

Great Horwood CE School

NEWSLETTER

Updates

Our Furry Friends



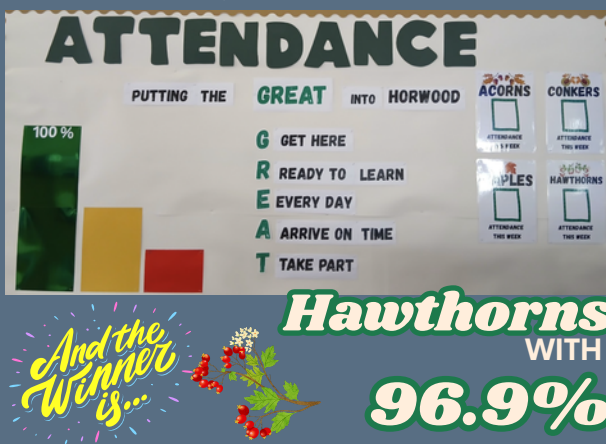
We have been made aware that a few furry friends have been making an appearance on our playground at drop off and pick up. Whilst many of us love dogs, not everybody has the same perspective and for some children they can be unsettling, even when well-behaved and on leads. Could we politely ask that our playground is a dog free zone at drop off and pick up please. Thank you!

Parents' meetings

Don't forget to sign up for your appointment to discuss how the first few weeks of the new year have gone. Mrs Carson will be available on site throughout so feel free to stop for a chat if you would like to. If you require a longer appointment, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange an alternative appointment.

This week's attendance data:

We are continuing to improve our attendance!



Highlights this week

It's been another glorious week at Great Horwood, with pupils continuing to impress us through their enthusiasm for learning and positive attitudes across the school. We have received some wonderful feedback from children about their lessons and the exciting opportunities they have enjoyed throughout the week.

Our Flourish certificates continue to highlight the incredible range of talents within our school community. Pupils have been recognised for everything from marvellous maths skills and outstanding creativity to resilience, kindness, teamwork and consideration for others. It is always a pleasure to celebrate such a wide variety of achievements and to see children flourishing in so many different ways.

This week we have nominated some of our Hawthorns pupils to be play leaders over in Seedlings nursery. We are looking forward to offering other opportunities to pupils throughout the school, taking on roles such as Play leaders, Wellbeing Ambassadors, Litter pickers and Librarians amongst other things.

As we move further into the term, thank you for your continued support in helping children come to school ready to learn each day. Please ensure that pupils bring a named water bottle with them and have a suitable coat in school, as the weather can be unpredictable and we want children to be comfortable and prepared for outdoor learning, breaktimes and other activities. Being organised and equipped for the day helps pupils make the very most of every learning opportunity.



Thank you so much to the PTFA and the volunteers for organising and running the amazing colour run this afternoon. It was a great start to the weekend! The children were keen to participate and enjoyed being drenched in the colours of the rainbow as they completed the obstacle course.

We really appreciate your support, as parents and carers, with the event too. Our next PTFA event is a Non-Uniform day on October 16th. What a great way to end the term before the two week break.





Autumn themed
with **SPOOKY**
ACTIVITIES

19TH – 23RD & 26TH – 30TH



OPEN TO ALL
CHILDREN

BOOK THROUGH
MCAS



OUR CORE VALUES: LOVE ~ PERSEVERANCE ~ RESPECT

I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES



ART SHED

THANK YOU

We have had lots of donations for our Art Shed, but we would be very grateful for any further donations of craft materials and equipment. Items such as ribbons, stencils, colouring books, sequins, pipe cleaners, beads, Play-Doh.

We hope to have the Art shed up & running for after half term.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO THIS WEEKEND?



ONLINE SAFETY



This week we have been made aware of some pupils chatting about using TikTok. Outlined below is some information which is hopefully useful in knowing more about the app, in case your child has access to it.



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around 800 million active users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION

12+

If under 18, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know About TIKTOK

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – so it is possible for a child to be exposed to explicit and age-inappropriate content.

EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and want to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.

HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep you intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

IN-APP PURCHASES

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. Buying coins is now restricted to over-18s – but TikTok doesn't require users to verify their age on sign up, so a young person could easily access this feature if they were determined to.



Autumn term diary dates. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you need clarity on any of these events.

Date	Event
Thursday 1st October	Harvest Festival 2pm
Thursday 1st October	A cuppa with Mrs Carson & PTFA AGM - 6pm
Tuesday 6th October	Parents' Evening - 3.30 - 5.30pm
Thursday 8th October	Parents' Evening - 4-5pm
Friday October 16th	PTFA Non - Uniform Day
Friday 16th October	End of half term
Monday 2nd November	Autumn 2 Term begins
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Worship 10.40am
Friday 13th November	Children in Need & GHS Talent Final



DECEMBER



Date	Event
3rd December	Dressing of the tree, 2pm School Hall
4th December	School Christmas Fete
8th December	Acorns & Conkers Nativity Performance 10am
9th December	Acorns & Conkers Nativity Performance 2pm
11th December	PTFA: Elfridges!
17th December	Christmas Carols 2pm, School Hall
Friday 18th December	Last day of term

Still to be confirmed...

**School
Christmas
Dinner**

