

Haseltine Newsletter 13th January 2023

Dear Parents, Carers, Children, Families & Friends,

Welcome back to the Spring Term – is it too late to wish all of you a Happy New Year, especially if I haven't seen you yet? I hope that you all had happy & healthy holidays.

We have already completed week two of the Spring Term and we only have 4 weeks left of this half term – time really does fly when you are having fun and there is lots of fun being had, and amazing learning being done here at Haseltine. Please check out our Twitter for weekly updates @HaseltinePS or have a look at the Twitter page on our website...

<https://haseltine.lewisham.sch.uk/news/> Also, follow us if you can and share our Tweets with others.

Do you know of any families who are moving into the area, or who need a new school? We do have places in most year groups across the school and it would be wonderful if you could recommend us. We have fortnightly tours here at Haseltine, and it would be my pleasure to show people round if they are interested, please see our website for details.

Free School Meals (FSM)

There is always some confusion around FSM, especially if your child is in Reception, Yr1 or Yr2.

Often, parents think that their children are FSM in these year groups and they are not. All children are automatically entitled to a free dinner in R, yr1 & yr2 and this is because the government funds for ALL children in these year groups to have this. This is called Universal Free School Meals and is different to Free School Meals: just because your child has Universal Free School Meals, doesn't mean that he or she will be entitled to all the other benefits that being entitled to FSM gives you.

To be entitled to a free school dinner in years 3 upwards and to gain all the opportunities that children in all year groups are entitled to through the FSM scheme, you would need to apply. This is very simple to do online, following this link:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child>

Once you have been granted FSM status your child will then be entitled to:

- Free school dinners
- Free Breakfast Club from 8am*
- Half price trips*
- Support with IT equipment*
- Free music tuition & instrument borrowing at Haseltine*
- Other support where needed & appropriate, including support with extra tuition*
- Free holiday clubs (through the borough**)
- Food vouchers (through the holidays**)

*whilst our funding allows us

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**whilst government guidance allows

Children of all ages, from Reception to Yr6 can apply for FSM (even though they automatically get a free dinner anyway in R, y1 & yr2) and we recommend that you do this if you think your child is entitled (follow the link above for details), don't let your child miss out on the opportunities that they are **entitled** to.



Rainy Days

I am aware that a few parents are upset because the school does not open earlier on rainy days and I just wanted to clear a couple of things up with everyone:

- School officially starts at 8.55am
- We open the gates at 8.45am, which is already earlier than it should be. This gives children a nice, smooth start to the day and hopefully helps you all out more
- We cannot open the gate earlier than 8.45am, teachers' official start time is 8.45am (although most teachers are in by 7.30am). They are busy preparing their classes, right up to the very last minute before your children come in – they are all incredibly busy people, trust me
- On rainy days, we don't make children stand in the playground in the rain – we send them straight up from 8.45am

My advice would be that on rainy days, don't come to the gates before 8.45am (in fact – no one should be coming to the gates before 8.45am anyway). You know that I will not open them before 8.45am, so don't come before this time; although I do understand that sometimes public transport doesn't allow for that.

Thanks everyone 😊



Fundraising Star!

One of our lovely yr6 children is doing a charity event for a cause called Cool Earth, which is a charity that works to combat Climate Change.

Please check out her Just Giving page if you would like to find out more or would like to contribute...

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https://www.justgiving.com/page/jadesmith-1673466355995?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=one_page&utm_content=page/jadesmith-1673466355995&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=817ff656fb9747babfdbd0dc65791072



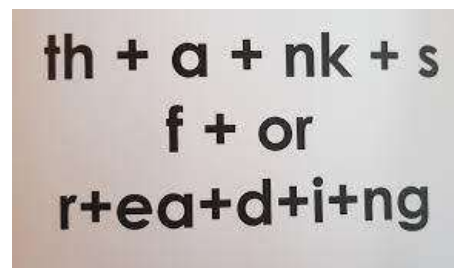
- **Do you get what we mean by phonics?**
 - **Do you totally understand it all?**
 - **Do you know how to help your child with phonics?**
- **Do you understand how we teach reading & spelling at Haseltine?**

If your answer is 'no' to any, or even all, of these questions, don't worry – you are not alone.

Phonics is an area of learning that can cause some confusion for many people; and even if you do feel that you know lots about it, it is unlikely you'll know how we teach it at Haseltine.

Miss McIntosh (yr2 teacher & English lead) & Dr Canniford (our deputy head) will be running a session on Thursday 9th February at 9am in our middle hall, which should give you all the answers you need. If your child is in Reception & Yr1, we would especially love you to come along, but anyone from any year group is equally welcome.

We really hope to see you there.



**Have a lovely weekend everybody – see you all
on Monday 😊**