

Newsletter 20 - 1st March 2019

Dear Families,

What a lovely surprise when we came back to school on Monday to see the signage up naming our school! I was over the moon, as you can imagine. As you will see, everyday we are getting closer to the work being finished. Most of the grounds work will be finished next week and then the electronic gates, followed by the last bit of landscaping the week afterwards. I will keep you posted!

Branston in Bloom: This year we are taking part in Branston in Bloom. Last year was the first year that Branston Parish Council took part in it and they won Bronze for their efforts. They have asked if we would like to be involved and have the school as part of the judges' tour in July. We jumped at the chance as it fits in very nicely with our Eco Campaign and a great chance to show off our fabulous school and work alongside the local community. The construction company that have built the school, J Tomlinsons, have given the school £200 towards buying plants for this and donated two planters for us to display our arrangements in. See photograph below. Huge thanks to them for their generous gift, we will certainly use it wisely!

Parent Governor: We will be looking to elect our first parent governor this half term. A letter will be coming out on Monday with details about applying for this position. It is a very rewarding role that helps parents become more involved in the life of the school. It helps to ensure the parents' views are heard at governance level and as a 'critical friend' you can help to ensure that the education at our school is of the highest standard. After you have read the information on Monday, please do not hesitate to speak to either myself or Mrs Dennis about the role if you require any more information. If you would like to be more involved but feel that a governor role is not for you, then we will be launching our Community Partnership very soon. This is another great way to get involved in the life of the school by helping to organise events that not only fundraise for the school but also provide fun experiences for the children as well as strengthening our community. Launch date to be announced shortly.

Momo Challenge - VERY IMPORTANT - you may have seen this in the news this week about an apparent 'challenge' that encourages children to do things that include self-harm and even suicide. The content is very distressing indeed. Previously the 'challenge' was filtering out to older children as it was targeting social media platforms but what is most alarming is that it appears to be getting through 'safe' internet sites like You Tube for Kids. Please use the link below to get a parents' guide on what you can do about this and how best to protect your child from this.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/momo-online-safety-guide-for-parents/>

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Upcoming events: I hope you received your Mothers' Day Lunch letter this week. We're really excited to welcome all our Mums and Nans/Grandmothers in. Please send in the slip indicating your menu choices and the payment by Friday 15th March. We would really appreciate the exact money please as we are unable to give change since we do not hold cash in school. On Tuesday, Miss Karina is doing a special Pancake Lunch for the children which they are very excited about. On Thursday, we have the annual World Book Day and your child can dress up as any book character of their choice. Try and make it a book character where possible and not a film character. Most of the time, they are one in the same but not always. If they have a copy of that book, it would be great if they could bring it in with them. All the staff will be dressing up and going into class to do special story times throughout the day. It's going to be a very fun day all round!

Outdoor area: Our outdoor play area is going from strength to strength! We recently purchased crates and planks of wood that the children have had a great time making walkways with to avoid burning lava! Thank you to Mr and Mrs Wagstaffe for donating more tyres that we can use as planters and a rocking chair for our Reading Retreat! I don't think the children will ever want to come inside to do any work! If you have anything lying around that you think we could use in our outdoor area just give Mr Parker a shout who can seem to make anything into something!

Harrier Award: At the start of each half term, we introduce another one of our school values and if the children demonstrate that value, they can win the Harrier Award for that week. This half term we are working on showing 'Resilience' and in Monday's assembly we looked at J K Rowling as a good example for showing resilience when 12 publishing houses rejected the first Harry Potter manuscript - I'm sure they are kicking themselves about that now! Miss Coxon and Mrs Blackshaw have chosen Emily Dowding for this week's Harrier Award as she worked really hard with our new crates and planks to create a course to walk across. She showed resilience when it took a long time to get it how she wanted it so the planks didn't cross over and were safe to cross. Well done Emily!

We also have a lovely Harrier Mascot knitted by Mrs Wagstaffe, please see photograph below. Many thanks Mrs Wagstaffe, the children LOVED it and all wanted a cuddle with it. It needs a name, so please complete the slip on the next page if you and your family would like to name the newest edition to the Henhurst family! The names will be put into a hat and the one drawn out will be our new mascot name. We can't wait to see what it is!

Very best wishes,
Mrs Hopkins

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Thank you to J Tomlinsons for their generous donation of £200 and 2 planters. Some of the children helped me receive the cheque, along with Mr Parker and Helen and Johanna from Branston Parish Council.



Here is the newest member of the Henhurst Family - what shall we call him/her?

Write down your suggestion below and give in to the school office by Friday 8th March.

MASCOT NAME:

The _____ family think that the Harrier mascot should be called: _____

Please give supporting reasons if you have any:
