



Dear Parents/Carers,

After a busy and long first term of the academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank what is the most incredible staff team. The first term of the academic year is always one of the most challenging but also the most fun too! We think you will agree that every member of our team goes above and beyond to make sure our children are happy and learning.

This term, we have enjoyed celebrating several key events and are now enjoying preparing for the celebration of Christmas during the stand down period in the Garrison. I know many of our families are travelling away during this period and I would like to wish you all a wonderful break and well-earned rest!

School Council Elections – School Council elections were held in November. We now have a wonderful team of pupils elected by their classmates to share the pupil voice with me and help us to develop our school. Their first job this term has been to share their classes' priorities to develop our school's playground. They have chosen to raise funds for another large, plastic piece of equipment, like our existing fort, as they feel it will be long lasting and able to withstand the challenge our unique climate! Hornbill Helping Hands Jolly Holly Fair is supporting the children with this project, raising money to purchase a large structure.

Nepali Club – Another great introduction to our school as a result of the School Council is Nepali Club – the children thought this would be a great way to develop learning of the Nepali language (and bravely agreed to help me to learn this beautiful language at the same time!) Led by our Year 6 children, this is currently being held every week for children in Upper Key Stage 2 and we hope to spread it to younger year groups in the New Year. There has been a fantastic take up amongst the pupils!

हामी सबैको तर्फबाट हाम्रो स्कूल काउन्सिललाई धन्यवाद!

Hāmī sabaikō tarphabāṭa hāmrō skūla kā'unsilalā'ī dhan'yavāda!

...which I hope translates to 'Thank you to our School Council from all of us!'

School Communication Change: Seesaw – Schools from across Defence Children's services have been asked to reduce the number of online resources used to support procurement and data protection. As part of this work, all schools will be moving to using a program called 'Famly' across their early years. Famly is a digital platform for early educators and families and is designed to support greater collaboration. It will replace the programme Seesaw here at Hornbill School.

Our current contract with Seesaw is due to expire at the end of this term. As a result, from the 22nd of December, due to our contract end date, we will no longer use Seesaw and will move across to the new resource, Famly. All parents of children in Treetops, FS1 and FS2 will be contacted early in January 2024 to be informed about this new resource and how to use it.

Parents for children in Years 1 - 3 who also currently use Seesaw will continue to receive messages on Class Dojo, in line with the rest of the school.

Celebrating our Differences – As a school team, we are keen to support our children by recognising and celebrating our differences. Everyone within our community is different and so we are beginning a piece of work to celebrate this. Celebrating our differences can enable us to open our minds to new ideas and experiences. By being interested and open to the differences between us we can discover new ideas and ways of thinking as well as making new friends and experiencing different opportunities. The team here at

Hornbill are keen to challenge stereotypes and educate our community to understand that our differences provide us with strength and should be celebrated. To support this, I would like to share information in each newsletter about how individuals can sometimes be identified and provide information and support about a variety of difference subjects, from medical needs to learning needs. If you can think of any particular area that you would like to feature in future newsletters, please let me know!

We will begin this information sharing information about Dyslexia – please see the end of this newsletter for our first ‘Celebrating Our Differences’ Information Sheet 1.

Attendance - At Hornbill School, we take attendance and punctuality very seriously. We aim to have an attendance figure in excess of the national average of 96.7%. Attendance data is tracked by the Department for Education. Our attendance figure is currently below this target as a result of the high number of holidays taken during term time.

100% attendance means that the child’s attendance is excellent and above the national expected average for the UK.

96% or above is good attendance – and is in line with or above the national expected average for the UK. Attendance below 96% is concerning and is below the expected level.

Obviously attendance levels can be affected by illness, particularly colds and tummy bugs. Whilst we would encourage all parents to send their children into school wherever possible, there are obvious exceptions! If they have been ill with sickness and/or diarrhoea, please keep them off school until they have been symptom free for a minimum of 48 hours to prevent the bug spreading throughout the school community which has a significant, adverse effect on attendance levels of both children and staff.

A copy of your child’s attendance record is available, on request, from the school office.

We understand and appreciate that children can become ill and that it is not always easy to decide whether to send them to school or keep them at home, so to help you with this decision we have devised a useful reference guide. If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school office before 8am with full details of your child’s illness/symptoms. If we do not hear from you, we will ring you to find out why your child is not in school. When reporting your child’s absence, please include their name and class in any email or message. This saves us a lot of time and is much appreciated.

