



Hammond Academy

Tel: 01442 404020 www.hammondacademy.org.uk

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Newsletter

Forthcoming Dates:

- 29th Mar—9th Apr** Easter Holiday
- 30th Mar** Y6 Butlins final payment due
- 12th Apr** INSET DAY (School Closed)
- 13th Apr** Start of Summer Term
- 16th Apr** Reception Places Offered
- 19th Apr** School Sports Clubs Commence
- 21st Apr** Raising Confident Children workshop, (please book a place with the office)
- 21st Apr** Caspa Dance club starts for Y1 & Y2
- 22nd Apr** Caspa Dance club starts for Y3 & Y4
- 3rd May** Bank Holiday (School Closed)
- 10th May** Reception Screening
- 31st May—4th June** Half Term (School Closed)
- 14th—18th June** Y6 Butlins residential trip
- 1st July** Year 6 Astley Cooper Transition Day
- 8th July** Year 6 Transition Day
- 21st July** Last day of Summer term
- 22nd July** Occasional Day (School Closed)



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another lovely week here at Hammond. Doesn't the weather make such a difference? The daffodils are in their prime and the sun is now shining! Let's hope this beautiful weather continues over the next couple of weeks.

I have seen all sorts of wonderful Easter creations being made this week, from incredibly cute little bunnies in Year 3 to some very colourful Easter cards in Year 2! I have been into lots of lessons this week and observed (from a distance) the children engaging with their writing. We have children in Year 1 recreating the story of Peter and the Wolf, to children in Year 6 writing a descriptive piece of writing based on one of the scenes from David Attenborough's Planet Earth. It was great to see the children working on up-levering their writing – thinking about the effect that each word has on their audience. Children are taking part in a Big Write today and you can tell that they have been buzzing about it all week! On my lunch duty on Monday, it was lovely to see a group of Year 5 children outside working on a "novel" that they are writing: a couple of them were the authors; another an editor; one a critique and another was the editor. Great team work too!

Sadly, this is our last week working with Mrs Pollard - she is retiring. Mrs Pollard has worked here for 27 years! I am sure that you will all agree that she has had such an impact on so many lives - from the children she works with; to parents and families; to the staff and wider community. I know staff will miss her inspirational quotes which she sends out every Monday morning and she will be missed so much by our children. The words they wrote in her cards would make anyone tear up. We held a lovely assembly for her (on zoom) on Wednesday followed by a nice socially distanced afternoon tea. We also managed to surprise her with video messages from Nigel Gibbs, Tommy Mooney, Robert Page and "Legend" Luther Blissett. I have to admit that I wasn't sure who these football players were, which I know horrified some of our staff who are huge Watford fans!

I hope you all have a lovely and relaxing Easter Break.

Take Care,

Miss Graham
Deputy Principal



Aspire News

Our annual health and safety inspection was carried out by the Chief Operations Officer on Monday. There are a few minor areas for us to improve, but on whole the inspection highlighted the very good systems the school has in place with regards to health and safety.

Mrs Gibson joined the half termly Business Officers meeting on Wednesday. Many different topics were discussed with Operations, HR and Finance team members from Aspire Central Services.



Water Bottles

Can we please ask parents to ensure your child is sent in to school with a water bottle. It is essential they are kept hydrated throughout the day.

This bottle will need to be taken home, thoroughly cleaned and refilled with fresh water and returned to school with your child each morning.



Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Photograph Proofs for children in Reception and Year 6

Photograph proofs are expected to be delivered into school on 13th April. We will send these home with the children as soon as possible.

We will keep you posted after Easter!



Young Writers

If your child bought home a letter last week, this is a remind Parents that you need to give permission to publish their poem/story and place your book orders direct with Young Writers before the deadline of **28th March 2021** as instructed in the letter.



Families Hertfordshire Magazine

The March/April edition of Families Hertfordshire magazine is now available to read! It has lots of great features, competitions and some ideas for making outside time a little bit more exciting.

