

Harwich Community Primary

School and Nursery

Newsletter – Tuesday 1st Sept '24



WELCOME BACK, EVERYONE

Almost welcome back! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some precious time together as a family.

It hardly seems possible that another school year is about to begin. The summer holidays always seem to fly by, but we are now getting ready to open our doors once again and fill our school with the laughter, energy and excitement of our children.

There is something very special about the start of a new school year. It is a time for **new beginnings, fresh starts, new friendships, new challenges and new opportunities**. Whether your child is joining us for the very first time, moving into a new year group or returning to familiar surroundings, we are incredibly excited to welcome them back.



A VERY WARM WELCOME

To all our new families, a very special welcome to you. We are delighted that you have chosen our school and hope that you will quickly feel part of our wonderful school community.

To our returning families, welcome back! Thank you for the continued trust and support you place in us. We never take that for granted.

And, of course, a huge welcome to our children. **You are the reason we are here, and we cannot wait to see you!**



READY FOR ANOTHER YEAR

Our school continues to be guided by our simple but important rules for all of us:

Be Kind. Be Safe. Be Responsible.

These words underpin everything we do. We want every child to feel valued, listened to, safe and proud of who they are.

Our aim is not simply for children to achieve academically, but to help them develop into **confident, caring, resilient and curious young people** who believe in themselves and understand that they have something wonderful to contribute to the world.

There will undoubtedly be challenges along the way, but we will face them together, always keeping the needs of our children at the heart of what we do.



LEARNING, GROWING AND ACHIEVING

This year we will continue to focus on providing our children with an ambitious, engaging and inclusive curriculum.

We want children to be excited about learning, to ask questions, make mistakes, persevere and celebrate their successes.

Whether it is reading a new book, solving a tricky mathematical problem, writing creatively, investigating the world around them, performing on stage, taking part in sport or simply learning how to be a good friend, **every experience matters.**

We are particularly looking forward to seeing our children grow in confidence and independence as the year progresses.



WORKING TOGETHER WITH FAMILIES

One of the greatest strengths of our school is our community.

We know that children thrive when **home and schoolwork together**, and we value the conversations, support and encouragement that our families provide.

Please continue to talk to us, share successes and, when things are difficult, come and speak to us. We may not always have an immediate answer, but we will always listen and do our very best to help.

Our door is always open.



OUR STAFF

I also want to take a moment to thank our incredible staff team.

Behind the scenes, there has been an enormous amount of preparation taking place to ensure that our school is ready for September. From classrooms being prepared and resources organised, to planning learning, supporting our

children and preparing our environment, there is so much work that happens before the children even walk through the door. I feel incredibly lucky to work alongside such a **dedicated, caring and passionate team.**

Their commitment to our children is evident every single day.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Autumn Term 2026 - **Thursday 3rd September**

School Photographs - **Tuesday 29th September**

Hello Yellow Day - **Friday 10th October**

Autumn Half Term- **Monday 27th October- Friday 31st October**

Back to School- **Monday 3rd November**

More dates will follow in a separate message.

IF YOUR CHILD IS ILL

If your child is too ill to attend school, please can you call the school office and leave a message with child's name, class teacher and the reason for their absence. Please do not leave a message on DOJOS as these can often be missed.

LUNCH TIME MENU

We will be on **week 1** of our lunch menus for Thursday and Friday. You can head over to our school website and find our menus there.

OUR SCHOOL RULES AND VISION

Our school rules are simple and are a common thread in all that we do here at Harwich Community Primary School. They are: -

Be Kind

Be Safe

Be Responsible

We also pride ourselves on our updated vision being:

 *At Harwich
Community Primary
School, every child belongs
and every day counts* 

NAME IT OR LOSE IT!

Please can we urge you all to label everything. It is much easier to find items when they have been lost, run away or been eaten by the lost property monster.

Why not try our STICKINS labels using this link below or use a sharpie pen on the clothing labels.

[Clothes Name Labels. Stick On School Name Labels, Name Tags: Stikins®](#)

PE TIMETABLES

It is important that PE kits are in school from the very first day. The PE timetable is as follows:



PE Kit Reminder



As we get ready for another exciting year of sport and physical activity, we

would like to remind families of our **PE kit expectations**.



