

# Hallam Fields Junior School Newsletter

6<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. We wanted to outline some of the important things you will need to know for the coming year including dates for some of the events we already have planned.

## PE and Forest School Days

Forest Schools will start from Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September. All children will require a change of clothes including long sleeves and long trousers, a waterproof and wellies or shoes which they can get dirty. We have spare wellies in school so please let your child's teacher know if you need to borrow some. Forest Schools will continue whatever the weather usually, with activities adapted to suit the conditions. The days for Forest School are; Year 3 - Tuesday, Year 4 - Monday, Year 5 - Thursday and Year 6 – Friday.

For PE days children should come to school in their PE Kit with their school jumper on. Year 5 will be commencing their PE sessions on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, Year 6 and Year 3 on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September and Year 4 on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Children will have 2 PE sessions per week, 1 indoors and 1 outdoors (weather dependant). Year 6 will be swimming during the Autumn Term and Year 5 during Spring and Summer Terms.

PE Days are; Year 3 – Wednesday and Thursday, Year 4 - Wednesday and Friday, Year 5 – Tuesday and Friday, Year 6 - Monday and Thursday.

## Seesaw – Including new Family Messaging

All children in school have access to an account on Seesaw. You should be able to find their login details in the back of their Home School Diary. This is where children can upload photos of work they do, record videos of activities they complete or even when reading at home so a teacher or teaching assistant can see them and reward them for extra that they do at home. In the event of a school closure, we would set work on here for children to complete. Seesaw is also used by classroom staff to send messages to tell you about things that children will be doing in school, especially if they need to bring something with them or if there are changes to the day they usually have PE or Forest Schools. **This year we are also introducing Family Seesaw** which will be a way for you to communicate with your child's teacher or receive announcements and messages directly, **please see the separate detailed sheet which has been sent home with this newsletter which**

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**includes how to set up the app.** We encourage you to please load this as we will be looking to save money in school and be phasing out our texting system. You will be able to set up on any phone the app to message your child's class teacher / teaching assistant as well as Mr Brown. We will aim to move all messages from school throughout the year to this instead of our texting service to save school money. Please be advised we still ask that you speak to staff face to face at the end of the day when they bring the class out, or speak to a member of staff in the morning on the gate where you can. Where this is not possible we hope that messaging staff will be easier through Seesaw. Staff will check their messages each day, however please be aware as they are teaching they will not be able to get back to you immediately and so for anything urgent please continue to contact the school office. Staff have also been advised that there is no expectation for them to answer messages outside of their working hours, however we understand this may be the most convenient time for you to send any messages.

Your child should still continue to login as they have been with their own account details. Parents will need to scan their individual code which is on the letter sent home to be able to access announcements and messages. Any announcements which are sent you will not be able to respond to, instead you should send an individual message to the member of staff.

## What we are learning

Over recent years we have been developing our curriculum. For each term you can find an overview of what we will be doing, which we review the term before and adapt to the needs of the children in our current classes. Please visit our website to find out what we will be covering [www.hallamfields.derbyshire.sch.uk/curriculum](http://www.hallamfields.derbyshire.sch.uk/curriculum)

## Reading

We spend a lot of time in school reading in a variety of ways with all classes each week. Children will be tested using Accelerated Reader to determine which books they should be reading and we carefully monitor this in school. We encourage all children to read at home as well as in school, and children are rewarded for all they read with tokens in school. Please sign in their home school diaries each time they read. There is also a section for you to initial as we offer an extra reward to all children who read 30 times per half term which you can find on page 18-23.

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## Times Tables

All children will have login details to TTRS (Times Table Rock Stars) in their home school diary. Children can access this at any time and we encourage this as part of their homework. Throughout the year classes and year groups will run different competitions. Times tables is so important to all maths and we want all children to be able to recall their times tables quickly and confidently. Children in year 4 will be tested on all of the times tables towards the end of the year as part of the government tests we carry out annually.

## Rewards

In school we have a range of different rewards which your children may come home telling you they have achieved. Children can collect merits which go towards Bronze (50), Silver (100), Gold (150) and Super Gold (200) Certificates each year. Children can also collect tokens which are given to them to reward them for work at home amongst other things. These are then used to buy items from our token shop. As a school we also give out lots of certificates to celebrate children's achievements and effort. These include Headteacher Awards, Mathematician of the Week and Star of the Week.

## Thrive

As a school we are proud to have been a Thrive school for a number of years and for our work to have been recognised with an award as a Thrive Ambassador School with Excellence in Relationship. In school we use the Thrive Approach each day in school, through the way we support children who are struggling at any point, in class with Thrive Time lessons as well as 1:1 sessions for some children with a Thrive Practitioner. In addition to this we also run a Family Thrive course for parents to learn about Thrive and be able to use it to support them at home. If you would like to discuss this further or sign up for the next course please speak to Mrs Carr.

