O'Hearn

Aspens

Many children (and staff!) have been enjoying the meals produced by the school's new catering company, Aspens. These include some new additions to the menu, as well as some firm favourites. It has been great to see an increasing number of children making the most of the salad bar at the servery, which is always available in addition to the meal they have ordered (the new range of desserts have also been very popular too!).



Assemblies

This week we have returned to having assemblies in the school hall. We have made the decision not to hold whole-school assemblies still and have instead met as an Upper (Yr 5 and 6) and Lower (Yr 3 and 4) school. This has enabled us to ensure that there is good space between classes in the hall but still allows us to meet together beyond our year groups, which we have greatly missed.

Our Celebration Assemblies will be run in a similar way and will alternate between half of the school attending in the hall, whilst the others attend remotely in their classrooms. This week, Lower school will be in the hall while Upper school are in their classrooms.

Behaviour Policy - Rewards

Last year the School Council worked extremely hard to further develop several of the rewards linked to our school behaviour policy. Earlier this week the changes were shared with the children during assemblies and they will be coming into effect from Monday. The updated behaviour policy will be published on the school website, however the main changes are detailed below.



Effort marks

All children will earn an effort mark for demonstrating our learning behaviours. For example when a child has demonstrated teamwork with others, shown resilience when solving problems, reflected and learnt from mistakes. Effort stars are collected on a record chart in children's home school books and will be marked by a coloured dot. This will give children the opportunity to visually keep track of how many effort marks they have received, as well as reflecting on which learning behaviours they are strongest in and which need further practice.

(Resilience = red Teamwork = orange Critical Thinking = green Creativity = purple
Reflection = dark blue Independence = light blue)

'Always' badge

Pupils who continually follow the Positive Behaviour Code and set an excellent example to others are nominated by teachers to receive an 'Always Badge'. After an interview with the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher and child, a badge and a certificate will be awarded in a Friday celebration assembly. These children will have special privileges within the school which have been agreed by the learning council, Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher.

Tiered overview of the rewards

These are reserved for pupils who are ALWAYS reliable and demonstrate outstanding attitudes to learning over time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always Badge
These are awarded for more significant or notable effort linked to the school learning behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effort Marks• Star of the Week
Children move up the behaviour chart for following the Positive Behaviour Code and demonstrating positive learning behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visual Behaviour Chart
To be given out regularly to reinforce ANY positive behaviour, choice or attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• House points• Lunch time stickers• General classroom approaches (if you choose to use these)• Whole class reward – marbles/ticks (when everyone is making the right choice)

Pupil Voice

We believe that it is vitally important for children to have their say about the school. For this reason, we have a wide range of pupil-led groups who are responsible for gathering and sharing the views of all children across the school and to shape what our school looks like.



House Captains (Year 6 only)

The year 6 children will be creating and submitting videos to apply for the position of house captain and the deadline for this is Tuesday 14th September. The videos should try to include the following:

- An introduction to you - a bit about yourself, hobbies interests etc.
- How you have been or why you think you are a good role model.
- How you have or intend to have a positive impact on the school.
- How you have demonstrated our school's learning behaviours.

In addition to the above, we would like you to keep your videos to no more than 2 minutes long.

Additional roles across the school (all year groups)

On the week commencing 20th September, the children in each class will be holding class elections for the following roles:



- **School Council** – work alongside various members of staff to influence different policies across the school. This has most recently included changes to the school's behaviour policy and reward system
- **Eco reps.** - works alongside members of staff with a focus on the school environment.
- **Sports Captains** – work alongside Mr Connolly and Mr Bingly to facilitate and organise lunchtime games and other sporting activities
- **Learning Council** – work alongside Mrs Hawkins to promote and develop the school's learning behaviours
- **Wellbeing Champions** – work alongside Mrs Robinson to champion positive mental health and wellbeing across the school



Each of these roles entail attending meetings with different members of staff, sharing information from these meetings with their class and taking on feedback from the other children.

If your child would like to nominate themselves for one of these roles, they will have to prepare a brief presentation explaining why they believe they would be suitable for the role and they will share this with their class. This could be in the form of a poster, a video a poem, a drawing or just explaining why they would like to and why they would be a good choice to be considered for the role.

Further information will be communicated with the children by their class teachers around these roles and the process involved.

Topics

This half term the children are enjoying the following topics and a Topic Overview for each year group will be coming out to you shortly to provide you with more information.

Year 3 – Grow For It

Year 4 – Round and Round, Up and Down

Year 5 – Walk like an Egyptian

Year 6 – Life on an Island

Clubs

We will be running a range of clubs across the school throughout the year. There will be some which will take place during lunchtimes and these will be free for children to attend. Other clubs will take place after school (from 3:15pm – 4:30pm) and these will be charged for. We are still finalising which clubs we will be able to offer and as soon as this information is available we will share it with you and the children.

