

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another week is rapidly passing here at Hornbill School and Treetops Setting and we continue to be delighted with the positive attitudes and determined work modelled by your children. I would particularly like to highlight our Reception children, who are attending full time for the first time this week and, despite feeling very tired, are full of enthusiasm (I was fortunate to pop into their classrooms earlier and was delighted by their singing, which was such a great way to start the day!) Our new children are delightful and are quickly settling into our school family. We look forward to forging a strong relationship with all our families as working together enables our children to thrive. I am also pleased to be able to welcome some great new members of staff to our school team:

Miss Lim has joined us as an LSA in Year 2 and Mr Hariz has joined our office team. I know you will join me in wishing them and all of our new families much success and happiness here at Hornbill School. We also have Mrs Gurung, Mrs Somare and Mrs Shrees who have all joined our team of bus escorts, supporting our children when travelling to and from our school.

I am also thrilled to be able to share that Mrs Lyn (an LSA within our school) has just given birth to her beautiful baby girl. We wish her, and her family, huge congratulations and much happiness.

As promised, we will regularly write and share events and news happening here at school and I am delighted to share a little more information about our plans for our first 'Open Afternoon'...

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023: Open Afternoon (12.50 hrs until 13.50 hrs):**



We hope that you may be able to join us for the last hour of our week, to see your child or children's class in action! The children will be engaging in their usual timetable but we hope that parents and carers will join them to share their learning, seeing how their child has settled into their new year group and helping families understand a little more about our school day.

If you are able to attend, please come to the school Reception office to sign in at 12.50 hrs on Friday (for security, our back gate will be locked and so you will not be able to gain access from the back of the school).

**Hornbill Helping Hands:**

As a school, we are incredibly fortunate to be supported by a keen team who work incredibly hard to help raise money for our school. The funds raised are spent on the children, arranging events, purchasing resources and helping to make all aspects of school life a memorable experience.

If you would like to learn more about the work of Hornbill Helping Hands, and might like to help on occasion, then HHH would like to invite you to attend their 'Hornbill Helping Hands Welcome Meeting' here at school on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September between 13.00 hrs and 13.50hrs.

We would appreciate whatever support that you feel you may be able to offer, from occasionally supporting a fundraising event to being a Hornbill Helping Hands Committee member – no offer of help is ever too small! Any amount of time you can give to HHH would always be well received.

If you would like to attend this welcome meeting, please complete the Hornbill Helping Hands form that can be accessed by clicking this hyperlink:

[Hornbill Helping Hands Meet & Greet \(office.com\)](http://Hornbill Helping Hands Meet & Greet (office.com))

This will enable us to make sure that we have enough refreshments for everyone attending!

### **Extended Learning Programme:**

We are currently finalising our arrangements for clubs at the beginning and end of our school day and will be writing to you next week to share this term's opportunities. Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any suggestions or would be happy to help us with our club provision!

**Extended Day Care and Enrichment** – As shared previously, the Treetops Team offer Extended Day Care for pupils in our Foundation Stage. If you would like further information regarding this, please email [Treetops.nursery@modschoools.org](mailto:Treetops.nursery@modschoools.org)

Our school clubs at the end of the day will resume shortly and we will contact parents with further details of the clubs offered in the coming weeks of the new term.

### **Prime:**

I am aware that Prime Energy and Prime Hydration have arrived here in Brunei over the last week and we have had a few cases of children bringing bottles of 'Prime Hydration' to school.

Although there are no health risks to children associated with drinking 'Prime Hydration', the drink does contain a high level of electrolytes. Electrolytes aren't recommended for children unless they are unwell or at risk of dehydration.

Another form of the drink, 'Prime Energy', contains around 200mg of caffeine for every 330ml and as a result is not recommended for children under the age of 18.

As a result, the school has taken the decision to ban all forms of the Prime drink. Children should therefore not bring it to school as part of their lunchtime drinks.

### **Chicken Pox:**

We have had a confirmed case of chicken pox and a suspected case within our Foundation Stage classes. Chicken Pox is usually a childhood illness that typically presents itself as a few days of feeling unwell with fever and flu-like symptoms followed by the appearance of small fluid filled blisters mainly on the trunk of the body. Please be aware of these signs of illness and take your child to the doctor if the blister type rash appears. If the doctor confirms chicken pox, please let the school know so we can monitor the illness and take necessary steps to limit its spread. Children can only return to school once the blisters have healed and there are no new spots – this can take up to a week or more depending on each child.

