



Hammond Academy

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Issue: 129



@Hammond Academy

Date: 20th April 2018

Attendance

Well done to **Y4 Citrine** who are this week's winners with **98.5%** attendance.

Target: 100%

Forthcoming Dates:

- 23rd April, 9—9.35 am—Nursery Ruby (AM) Stay and Play
- 24th April, 12.30 pm—1:05 pm—Nursery Opal (PM) Stay and Play
- 24th April, 3pm—Drums and Guitar Assembly
- 24th April—Y4 Ancient Egyptian Day Workshop
- 26th April, 9 am—11 am—Link Family Services Surgery
- 7th May—Bank Holiday (school closed)
- 8th May—Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe week (KS2—KS6)
- 9th May—Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Performance (KS2—KS6)
- 14th May—Y6 SATS Week
- 17th May, 2:45 pm—3:30 pm—Reception Stay and Play
- 22nd May, 3pm—Reception Sunstone Music Assembly (Hall)
- 23rd May, 3pm—Y5 Tigers Eye Assembly (Hall)

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back – excuse the pun! It really is lovely to have some sunshine, as a parent, I know how tough the Easter holidays can be when it is raining. However we are back in school now and in full swing. The children have returned raring to go and eager to learn as always. Walking around the school daily this week and talking to the children, they have all told me about their Easter adventures. How lucky they have been.

The staff have also returned revitalised. Enthusiastic, passionate staff are one of our key strengths at Hammond, providing your children with different opportunities and setting them challenges, both academically and socially, to be the best they can. I am looking forward to watching the children flourish over the course of this term which is always such an incredibly busy term in schools.

Finally, as ever, my usual tweak of the week. This week it's uniform. Please, please, please can ALL children be arriving to school in the correct uniform. We are seeing a lot of trainers, a lack of ties and random sweatshirts being worn by the children. This can be very upsetting for the children as it makes them stick out, plus is not school policy. I haven't pushed the ties too much this week as it has been very warm but all school staff will be continuing to question children not in correct uniform, so please can we have a push next week.



Sorry to end the first week back on a moan but despite my last newsletter about the parking at the front of the school, it appears we still have parents parking in an irresponsible manner – double parking alongside other cars. Not only is this disrespectful towards our school community who are being blocked in, but it is incredibly unsafe for our children whose visibility is impeded. **I appeal to you all who are driving each morning, please, please can you park more responsibly and respectfully.** This really is unacceptable and quite selfish. We are constantly in communication with Mike Penning, the local MP, about this situation and the police with regards to next steps. Mike Penning will be visiting the school next week to discuss the problem. I ask that if you are as frustrated as myself, that you contact these bodies as well to support our complaints.

Have a fantastic weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

Kind regards, **Denise Kennedy, Principal**



Now the weather is warming up, please ensure that all children have a water bottle in school. Sun hats and an application of sun cream before they arrive in the mornings is also recommended. Thank you.

Year 1 Jade and Pearl are in need of **parent volunteers** for our trip to Tesco on Thursday 26th April. We will be leaving school at 10:30 am. If you are available and willing to spare some time, please contact the school office.

Come and join us for 'Stay & Play'

Nursery: AM Group (Ruby) 23rd April, 9 am—9:35 am

PM Group (Opal) 24th April, 12:30 pm—1:05 pm

Reception: 17th May, 9:00 am to 10:00 am

West Hertfordshire
Teaching Schools
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Star of the Week

Presented today: Nursery Ruby: William & Amelia

Opal: Maisie & Zulaikha

Reception Sunstone: Laila & Sammy

Reception Coral: Mikaela & Louis

Year 1-3 To be presented on 23rd April

Y1 Jade: Lucas Y1 Pearl: Amirah

Y2 Diamond: Jack Y2 Emerald: Doogey Y2 Onyx: Millie

Y3 Amethyst: Y3 Moonstone: Warren Y3 Sapphire: Lilly

Our Clubs:

Mr Rickman's Summer Term sports clubs start on Monday 23rd April and finish week ending 13th July 2018.