## Early Help

Sometimes children and families need support and as a school we are here to help. We appreciate how hard it can be to ask for help sometimes, and we will always work with you without judgement to try and help where we can. This can be through work we can do in school with your child, however more often this is through referrals to specialist support which we can access. Over recent

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years we have supported for bereavement, children exposed to domestic violence or alcohol or drug addiction with a member of their family. Children's anxiety and mental health has also been an increased concern for many families and one where we have referred to a local organisation called Changing Lives. They are able to work with families and support parents at home to make changes. You can find a lot of details about organisations we work with on our school website <https://www.hallamfields.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-info-early-help> or come and speak to any one of us outside of school in a morning.

## Term Time Absence

If your child is absent for any reason please contact the school office before 9.30am on the morning of the absence by calling 0115 9322568 or emailing [enquiries@hallamfields.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@hallamfields.derbyshire.sch.uk) If you need to request time off for any other reason, you will need to complete a Request of Absence form which the office can provide or online. We are governed by many rules from Derbyshire County Council and the government which means we are unable to authorise many requests for absence unless they meet our exceptional circumstances. Details of this can be found <https://www.hallamfields.derbyshire.sch.uk/attendance> Any leave which does not meet exceptional circumstances will be passed to Derbyshire County Council who may issue a penalty fine. As a school we are required to send this information but do not receive any of the fines. Please provide as much information with your application and send as soon as you possibly can.

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## Dates for the year

Date	Event	Details
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the teacher 3.40-4.40pm	Look around the class with your child and chat with their teacher
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Race For Life	Sponsored race for all
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	School Council Elections	Classes vote for those to stand on Junior Leadership Team
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Hello Yellow Day	Wear something yellow - World Mental Health Day voluntary donation
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	INSET day	
W/B 31 <sup>st</sup> October	ArtsMark Week	Lots of art activities happening
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Cross Country Event	Team picked to attend during day
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> and Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Parents' Evenings	More details to follow
W/B 14 <sup>th</sup> November	National Anti-Bullying Week	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Child in Need Day	Non-uniform for a donation
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Basketball Event	Team picked to attend after school
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day	Optional wear a Christmas Jumper with your uniform
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 Christmas Party	Children bring a change of clothes for the afternoon. Party will be during the afternoon as a year group.
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 Christmas Party	
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Christmas Party	
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 4 Christmas Party	
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner	
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics	Team picked to attend during day
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Y3/4 Gymnastics Festival	Team picked to attend during day

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Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Y5/6 Gymnastics Festival	Team picked to attend during day
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day	
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Valentine's Disco	Details nearer the time
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET DAY	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day	Optional Book Character Costumes
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5/6 Netball	Team picked to attend after school
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> & Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evenings	
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Y5/6 Swimming gala	Team picked to attend during day
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> – Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs	
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Y5/6 Cricket	Team picked to attend during day
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> / Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Sports Days	Details nearer the time
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Multi Sports Festival	Group picked to attend during day
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Residential - PGL	
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	INSET Day	
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	District Sports	Team picked to attend during day
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Dance Show	Group picked to attend during day
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Girls Sports Festival	Group picked to attend after school
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	End of year reports	
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Party	6-8pm
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Production	5pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Production	9.15am
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Assembly	2pm for Year 6 Parents

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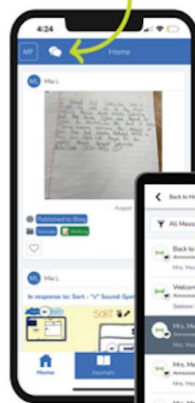
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Please see the individual paper letter your child should have brought home with your SeeSaw code

## How To Use *Messages* Family Guide

Stay in touch with your child's school in one place! Please note that your child's school determines what communication tools are available.

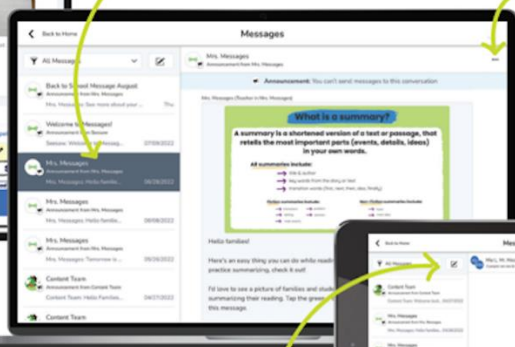
Tap  Messages to get started!



**Tap on a message to open it.**


You might receive...

- Schoolwide and class announcements
- Private messages with your child's teacher
- Group chats started by your child's teacher




**Reply privately to Announcements.**

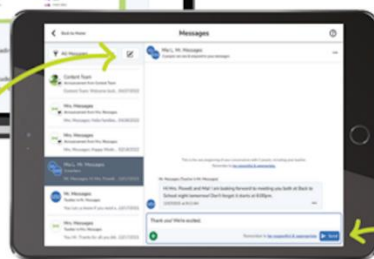
If enabled by your child's school...

- The  means it's an Announcement
- Tap the three dots then tap 'Privately reply'

**Start conversations with your child's teachers.**

If enabled by your child's school...

- Tap  and use the search bar to search for your child's teacher.



**Type your reply in the text box and tap send.**

- Click the  to add photos, videos, and more

**Translate all typed text.**

If your device is set to a language other than English, you'll see the option to translate all typed text.

- Click 'View Translation'
- Reply in your preferred language, and the teacher will see the option to 'View Translation', too.

*Seesaw*

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