

# Hassell Newsletter

September 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term at Hassell, I hope you have all had an enjoyable holiday. It has been lovely to see so many new faces starting school, both in Nursery, Reception and throughout other year groups. This also includes Miss Jones, our new class teacher in Reception. I would like to welcome all of our new children and their families to

## New Topics

Each class has begun the term with a 4 day topic on stories by Roald Dahl. The children also received a visit from the animal lady, where they got to meet a variety of animals ranging from cute and cuddly to slithery and scaly! Displays will be going up in the main corridor shortly to show what we have all been up to. Please also check the news items on the school website for further pictures and information. ([hassellschool.org](http://hassellschool.org)).



You should also receive a class letter which gives information about new topics, PE days, reading books, homework and other useful information. If you have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher.

Class teachers are also happy to see parents during the week, but please make an appointment via the office or catch them at the end of the day when they see the children out. It is sometimes a little difficult for teachers to see parents first thing in the morning as they are busy registering their class and starting lessons.



## School Day Times

Please can I remind you that children need to be in school for their class register at **8.50**. Late arrivals mean disruption for all the children and often mean that valuable lesson time.

The doors open to come into school at 8.40. Any children who need to be at school before this time should be accompanied by an adult or registered with Happy Times Care Club. **Please do not leave your children on the playground without adult supervision before 8.40.**

## Classes 2015

Your children have been enjoying their new classes for the last few days, settling in and learning about their new routines. The class structures are as follows:

Reception - Mrs Lear and Miss Jones

Year 1 - Mrs Pokora and Miss Edwards

Year 2 - Mrs Brown, Mrs Sammons and Miss Platt.

Year 3/4 - Mr Murdoch, Mrs O'Hara, Miss Dale, also supported by Miss Rosson on Tuesdays who will be teaching Mrs O'Hara's class.)

Year 5/6 - Mrs Goodstadt, Mrs Brett and Mr Mason (Also supported by Miss Rosson who will be teaching Mrs Brett's class on Fridays).

Each year our entry number of pupils to reception is around 45. We keep single aged classes in the infants, but have to have mixed year groups in the juniors due to funding and space. All children will be taught at a level according to their ability, regardless of their year group. In KS2 we work on a 2 year programme so that the children do not repeat topic areas. In addition, to help the children have specific teaching and support according to their level of ability in maths, the children from year 2 upwards will have their maths in sets. These maths classes will still be within their year groups but may not be with their class teacher. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Maths classes will start on Monday.

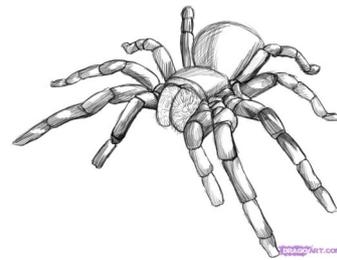
## Competition Time - Can you name the New Hassell Teams!

During Sports Activities in KS2 we have had four teams: Brindley, Bennett, Mitchell and Walton. When the children compete, they earn points which are added together for a team total. This year we would like to extend the idea of school teams throughout all year groups from Reception to Year 6. The children can be awarded points for aspects of positive behaviour and attitudes to learning, e.g for being polite and using their manners, for trying hard with their work, for having a good 'go' at something new etc.

We would like the children to come up with 4 new team names for Hassell. If possible, we would like them to include something linked to Stoke on Trent or Staffordshire e.g, the pottery industry, sporting people or places, famous land marks.... whatever you can come up with. Entries should be completed on the reply slip and sent in to school by Wednesday 16th September. Our school council will then look at the entries and make a decision on the winning names. Good Luck!



# Diary Dates



## September:

11th- Animal Lady Visit (whole school)

30th - Harvest assembly in school with Father Derek (children only)

## October

5th - Parents Evening and Book Fair

16th - PTFA Halloween disco

23rd - School closed to pupils (Inset day)

26th to 30th - Half Term week

**A full list of school holiday dates are on the school website on the 'Parent' pages.**

## Does your family claim any of the following benefits?

### Income Support

- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income based Employment and Support Allowance
- Child tax credit and no working tax credit with a household income of less than £16,190
- The 'Guarantee' element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999



If the answer is yes to any of the above list, you are entitled to claim free school meals. **Even if your child is having meals through the new scheme, or they don't want a hot meal, please claim as school receives lots of additional funding in the budget for each child making a claim. To claim please visit the website [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsapplication](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsapplication) or ask at the school office. Any existing claims from last academic year will be automatically continued.**

## British Values

As part of our work on British values, we will be having different themed assemblies over the next few weeks to support the learning taking place within our classes. Our work on British values covers the following 5 topic areas: democracy, individual liberty, mutual respect, the law and tolerance of other faith's and beliefs. If you would like further information about the way in which we teach about British values, please have a look at the policy on the school website.



## Volunteers

If you have any spare time during the week and would like to volunteer in school we would love to see you. We are always looking for people to listen to children read, help with art and craft activities or support us with school gardens. If you have any free time and would like to come in, please let your child's class teacher know or speak to me in the morning.



## Uniform

It has been lovely to see the children return to school looking so smart in their uniforms. Please can I remind everyone that there is also a PE uniform for sports lessons (details on the website) and that bright coloured head bands, hair accessories and jewellery are not permitted (except small stud earrings if absolutely necessary). Thank you for your support in this matter.

I look forward to meeting with many of you over the coming weeks, but if you would like to see me for any reason, please don't hesitate to catch me on the playground in the morning, or make an appointment via the school office.

Kind Regards

*Kirsty Broome*

Head teacher

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

My suggestions for the 4 teams at HAssell are:

1

2

3

4

Please hand your sheet into your class teacher by Wednesday 16th September.

The school council will notify everyone of the winning idea.