### **Return to School After Illness**

If a child is returning to school with medication following a period of illness, the parents/carers must be sure that the child is well enough to attend school before bringing them back. If there is any doubt, parents should seek advice before bringing them into school. If your child requires ongoing medication during school time, please contact the office to complete the appropriate permissions.

### **Volunteering Within Our School:**

We are keen to encourage volunteering here at school. Working offering your services as a parent helper is a great way to gain some insights into what actually goes on during the school day – and in some cases, could even pave the way for a school-based career.

Volunteering in a school can take many different forms. We are keen to offer our children help at playtimes – perhaps you could share some traditional playground games with groups of children (things like 'What's the Time Mr Wolf' or 'Ring-a-Ring-a-Roses') or allow children opportunities to develop their conversational skills. Maybe you would be happy to help children to consolidate their learning in maths by playing some simple maths games or rapidly recalling number facts? Giving time to read with children would be invaluable or perhaps you would like to help us to keep our school library organised and tidy...

Whatever you can think of – we would be grateful for your help! Volunteering at school is a great way to help us in our work to support your child in their learning. It is also a brilliant way to show your child the partnership between you and the school, so that



they can see us working together for their good. The role of volunteers can vary, so it is a good way to develop new skills and meet new people.

All volunteers will be invited to complete a Volunteer Information Sheet with their contact details, and complete the Volunteer Agreement which sets out the school's expectations of volunteers but, just as importantly, explains what volunteers can expect from our school. Prospective volunteers will also be required to complete safeguarding training, learning how we keep children safe and ensuring that we are vigilant of signs of risk or harm. If working without direct supervision, volunteers will also be required to complete a routine Disclosure and Barring Service check, to ensure that there is nothing in their background that may pose a risk to children, before starting to help in school. If you do have some free time and would like to get involved we would really value your contribution. Please contact the school office to express interest. Thank you.

**Celebration Assembly:** On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, we will recognise the achievement of some of our pupils during our first Celebration Assembly of the school year. Parents will receive an invitation to this event if their child is going to receive an award during this assembly.



Finally, please remember that there is an 'open door' policy at Hornbill School and Treetop Setting – if you have something that you would like to discuss with me, or any other member of staff, then please come and talk to us before or after school or make an appointment to meet via the school office.

With warm regards,

**Mrs C. Neal, Headteacher**

#### Upcoming Events Within our School:

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023: Open Afternoon (12.50 hrs until 13.50 hrs)** – We would like to offer all parents of children in our FS2 to Year 6 Classes the opportunity to visit their child or children's classroom and share learning

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September: BJSI Indoor Athletics Tournament** – Information about this event will be sent to parents of children participating.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Dashain Festival Picnic** – We will be celebrating the festival of Dashain (a little early as a result of our half term) with our community by holding a picnic on our school field, more details to follow.

**Week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023: Parents Evenings** – A letter will be sent to all parents in October with information about booking a convenient appointment time.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November: Remembrance Service** – Again, I will send further information about arrangements for this service closer to the time, but please reserve the date!

**Key Dates within our Community for information:**

**13<sup>th</sup> September (today) – Run for Life PCMF Charity fun run starting on the Hornbill School field at 15.00 hrs**

**16<sup>th</sup> September: TEEJ** – this festival celebrates the longevity of relationships.

During October, the **Dashain Festival** is celebrated:

**15<sup>th</sup> October:** Ghatasthavana

**21<sup>st</sup> October:** Phulpati

**22<sup>nd</sup> October:** Kalratri

**23<sup>rd</sup> October:** Mahanawami

**24<sup>th</sup> October:** Tika

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October – School Hallowe'en Mufti Day** – This will be a fund raising event for Hornbill Helping Hands. Children are invited to attend school in their own clothing. They are welcome to wear anything that they would like to (but we ask that you are mindful of their safety in this hot and humid climate) for a donation towards Hornbill Helping Hands.

Funds raised at this event will provide us with a float for our Christmas fundraising event, more details are below...

November is when the **Tihar Festival** will be held, which celebrates the relationship between brothers and sisters – a very exciting time!



**12<sup>th</sup> November:** Laxmi Puja

**14<sup>th</sup> November:** Gobardhan Puja

**15<sup>th</sup> November:** Bhai Tika

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Jolly Holly.** Hornbill Helping Hands are excited to share that they will be a fayre here at school at the end of the school day. More details to follow!