



Hornbill Extra!

Newsletter 12 | 17 March 2023

Stay and Play, Maths and New FS1 Pupils

It was good to see so many parents this week at the FS1 Stay and Play and at the Year 1 Maths afternoon. We have also been busy welcoming for short visits our new pupils in FS1 who will be starting with us after the Easter Break.

Nut Free School

Please can I remind you that we have a number of pupils and staff who are allergic to nuts. To keep our school population safe, you must not send nuts to school for snack or lunch.

Events

March 2023

24th March— Last day of term; school closes at 12:00

April 2023

10th April—School closed for INSET day

11th April—Start of term for existing FS1 children and all other children

18th April—Maths morning in Year 1 08:00-09:00

19th April— Parents evening FS2—Y6 13:45-16:30

May 2023

Monday 8th May—School Closed for Coronation Bank Holiday

BJSL—Sporting Success

On Thursday, 16th March, many Year 3,4,5 and 6 pupils represented the school at the BJSL Football tournament at ISB in Bandar. The pupils demonstrated our school values and learning powers throughout the day with their excellent sportsmanship.

At the end of the day of the 12 competitions we were in the final for 6 and we won 3 - the Year 6 Girls A, Year 5 Boys B and Year 4 B Leagues we came away with three trophies and a day of new memories.

From Monday, the trophies will be on display in the entrance area.





Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you for the time you took to respond to the online questionnaire. We had 187 responses to the survey; I have provided a summary of the outcomes with this newsletter.

At the end of the survey, we asked for your comments to provide us with a good reflection of your thoughts and ideas about the school. We received forty-nine written comments from the 187 responses (26%), of these, fifteen comments praised all aspects of what we offer in school. Many of the remaining comments fall into one of eight categories - see below.

We really value your comments and appreciate that making our school environment the best it can possibly be to meet the needs, interests and development of all our pupils relies on open communication between school and home. This is why we are so committed to engaging with parents to collect your thoughts and will endeavour to address them where possible, I have reflected on each of the comments given in the survey and hope the information below provides clarity for all. The percentages show the number of people who expressed a comment in each of the grouped categories.

PE, swimming and Jungle School and ELO—3.2% of all feedback

Across KS1 and KS2, in Hornbill School, we are pleased that PE is taught for two hours each week. Children have a lesson following the Real PE Scheme, this is the same scheme and learning programme used previously. These lessons have been quality assured by our assistant head teacher and are providing our pupils with the wide range of skills and activities that are required in the National Curriculum. The second part of our PE offer is swimming which has increased in frequency since Christmas. All children in Years 1 - Year 6 will swim once a week throughout the year which is above the expectation for the National Curriculum. We are delighted that, as part of the Hornbill offer, we are able to provide swimming lessons at no additional cost to parents above and beyond what would be offered in most schools in England.

The third part of our PE offer (outdoor and adventurous activities) is Jungle School. This provides opportunity to enhance community cohesion in classes and year groups, directly teach our school learning powers and provides the outdoor curriculum as outlined in the National Curriculum.

In addition, in the summer term, our Years 5 and 6 pupils will be visiting an outdoor activity centre in Gopeng, Malaysia. To undertake a variety of outdoor and team-building activities.



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We are also pleased to be able to take part in the Brunei Junior Sports League. In comparison to ISB Seria, we outperform their children in BJSL events. ISB Seria is the closest sized school to Hornbill in the local area and provides a fair comparison for our standing. We have improved our performance at BJSL events from December 2022 to February 2023, the overall placing of children was higher in the running events this time than in the previous competition. We are proud that our pupils have developed their skills and have been able to compete against other schools. This is something we aim to continue.

We were delighted that our teachers and support staff committed to providing 12 different after school Extended Learning Opportunities. In addition, we have created a running club to enhance skills for children in KS2 who are eligible for running competitions. Out of school (including lunch time), football clubs have continued for KS2 for children to focus their skills in preparation for tournaments. We would like to thank our volunteers who are running our Nepali Lessons for Year 1 and Year 2.

At Hornbill School, clubs and activities last on average a term to give as many children the possibility to take part in a variety of sports and activities. As a comparison Cheriton School advertise on their web site that in the full year they ran 11 clubs and activities in total.