Thank you.



GREEN – COME TO SCHOOL

Mild cough, Cold, Sore Throat, Feeling Tired
We will always contact you if your child is ill during the school day.



AMBER - SEEK ADVICE

Headache, Feeling Sick, Tummy Ache
Children often feel unwell if they are anxious, so if in doubt contact the school for advice.

RED - STAY AT HOME

Sickness & Diarrhoea - 48 hours must have elapsed before a child can return to school from the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea.

Independence – We're keen to help all of our children to become more independent. Last week, I was fortunate to have spent time working in Treetops supporting our very youngest children as they enjoyed their lunches. In just the first four days, I have witnessed incredible progress as the children learn, initially with help and then independently, to open food items such as biscuits and crisp packets. Sometimes, it can be quicker to help by stepping in and doing something for a child – but it is important that we allow them to make safe mistakes to help them to learn. Could your child dress independently or pack their own lunch or school bag, for instance? Perhaps older children may be allowed more independence when travelling to school or visiting friends?

Scaffolding the steps required to complete a task helps to support children with learning something new and will make the task manageable. For instance, in the example I shared earlier regarding our youngest pupils opening packets. The first step was learning to 'pinch' the sides of the packet, the second was to pull (initially with an adult supporting, and then independently)! As adults, we need to help our children by encouraging them – it can mean that things take a little longer initially, but reaps rewards as your child grows in confidence and becomes more able to succeed independently.

Parent Voice – I am keen to gain your views about Hornbill School, capturing what you appreciate and how we might be able to improve further as a school. I would be grateful if you could click this link to share your thoughts as I come to the end of my first term at Hornbill School to help me to plan ahead and hopefully make improvements: <https://forms.gle/AxtrCDzAMADVpDPX7>

Thank you!

Jolly Holly Hornbill School Fair – The Jolly Holly Fair is **THIS FRIDAY!**

We are incredibly excited to welcome everyone to Hornbill School. It will be a fantastic opportunity to support Hornbill School in raising funds to improve our school's playground equipment and to do some last minute festive shopping!

This year our hamper and raffle prizes are better than ever! There are over 15 hampers and lots of vouchers from local businesses. Tickets are available at performances this week at Hornbill School, as well as on the day. They are \$5 per strip (5 tickets). Chances of winning something are very high!

Prizes include:

Lynda & Lydia Flowers - \$15 voucher

Cafe Hopping - 3x \$10 vouchers

Roses Salon - over 20x various vouchers

NJD Massage - 12x vouchers

Lovely's Dress Maker - 2x \$25 vouchers

Urban Vibes - Clutch bag

Louise Minhas - voucher

OM Yoga Loft - voucher

Istana Grove Aesthetics - \$50 voucher

Needle & Pins - Handmade gifts

Nanyang Photo – Two \$50 vouchers

Over 15 hampers to be won!

Various donated prizes from Ramdhanis and other local businesses and home stores!

We also have a fantastic amount of local handmade stalls and businesses selling various goods as well as a Hornbill Bake Sale!

Vendor's Running Stalls at the Fair:

Caffeine Factor
Alijon Collection
Sanctuary Living Co.
Helping Hands Penan
Kommunihub Co.
Julias Jewellery and Woodcraft Designs
Mendaram Woven Arts
Mel's Creations
The Honey BN
The Crafty Lamb
Kaimana
Kneady by Kate
YKS Crafts Paradise
Sopheia In Wonderland
Rattan House
Qooks Bn
Panaga Club

A touch of Borneo
Keif Kefir
Hornbill art gallery
Kurinji all Natural
Soap & Such
Henna Artistry by Jyo
PRI Shop
SSAFA

Parking for Jolly Holly - To ease congestion, we would like to ask parents and visitors supporting our fair to please park in the main **Chit Chat Community Car Park** to ease congestion and allow stall holders to easily transport their equipment. School staff will park in the car park at the rear of the school and vendors will be asked to park at the front, to allow them easier access when setting up and clearing away. The following link shows you where this car park is and how to access the school easily:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/GA5wtjnnqMY14sUJ6> and follow the short walkway to the school's main entrance and/or the Temple car park <https://maps.app.goo.gl/sah8jof5MKKMzE3b6>

Main entrance: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/t4YHH8Su8FpMKvSe7>

The RMPs will be in attendance to support Road Safety during this event.