<https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/fh97ma21m?fr=sMTYyNDMzMjkwMTU>



A message from Astley Cooper to parents/carers of Year 6 children moving up in Sept 2021.

Just a gentle reminder that our Transition Day is **Thursday 1 July 2021** and **not** the Thursday 8 July 2021.

We are sending a confirmation letter home today to all new students.

Thank you and have a good Easter.



RED NOSE DAY

ROCK YOUR SOCKS
— FOR —
WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY
3.21



Thank you for all of your contributions towards the recent fundraiser. We managed to raised a massive **£487.84** which will be split between the above two charities.

Thanks again.

Bag Found

This bag was found at the side exit gate near the Nickey Line/Pennine Way. It contains a PE kit and trainers. If this belongs to your child, please get in touch with the school office, where it will be held for safe keeping.



Tel: 01442 404020
Email: ad-

Covid-19 and the Easter Holidays

School Holiday Positive Case Reporting

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 at any point up to and including Friday 2nd April, please contact the central team at Aspire Academies Trust on:

covidcases@aspireacademies.org.uk, with

- your child's name
- year group
- which school they attend
- the date of onset of symptoms and the date of their positive test result.

Please do not email or phone the school as these are not being monitored during the holidays.

If your child tests positive after 2nd April 2021 or is self-isolating for any other reason and won't be in school on the first day of term, please report their absence in the usual way.

Summer Term Sports Clubs

Details of the summer term sports clubs have now been released. Please check your email for the revised letter which was emailed on 24th March.

The clubs run by Hammond staff need to be booked and paid for via Gateway by the 12th April.

Clubs commence week commencing the 19th April and finish week ending the 9th July.

To avoid disappointment, book your child's place today!

Thank you

Parent Forum

Terms of Reference and draft minutes of last week's Parent Forum meeting are available on the school website: <https://hammondacademy.org.uk/parents/parent-forum/>

I was going to send all parents some information about joining the Parent Forum WhatsApp groups this week. In hindsight, I feel it is best to do this at the start of next term.

Miss Anderson



OVERALL WINNER!

Congratulations to Nehir who won the overall Aspire Science Innovation challenge.

She was the overall winner across all of the Aspire schools.

Well done Nehir!



These beautiful flowers were made by each child who Mrs Pollard had worked 1:1 with over the past few years. On the reverse of the flower was a special message; these were made into two bouquets and presented to her during her leaving assembly on Wednesday.



Nursery

This week the children explored the Forest school area looking for signs of Spring. One of their favourite game is playing hide and seek. They marvelled at the sight of a Dragon high in one of the trees!

If you are having a Spring clear out Nursery would be grateful for some kitchen utensils for their mud kitchen: spoons of any size, ladles, potato mashers, pots and pans. If you have any pots of herbs that you are no longer using we would love to have them to enhance our sensory experiences in the mud kitchen.



Public Health – School Nursing

Supporting your child's transition back to school after lockdown

Some children will have some worries about returning to school, may find it difficult to return to school, may become upset, distressed or even refuse to go in. There is a presentation to provide information, advice and practical strategies that can be used to support your child's return to school on our website:

<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing/>

Health advice you can trust

It can be tricky to find good health advice on the internet. Try these – they're managed by the school nursing service...



Health for Kids – local health services and advice for children aged 4 to 11 years old.



Health for teens – bite-sized info and advice for 11 to 19 year olds in Hertfordshire.

School nurses offer support for emotional wellbeing including anxiety and anger. To refer to our service please go to the Family Centre Service Website and look for school nursing:

<https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/>

For more information about the School Nursing Service watch a short clip available here:

<https://youtu.be/7RoTkp3vkB0>



Aged 11-19 - Did you know you can text your school nurse for confidential health advice and support? Text 07480 635050. Check out the YouTube link on here:

<https://youtu.be/DBNm1bFcCE>



Fire Drill

We had our Fire Drill yesterday and the children did incredibly well. The whole school came out in a very mature and calm way - especially our Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One. Well done to these classes!



Reception

Our reception children enjoyed making chocolate Easter nests and tried out our new stereo with the headphones listening to audio stories. We also painted flowers with water colours.



Year 2

One cold, sunny day we were slowly exploring the bright, windy, cold forest. The trees were long and old. The bushes were swaying and twisting in the cold wind. As we explored we saw an enormous, white egg! I wonder what's in it? It was hiding in the sharp, pointy brambly bushes. (Nehir)

The next day I returned to the creepy, scary forest, worried to find out if the mysterious egg was still there. Slowly I looked around but there was no sign of it until there it was under the scariest bush cracked open! Nervously I looked around for the egg up to the longest tree and searched for a strange animal. Suddenly I looked up and found a strange, purple creature up in the tree branches. It was a baby dragon! (Melissa)

The very next day we went to see the baby dragon and we slowly crept, it had got bigger and bigger! When we looked we were terrified it was so big. When we saw it we were happy but suddenly it ate people and it got even bigger and we had to run from her mum. She was coming so we speedily ran inside and we found out it was a fire dragon! We hid somewhere and waited until it had gone away from the door then we ran outside and crept away. Ssh it's sleeping. Bang! Bang! We heard stomping and it was the mom. She was getting food and we speedily ran back into the classroom. (Emilly)



Recovery Kit

Recovery activities for children up to 7 years old.

This recovery kit is designed to support you and your child to reflect and look forward positively. Encouraging them to be resilient and not give up, even when they find something difficult or frustrating will help them grow a stronger brain resulting in healthier and happier children.

How have I changed?

Compare a photo of yourself from a year ago. What can you do now that you couldn't do then?



When I'm older

Share pictures of different occupations. Think about what your dream job is and talk about why.

Develop your skills

Think of something you want to do but find hard. Keep trying. What do you need to be successful?

Spot the difference

What do you notice about your friends that has changed? Are they taller, have they lost a tooth?

Play 'I choose'

What would you choose? Pizza or chips? Hot or cold? Summer or winter? Home or school? Explain your choice.

Map it out

Make a map starting at home and ending at school. What do you see on the way? Draw or record the landmarks in order.



Look what I can do

How high can you jump? How fast can you run? How still can you be? Compare this with a friend.

Stars

Cut out 3 stars and write or draw on them something you'd like to do in the future. Hang them up!



Play the Magicians Wish

With your family take turns to wave the magic wand and complete the sentence. 'I wish...' with something about the future!

Grow something

Plant a seed or observe a flowering plant. Take a photo or draw it weekly. How does it change?

Animal Antics

Think of an animal. Are they:
- Brave or timid?
- Fast or slow?
- Happy being on their own or with others?
Which one is like you?

Self Portrait

Draw a picture of yourself and then write 5 things about you on it. Ask a grown up to help you.



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Eat alfresco

Plan and make a picnic to have with your family in the sunshine*.

Belated celebrations

If you've had a birthday during lockdown, plan a small, late outdoor* birthday party with games and cake!



Happiness kit

Create a kit with pictures or items you need help keep yourself happy and steady.

Be kind to yourself

Give yourself time to wind down. Remember, going back to school will be tiring, give yourself plenty of time to chill in the evenings.

Be artistic

Explore the power of breathing with straw painting. Drop some paint down on a piece of paper, and then spread the paint around by blowing air through a straw.

Show compassion

The adults have had a difficult year too, take time to ask them how they are.

Positive vibes

Create a Word Cloud for your friends or family to capture positive words that spring to mind when you reflect on the lockdown experience.

Joyful moments

Make an 'enjoyment jar', and fill it with objects, words or activities that you are looking forward to doing back in school.

Connection stone

Find and decorate a stone for a friend you have missed with a symbolic picture or words.



Reflect on your skills

Create a poster with all of the new skills or hobbies that you practised or learned whilst you were out of school.

Mindful moments

List 5 things you will see in school, 4 things you will hear, 3 things you will smell, 2 things you will touch and 1 thing you will taste.



History in the making

Create a scrapbook with pictures, photos, news clippings and notes to remind you of this significant time of history in the making.

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