Our PE Kit

Children should have:

- **White round-neck T-shirt**
- **Black shorts**
- **Black jogging bottoms** for colder weather
- **Black jacket** for the winter months

Please ensure that all PE kit is **clearly named**, as this makes it much easier for us to return items to their owners!

We want all children to be comfortable, warm and ready to take part in PE throughout the year. As the weather gets colder, children should have their **black jogging bottoms and black jacket** available for outdoor activities.

PE TIMETABLE

Reception- Monday mornings

Year 1 - Monday pm and Tuesday am

Year 2 - Monday pm and Thursday am

Year 3 - Wednesday pm and Friday am

Year 4 - Tuesday am and Thursday om (swimming)

Year 5 - Tuesday pm and Friday am

Year 6 - Tuesday pm and Thursday pm

Thank you for your continued support in helping us ensure that our children are ready, safe and prepared to enjoy being active.   

FOREST SCHOOLS

We are also excited to announce that we will be delivering Forest School sessions this academic year and these will take place every Friday afternoon as part of our Forest Friday. Mr Boulton will lead these sessions along with class support staff.

More information will follow but here is the timetable:

Monday am - Reception (Muddy Monday) all through the year!

Autumn 1 - Year 3

Autumn 2 - Year 1

Spring 1 - Year 5

Spring 2 - Year 4

Summer 1 - Year 2

Summer 2 - Year 6

 **EXCITING NURSERY
NEWS- OUR NEW OPENING
TIMES** 

We are delighted to announce that from September, **our Nursery session times are changing** to bring them more closely in line with the rest of the school day.

 **Our New Nursery Times**

Morning Session: 8:30am - 11:30am

Afternoon Session: 12:30pm - 3:30pm

We hope these new times will make the school day feel more joined-up for our children and families and provide a smoother transition between Nursery and the wider school.

 **Need an 8:00am Drop-Off?**

Don't worry!

If you need to drop your child off at **8:00am**, you can book them into our **Breakfast Club**.

Our friendly Breakfast Club team will look after your child and make sure they are **safely taken to Nursery in plenty of time for the start of their learning at 8:30am**.

This means you can still make use of an early drop-off while knowing that your child is safe, happy and cared for before their Nursery session begins.

We are really excited about this change and look forward to welcoming all our Nursery children back for another wonderful year of **learning, playing, exploring and growing together!** 

YEAR 4 SWIMMING

Our Year 4 class will be going swimming every Thursday.

To help your child get the most from their lessons, please ensure they have:

* Girls: a one-piece swimsuit (no bikinis, please).

* Boys: swimming trunks (not board shorts, as these can make swimming more difficult).

* A swim hat and goggles are preferred, as they make learning and progressing much easier.

On swimming days, we will have an early lunch before walking to and from the pool. Children will get changed into their swimwear at school before we leave, then put their school clothes back on over the top. If it is easier, children are welcome to wear their swimwear underneath their school uniform for the morning.

We all get dry and changed before returning to school after our lesson.

The school asks for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the swimming lessons, which can be paid through the school's online payment system.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to send me a message via ClassDojo.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with you and your children in September!

MESSAGE FROM ME...

INFORMATION FOR DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES

Nursery – 1 parent/ adult only to drop off and pick up. Please take them to the Nursery cloakroom by following the path into the Early Years playground.

Reception – You will drop off at the school gate where your children will be greeted by Reception Class staff. They will wait for a number of Otters to arrive at the Otter bus stop

(supervised by a member of Reception staff) and then they will be taken to class. We will have some Otter themed bus stops and signs to help them along the way! At pick up, the Otters will meet you at the wooden gate on the edge of the Early Years playground. (Again only 1 parent / adult to collect).

Year 1 – Year 6

We will continue with our drop off and pick up routines from last term.

Drop off

- **Gates will open at 8:45am**
- All children will need to be dropped off at the gates
- Children will make their own way to class- no lining up!

Pick Up

- only one adult/ person to come and collect your children.
- If older siblings are collecting, they need to be 14 or over!
- Please also let grandparents and other family members know too.

See you all on Thursday 3rd September.