MFL and Languages—2.1% of all feedback

At Hornbill School, we are teaching French as our MFL offer to pupils in KS1 and KS2. Although non-statutory at KS1, we value the importance of a good grounding of a MFL and so are providing this wider Hornbill Curriculum offer which was the intention of how the 2015 National Curriculum would be developed in school. The school selected French in coordination with Cheriton and Guston Schools and will be in line with what will be on the timetable in many UK schools.

I am aware that some parents would like the after school Nepali lessons back that were available in school prior to 2019. Some may remember that these lessons were taught after school by the team of nine Nepali Specialist Teachers. The Nepali teachers and the Nepali deputy head were removed from Hornbill School by MOD, in 2019.



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Lunch—3.7% of all feedback

Unfortunately, as we do not have a school kitchen or any catering facilities, everyone is required to send lunch to school with their child. Many parents are eligible to receive a refund on their lunch payments. We have asked parents to send lunches to school with their child in the morning as this is regular practice. Over the term, we have had an increasing number of parents delivering lunches at 11:30, we would prefer that all lunches were sent in with pupils at the start of the day to minimise disruption. All lunches are kept refrigerated until they are needed at lunchtime.

In the next school year, we are looking to extend the lunch break back to 40 minutes as it was in the past. We agree that this will give children more time to relax, to eat their lunch and have time to play with their friends.

Family Learning Programme (FLP) and Information—2.1% of all feedback

In order to provide opportunities to share in your child's learning, we held parent open mornings in Autumn and Spring term for parents to join their children in class in KS1 and KS2. In FS1 and FS2, we have held stay and play sessions for parents to join learning. Each of these events were very well attended.

In Autumn Term we held:

Launch pads, FLP Phonics, FLP VIPERS, FLP Metacognition, Celebration Assemblies, parent evenings and Christmas performances.

In the Spring Term we held:

Launch pads, FLP Art, FLP Computing, FS and KS1 Science Morning, Year One Maths, Year Five Science morning and Celebration Assemblies.

In the Summer Term we are planning to hold:

FLP SRE, FLP Maths, FLP Writing, ELP Science and parent evenings.

I am pleased to say that we have a very comprehensive school web site - www.hornbill.school - where more information can be found including detailed curriculum maps. Year groups also send home termly curriculum booklets with information about what children will be learning in the term.

Our pupils have homework which is usually spellings and reading. There are also occasional additional homework activities sent home. We have invested recently in more reading books and have put in place two Hornbill School reading bands to support our higher level readers in Key Stage Two.



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Standards—4.2% of all feedback

We are pleased that our expectations match England standards, the curriculum is based on the National Curriculum for England and in some parts aligns with Cheriton and Guston Schools' curriculum which we feel is an important benchmark, as many of our children rotate between those schools. We also make the curriculum a Hornbill Curriculum to cater for all children. In addition to internal DCS moderation, we moderate our writing with the two schools in Kent to provide a common baseline. In our most recent moderations of work, the schools in Kent were very impressed with the work they saw from our pupils.

We held a parent meeting at the start of the year and two are scheduled to take place in the summer term. In the new school year, we will standardise to having one parent meeting session in each term.

I know from the celebration assemblies that the badge system is very popular with the children. However, I understand that this historic reward system does require a refresh to make it fair and accessible to all. While this was not a priority in this school year, we will look to including this in the school plan for the next academic year and take the views of our pupils when considering any changes.

Speech and Language Therapist provision—0.5% of all feedback

We were delighted to welcome the SALT therapist to Hornbill for two weeks this term to work with children and teachers. As you will know we do not have full time DCS SALT provision in this location.

School Day—1% of all feedback

We are currently looking at the timings of the school day to accommodate a longer lunch time.

Recruitment—1% of all feedback

Many of you are aware that Defence Children Services are recruiting for a full-time head teacher. There will be an update on this when possible.

Although long, I hope this letter has provided you with some useful information about Hornbill School and provided those parents who wrote in the text box on the questionnaire some specific information relating to their comments. I would be pleased for you to come in to school to talk to me at any time about any further questions or queries you might have.



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Happy New Year, 2080. To celebrate the New Year we will be enjoying watching and joining Nepali Dances in school. All children are encouraged to wear traditional dress on Monday 17th April 2023.

We are looking forward to celebrating the New Year together.

