

## **Parent Weekly Communication Letter Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**

### **Academy News**

#### **Book Fayre**

It has been lovely to see so many of you attending the Book Fayre this week. As you know, we put huge value on reading at Herman and it has been great to see so many children excited at the prospect of buying a new book. As always, we receive new books for the school, based upon the number of books sold, so all children will benefit. Thank you once again.

#### **Bikes and Scooters**

Please could I remind parents and carers that no children should be riding bikes or scooters on the academy site. Please ensure that they dismount and walk with them to avoid potential accidents.

#### **Holiday Forms**

We have a significant number of families requesting holidays during term time. Whilst I totally understand the significant reduction in cost, I am duty bound to remind you of the impact on your child's education. Can I also remind you that the number of days that can be requested without incurring a fine has reduced to four days. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we cannot authorise holidays.

#### **Dates for your Diary:**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight checks

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September – Football match at home versus Moorlands

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Dental Screening

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Football match at home versus Cliff Park

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October – Disco!!

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Celebrations

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Photographs

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – HALF TERM

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – ACADEMY REOPENS

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November – Parents' Evening

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Parents' Evening

#### **Governors**

We are looking to recruit two parent Governors onto our board. If you think you could be a critical friend to the Academy and you can spare the time to attend training and meetings, we would really like to hear from you. Please ask at the Academy office for an application form.

#### **School Meals**

**Please can you make sure that your child's account is up to date.**

If you pay for your child's meals and you think you may qualify for Free School Meals, please contact the office for a form, even if you normally provide a packed meal for your child. You may be surprised by what you can earn before you need to start paying for dinners.

Parents of pupils in Reception to Year 2, can also apply now, rather than wait for Year 3, when they will have to start paying.

#### **Playground**

A polite reminder that no pupils or families should be accessing the Academy premises until 8.25, as staff vehicles are still entering the car park.

#### **Parking around the Academy**

We have had parents contacting us about their traffic concerns. Please rest assured that we are taking these concerns seriously. I have already been in contact with Venture and the local police. I have now emailed Sir Brandon Lewis to express my concerns and I have been assured that he is aware of the situation. In the meantime, please can I ask that you park and drive responsibly and courteously to safeguard our children. I appreciate that it is a frustrating situation, but the safety of our children must come first.

#### **Clubs**

Clubs are now up and running again for this half term. Because we offer almost all our clubs at no cost to parents,

we are always hugely oversubscribed. If your child did not receive a place this half term, we will endeavour to ensure that they are allocated first next term.  
As always, we expect children to exhibit the same outstanding behaviour that we expect during the day. On the rare occasions that pupils do not comply with this, they will unfortunately lose their place and it will be allocated to another pupil.

#### **Swimming – Mrs. Longman’s class are swimming this half term**

Swimming is a statutory part of the PE curriculum and all children in Year 5 are required to attend the lessons. Children need either a full piece swimming costume or trunks/ fitted shorts (baggy swimming style shorts are not permitted at Phoenix), a swimming hat and a towel.

#### **SEND**

If you think your child may have additional needs, please discuss your concerns with your child’s teacher and we may then arrange an appointment for you to speak with our SENDCO, Mrs Upton. Our SEND policy is available on the website.

The Ann Craft Trust has a range of resources to support children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable.

<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/support-for-parents-and-carers-keeping-children-and-young-people-safe-online/>

This link supports parents of children with additional needs in keeping them safe online.

#### **Safeguarding**

Every member of teaching and non-teaching staff has up to date safeguarding training. Five members of staff have enhanced training to deal with any concerns that are raised.

The Designated Safeguarding Officers at Ormiston Herman Academy are:

**Kristy Redhead – Principal and Lead DSL**

**Mark Thorpe – Vice Principal and DSL**

**Veronica Longman – Assistant Principal and DSL**

**Catriona Smith – Assistant Principal and DSL**

**Paula Milham – Family Liaison Officer and DSL**

**Janet Upton – Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator and DSL**

If you have concerns about the wellbeing of a child, you should call the Norfolk CADS Number **(0344 800 8020)** to report what your concerns are.

**If your child is unwell and not able to attend, you must ring the Academy every day that they are off.**

#### **Working together and Important Information**

##### **Homework**

Homework is set weekly for all classes. It is expected that this will be returned on the allocated day. If your child has struggled with the set task, please pop a note in with the work and we will ensure a member of staff goes through it with them.

##### **Reading**

Reading is the most important skill that any child will need in order to access all other areas of the curriculum. Without the ability to read, children lose a vital form of communication that will impact on their adult lives significantly. Herman pupils know that they are expected to read at home at least three times per week and this should be recorded in their reading diary. Older children who are fluent readers are able to complete this independently. Children in KS2 who do not record a minimum of three reading sessions over the week, will make the time up on a Friday lunchtime, after records have been collected. Please support us, by checking your child’s reading diary regularly.

### Stars of the Week

Each week, teachers select a pupil who has particularly impressed them with their attitude to learning, behaviour, effort etc. This week's stars are:

- Adventurers: Athvithan
- Explorers: Olivia
- Searchers: Eva
- Seekers: Konor
- Pioneers: Oakley
- Investigators: Oliver
- Wayfarers: Ella
- Navigators: Tommy
- Creators: Nour
- Pathfinders: Reeve
- Voyagers: Logan
- Venturers: Keira-Ann
- Crusaders: Taylor-Jay
- Discoverers: Isabella

### Principal's Award

Each week, teachers have the opportunity to select a pupil for the Principal's Award for continually being an exceptional pupil and setting a good example to their peers.

Principals Award for Investigators: Nial Jilvi.

### Best Dressed Class

Each week, the Senior Leadership Team will select the class that have dressed the smartest during the week! This class will be rewarded with an extra five minutes on Monday's playtime and will get to sit on the bench during assembly.

This week's best dressed class: Investigators.

### Marbles

Each week, the children receive marbles for good work and choices. The marbles are put into colour pots in the classroom and at the end of each week, they are collected together and the colour / team with the most marbles win.

At the end of term the colour / team that has won the most times, win a small reward.

**The winning teams this week are the GREEN team. Well done.**

### Attendance

**The Autumn Term Attendance Prize will be 2 x Electronic Tablets.**  
**There will be one for Key Stage 1 and EYFS and one gift card for Key Stage 2. Winners will be drawn at the end of the Autumn Term. All children whose attendance is 98% or above will have the chance to win.**

**The winning classes for the collective highest attendance this week are:**

**Early Years and Key Stage 1: Seekers**

**Key Stage 2: Pathfinders**

**A big well done to both classes!**

We are always striving to improve our attendance figures. Children who are in school are safe and accessing education to help them thrive. They are socialising with peers and learning how to be positive members of their community.

Our year-to-date Attendance target is **96%**, the whole school's attendance is 94.68% this week, Wherever possible, please ensure your child is attending every day to avoid missing valuable learning opportunities.



### Community News

If you know of a local event or good cause that is happening locally, please let us know and we will advertise it here.

Many of you will know Lisa, a parent of Toby and Tommy, who attend the Academy. This is a message that I received; you may be able to help.

'I've been growing my hair to have it cut off to donate it to the Little Princess Trust, the hair cut will take place on 6th October the same day as I'm a finalist in the Paget's People Awards at James Paget Hospital.'

The link to donate is [www.justgiving.com/page/lisashaircut](http://www.justgiving.com/page/lisashaircut)



[Lisa's Haircut fundraiser for The Little Princess Trust](http://www.justgiving.com/page/lisashaircut)

**Yours sincerely**  
**Kristy Redhead**  
**Principal**