

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter of the Spring term 2024.



Curriculum

Over the past three days, the children have quickly settled back into their learning and I have been impressed with their engagement and excitement at the start of the spring term. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum enriched by meaningful, motivating and memorable experiences.



This week, Years 3 & 5 received a table tennis taster session from Ian Ford from Horsham Sports Services (Year 4 will have theirs next week). We currently run a club before school on a Wednesday morning, so look out for further information in the clubs letter. *Mrs E Wright*



Safeguarding - Internet safety

According to recent research, some children spend up to 4 hours on digital devices during an average day. National Online Safety have produced a useful guide for families trying to reduce their amount of screen time, on this Top Tips poster, which can be found on our website under the Parents tab along with other helpful information about internet safety.



Meet the Governors



My name is Shirley Gardner and I am currently Chair of the board of Governors. I have been a co-opted Governor since January 2021 – joining in the middle of a Covid lockdown!! I really enjoy being a governor and am proud of everything that the staff and children at Holbrook achieve!

I retired in 2017 to care for my elderly parents and needed something to do once that part of my life was completed! Before I retired, I was Assistant Headteacher of a Primary School in Haywards Heath so have an education background.

I have two grown up children, our daughter is married and lives locally! Our son also lives locally and works for a computer software firm. My husband is a steam train fan and volunteers at the Bluebell Railway and is a keen supporter of Horsham FC! When not in school I run Holbrook Heart Café at St Mark’s Church, enjoy working in my garden and crafts such as knitting and crochet! We are also members of the National Trust and try and visit different places each year!

All governors have a link subject and mine is English, Literacy and Early Reading.

Picture News

This week’s topic for discussion is **Are emojis an important part of communication?** – see below.



In the news this week



10-year-old Teddy Cottle from Oxfordshire has launched a petition calling for Apple to change the glasses emoji, also known as the 'nerd' emoji, as he says it gives the wrong impression of glasses-wearers. Teddy decided to write a letter to Apple requesting the design be changed, asking his classmates and French teacher, Lisa Baillie, to sign it. She suggested instead that it should become a petition and it was launched on petitiononline.co.uk.

Things to talk about at home ...

- What do you know about emojis? Do you ever use them?
- Talk to someone else at home. Do they use emojis?
- If you could design a new emoji, what would it look like?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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CHARTWELLS ORDER CUT OFF DATES	
CUT OFF DATE Thursday 23:59	FOR WEEK COMMENCING
11th January 2024	22nd January 2024
18th January 2024	29th January 2024
25th January 204	5th February 2024
Half Term week	
8th February 2024	19th February 2024
15th February 2024	26th February 2024
22nd February 2024	4th March 2024

Diary dates (new dates will appear in bold)

Spring 2024	
Thursday 11 th January	Y3 Swimming starts
Thursday 11th January	Y4 Ukulele starts
Monday 15th January	DOT day- Children may wear colourful clothes
Friday 19 th January	Young Voices at the O2
Thursday 1 st February	School Council visit to Houses of Parliament
Monday 12th- Fri 16th February	Half term
Monday 19th February	INSET- school closed to pupils
Tuesday 27th February	Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 29th February	Parent Consultation Evening

Best wishes



Ian Holmes