

Hallam Fields Junior School Newsletter

8th September 2023

Welcome Back

We would like to welcome our new year 3 children, and their families, along with our other children returning to school and say how pleased we all were to have their happy smiling faces back in school this week. We are very much looking forward to working with you all this year.

We hope your child has settled in well during the first few days. Next Wednesday, after school, we will be offering a chance for you to visit their classroom and meet the staff. Children will be brought out of the gates as usual. We ask you allow all of the children to leave before making your way down to class to allow your child to show you around and offer you the chance to discuss anything with their teacher.

PE Days

On PE days, children should come to school wearing black trainers, black joggers, leggings, shorts or skorts, a plain or school logo white t-shirt and their school sweatshirt or cardigan. The days your child will be taking part in PE are as follows: Year 3 Monday and Thursday, Year 4 Wednesday and Friday, Year 5 Tuesday and Friday, Year 6 Monday and Thursday. Year 5 will be swimming on a Tuesday morning and can still come in their PE kit on this day – Beech class will be swimming for the first half of the year and Willow class for the second half of the year (more details will be sent separately).

Forest School Days

On your child's Forest School Day, children need to bring in clothing to take part in a named carrier bag. Suitable clothing should include old long-sleeved top and long-legged trousers, a coat, a change of shoes, wellies or boots that can get muddy, socks and a hat and gloves for when it gets really cold. Forest Schools will usually continue whatever the weather, with activities adapted to suit the conditions. The day your child will be taking part in Forest Schools is as follows: Year 3 Wednesday, Year 4 Tuesday, Year 5 Thursday and Year 6 Friday.

Seesaw Communication System

Thank you to all our new year 3 parents who have signed up to the app as this is the main method of communication for all announcements and messages sent from school. If you would like more than one parent to access the Seesaw app, please email enquiries@hallamfields.derbyshire.sch.uk with your child's name and the additional email address you would like to access Seesaw and we will set this up as soon as possible.

Uniform and Jewellery reminder

Could we ask all parents to name all school uniform, PE kit and forest schools clothing so we can swiftly return items to the correct owners. Please also remember that for safety reasons children are only allowed one stud in each ear, no other types of earrings or jewellery are allowed. Children should be able to take their own earrings out on PE days or come with them not in, they are not allowed to tape them up.

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Bringing in Sweets for Birthdays

If your child would like to bring in sweets to share with their class to celebrate their birthday, we would ask parents to notify us at least a day in advance in order that we can share the type of sweets and ingredients with parents to support children with allergies.

Food provided in school

Some children may on occasion arrive at school without having had any breakfast due to an unsettled start to the day or if families have been in a rush. On these occasions or if a child is struggling and saying they are hungry we may offer them a slice of toast. We would like to reassure parents that we would only provide children with toast on white bread with butter and staff will ensure that we follow any existing allergy/intolerance information provided from home. If you need to update school with any allergy/intolerance information, please contact the school office.

Permission, Consent and Student Contact Form

Just a quick reminder to those who have not already completed the annual permissions form in our current Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 to do so at their earliest opportunity. As a school we are required to ensure any permissions we hold relating to our pupils, families and staff is reviewed annually: <https://forms.office.com/r/DYXivTNgkB>

If you or your child's emergency contacts have changed, please complete the Student Contact Update Form below. Please note we require **TWO** emergency contact numbers for your child on our school records.

<https://forms.office.com/r/3yzCRI3B8v>

School Dinners

The price of a school meal has now increased to £3.25 per meal. We would encourage all parents to complete the online Free School Meals application as the service automatically checks eligibility and will highlight families who become eligible, and this eligibility remains for their current phase of education (i.e. until reaching secondary school). The form is quick and simple and asks for minimal information. [Free school meals and Pupil Premium funding - Derbyshire County Council](#)

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

We ask that all messages for absence come through the office and not be messaged to staff on Seesaw who might not access the message before teaching.

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.

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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.

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 in their diaries.

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 learning 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.

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 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 positive 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.

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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 and Thrive Ambassador School in Right-Time. 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 the Thrive approach 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.

Weekly Sheet on a Friday

Each Friday we will send a brief overview of any main events taking place the following week, or changes to PE or Forest School days. This is in addition to any newsletter or the planned diary dates for the year which are included in this newsletter. This will be sent via Seesaw.

SENCO

Our teacher in charge of Special Needs is Miss Daykin. If you have any concerns about your child's needs, you can talk with your child's class teacher or Miss Daykin. She is available on a Thursday each week often outside on the gate and throughout the day, please let school know if you would like an appointment with her at any point.

Building Work Update

During the summer holidays the planned internal works to the top corridor took place. This is in preparation for the two new classrooms which are being built at the side of school. The internal works have given much needed office space and meeting rooms, we have developed space in school for children meeting 1:1 with external agencies supporting them and developed space for staff when they are planning. This work is nearly finished with the exception of some final work to the main office. Unfortunately, the external works to the classrooms has been delayed once again, with little work happening over the summer. This is extremely frustrating as this should have initially been ready for the start of term before being delayed, with the building originally expected to be delivered tomorrow. This is due to problems with ground works and drains, which is possibly to be expected due to the nature of the site and the slope they are working on. Until this work is completed Rowan class have had to relocate to Cedar which we usually use for computing. This means that all classes will not be able to access the computers and instead will be following the computing units from their plans which can be done on iPads or using other hardware.