These clubs were available to book on Gateway over the holidays. Dodgeball (Y3-5) and Football (Y3-6) are now full. Morning clubs run from 08:15 to 08:40 am, afternoon from 3:30 to 4.30 pm.

If at any point your child no longer wishes to attend a club, kindly inform the office so that their place can be offered to another child.

Construction Club for Y2 started this Monday and Lindsey Pollard's Dance Club started on Thursday.

Game On Summer Sports (for Reception to Y2) is set to start on Tuesday 24th April. There are still places available for Game On so please hurry if you wish to secure a place. Consent forms have been emailed to parents.

Choir Club (with the same register as last term) recommences on Wednesday 25th April.

Wow!

Teamwork

Look how much we raised at the end of last term!

Science Week – £245.75

Sports Relief - £337.30

Year 6 Easter Egg Hunt - £415.14

Thank you to all those who kindly donated. We appreciate it was a lot to ask at the end of term.



Year 4 Citrine are now swimming on Thursday's mornings. Please ensure your child comes to school with a full swim kit, including hat. Thank you.

Improving communication

The Hammond Academy app is available from the app store. To keep up to date, please take a few minutes to download.



Hammond Academy would like to thank

Bunning's in Hemel Hempstead for their kind donation towards our new sensory room, we have been able to decorate the whole room and build a sensory wall.

School Attendance Information for Parents/Carers

It is through attendance that pupils maximise their full potential, enhancing their life chances for the future. Missing school means missing out on learning and this can have an impact on a child's development and attainment. There is a strong statistical link between attendance and attainment.

The law states that children of statutory school age who are on roll at a school or academy must attend regularly and punctually. Regular attendance is important, because it is the best way ensuring children make the most of the educational opportunities available to them.

Parents and Carers have a legal duty to ensure their children attend school regularly and punctually. Failure to ensure a child's regular attendance at the school where they are registered is a criminal offence which carries a fine of up to £1000 per parent per child (Section 444(1)) or in more serious cases (aggravated offence), a fine of up to £2500 per parent per child and/or up to 3 months imprisonment (Section 444 (A)).

Maximising School Attendance

- Children need to go to school regularly and punctually to make the most of their educational opportunities and parents/carers have a vital role in making that happen.
- Our attendance target is 95% and above. If you are having trouble getting your child to go to school please contact us. we will discuss the attendance issues with you and work together to put a plan in place.
- School offers meeting and phone calls to discuss attendance issues.
- Develop consistent evening and morning routines with your child.
- Regularly talk to your child about their school day.
- Please try to book medical appointments afterschool and booked holidays out of term time.
- Please call the absence line if your child is unwell and unable to attend school.
- Pupils need to arrive at school on time —the school day starts at 8.45am

Descriptor	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Satisfactory	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
Cause for Concern	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
	86%	163 days	27	135
Unsatisfactory	86%	163 days	27	135
	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
Serious Cause for Concern	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
	Critical	80%	152 days	38

Penalty Notice Process

School operate the Penalty Notice process for 15 or more unauthorised sessions of absences in the current or previous term. On the 1st February 2016 Hertfordshire County Council changed the Penalty Notice from 21 to 15 sessions of unauthorised absence in the current or previous term. Please note a sessions is half a day of unauthorised absence. The Penalty Notice requires you to pay a fine of £60 within 21 days. If this fine is not paid within the time limit the penalty rises to £120 which must be paid within 28 days. (E.g. two parents with two children could incur a total cost of £480). If liable for prosecution for this offence. Penalty Notices are administered by the local Authority and they have the responsibility for issuing them to parents and carers.

Requests for absences during term time

Amendments have been made to the 2006 regulations in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

The amendments make clear that Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. As a parent/guardian you are strongly urged to avoid booking holidays during term time.

If your child is absent from school because of a holiday which has not been agreed this will be classified as an unauthorised absence and this may lead to a Penalty Notice.

By taking family holidays during the designated holiday periods, you will be supporting your child's full school attendance, learning and development. There are 13 weeks of the year to take holidays out of term time.