What is my child learning this term

You can find out what your child is learning each term on our website

<https://www.hallamfields.derbyshire.sch.uk/ourcurriculum>

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Diary Dates

Date	Event	Details
Wednesday 13 th September	Meet the teacher 3.40-4.40pm	Look around the class with your child and chat with their teacher
Thursday 21 st September	School Council Elections	Classes vote for those to stand on Junior Leadership Team
Monday 18 th –Friday 22 nd September	Book Fair	Book Fair will be open straight afterschool all week
Tuesday 10 th October	Hello Yellow Day	Non-Uniform day - Wear something yellow - World Mental Health Day voluntary donation via Parent Pay
Friday 27 th October	INSET day	
Monday 6 th –Friday 10 th November	ArtsMark Week	Lots of art activities happening
Wednesday 15 th November	School Photographs	Individual and Siblings photographs in school. From 8.15am younger siblings/group photos
Wednesday 15 th November & Thursday 16 th November	Parents' Evenings	More details to follow
Monday 13 th -Friday 17 th November	National Anti-Bullying Week	
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need Day	Non-uniform – voluntary donation via ParentPay
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Jumper Day	Optional wear a Christmas Jumper with your uniform
Monday 11 th December	Rock Steady Christmas Concert	Music Concert for parents of children taking part in lessons
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Dinner	
Monday 18 th December 9.15am	Year 6 Christmas assembly for Parents	
Tuesday 19 th December 9.15am	Year 4 Christmas assembly for Parents	
Wednesday 20 th December 9.15am	Year 5 Christmas assembly for Parents	

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Thursday 21 st December 9.15am	Year 3 Christmas assembly for Parents	
Monday 18 th December	Year 3 Christmas Party (pm)	Children bring a change of clothes for the afternoon. Party will be during the afternoon as a year group.
Tuesday 19 th December	Year 5 Christmas Party (pm)	
Wednesday 20 th December	Year 4 Christmas Party (pm)	
Thursday 21 st December	Year 6 Christmas Party (pm)	
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day	
Thursday 15 th February	Valentine's Disco	Details nearer the time
Monday 26 th February	INSET DAY	
Monday 4 th –Friday 8 th March	Book Week	
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day	Optional Book Character Costumes
Date to be confirmed (Wrong on Red Nose Day website)	Red Nose Day	Non-uniform – voluntary donation via ParentPay
Friday 22 nd March	World Maths Day	
Wednesday 17 th April & Thursday 18 th April	Parents' Evenings	More details to follow
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday	
Monday 13 th May – Thursday 16 th May	Year 6 SATs	
Tuesday 21 st May & Wednesday 22 nd May	Sports Days	Details nearer the time
Wednesday 19 th –Friday 21 st June	Y6 Residential - PGL	
Monday 24 th June	INSET Day	
Thursday 4 th July	End of year reports	
Wednesday 17 th July	Year 6 Production	5pm
Thursday 18 th July	Year 6 Production	9.15am
Friday 19 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Party	6-8pm
Monday 22 nd July	Leavers' Assembly	2pm for Year 6 Parents

Link to Derbyshire County Council School Term Dates: [School term dates 2023 to 2024 \(derbyshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/school-term-dates-2023-to-2024)

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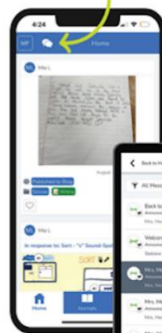
Using SEESAW

As a parent you will have been sent an email to link to your child's Seesaw account and see what they can, but also get notifications. Children have their own logins which are in their diaries. Please ensure you are logged in with your account to receive notifications. Any parent who signed up last year will automatically have moved to their child's new class. If you have any difficulties or would like another parent to also have access please email enquiries@hallamfields.derbyshire.sch.uk with your child's name and the email address of the parent to be added.

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.

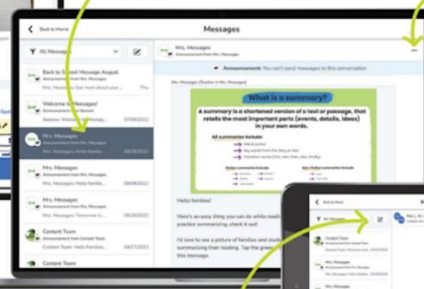
Tap  Messages to get started!



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.

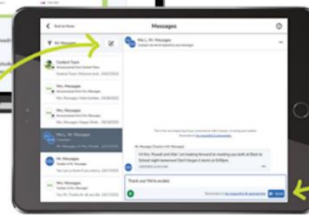
If enabled by your child's school...

- The  megaphone 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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