A polite request to all of our community not to park on road verges or obstruct roads/ entrances to neighbouring houses. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated!

Please don't hesitate to share any other events in the local community that we can share with our families in my next newsletter, we would be happy to support!

With warm regards,



Mrs C. Neal, Headteacher



Jolly Holly Hornbill School Fair – Friday 8th December 14.00 – 16.30 hrs.

Christmas Performances

KS1 (Years 1 and 2) Nativity Performance – Humph! – Tuesday 5th December

10.00hrs

KS2 (Years 3 to 6) Nutcracker Performances – Thursday 7th December 08.30hrs and

12.45hrs

FS2 Nativity Showing and Celebrations – Tuesday 12th December at 13.00hrs

Last Day of Term – Friday 15th December – FS1 finish at 10.45hrs

FS2 to Year 6 finish at 12.00hrs

First Day of New Term – Monday 8th January 2024

Celebrating Our Differences

Information Sheet 1.

Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a type of learning disability. A child with a learning disability has trouble processing words or numbers. There are several kinds of learning disabilities — dyslexia is the term used when people have trouble learning to read, even though they're smart enough and want to learn.

What Causes Dyslexia? Dyslexia is not a disease. It's a condition someone is born with, and it often runs in families. People with dyslexia are certainly not stupid or lazy. Most have average or above-average intelligence, and they work very hard to overcome their challenges, particularly with reading and spelling.

Research has shown that dyslexia happens because of a difference in the way the brain processes information. Pictures of the brain show that when people with dyslexia read, they use different parts of the brain than people without dyslexia. These pictures also show that the brains of people with dyslexia don't work efficiently during reading, resulting in reading becoming slow, hard work.

What Happens in Dyslexia?

Most children begin learning to read by learning how speech sounds make up words (**phonemic awareness**) and then connecting those sounds to alphabet letters (**phonics**). Then they learn how to blend those sounds into words and, eventually, they can recognize words they've seen many times before.

Reading is a little like riding a bike: it requires doing many things at once with precise timing. With practice, typical readers gradually learn to read words automatically so they can focus their mental energy on comprehending and remembering what they've read.

Children with dyslexia, though, have trouble with phonemic awareness and phonics. So reading doesn't become automatic and stays slow and laboured. When a child struggles with these beginning steps in reading, comprehension is bound to suffer and frustration is likely to follow.

A common assumption about dyslexia is that letters or words appear reversed — that "was" appears like "saw." This type of problem can be a part of dyslexia, but reversals are very common among children up until year 2, not just children with dyslexia. The major problem for children with dyslexia is in phonemic awareness, phonics, and rapid word recognition.

What Are the Signs of Dyslexia?

In the early years, some signs of dyslexia can include problems with:

- learning to talk
- pronouncing longer words
- rhyming
- learning the alphabet sequence, days of the week, colours, shapes, and numbers
- learning letter names and sounds
- learning to read and write his or her name

- learning to identify syllables (cow–boy in cowboy) and speech sounds (phonemes: b-a-t in bat) in words
- sounding out simple words
- reading and spelling words with the correct letter sequence ("top" rather than "pot")
- handwriting and fine-motor coordination

Older children, teenagers, and adults might have these same signs of dyslexia and probably also will:

- read and spell behind peers
- avoid reading and writing
- work slowly on reading and writing assignments and tests
- struggle with learning a foreign language

How Is Dyslexia Diagnosed?

When dyslexia is diagnosed, it is usually discovered during elementary school. In some cases, it doesn't become apparent until a child is older and is expected to read and comprehend longer and more complex material. Continuing problems with advanced reading and spelling may be signs that a bright teenager has dyslexia.

Dyslexia can only be formally diagnosed through a comprehensive evaluation by a reading specialist or psychologist, either at school or in the community. Paediatricians often know the signs of dyslexia and can guide families to proper help.

What Else Should I Know?

Children with dyslexia may feel that they're not as smart as their peers because it's hard to keep up. As they move through school, problems can get worse as reading becomes more important to learning. As a result, children may lose interest in school.

Children who have difficulty often avoid reading because it's hard or stressful. So they miss out on valuable reading practice and fall farther behind their classmates.

It's important to support your child's efforts by encouraging and assisting in reading at home. Also try to give your child opportunities to build confidence and have success in other areas, such as sports, hobbies, music, art, and drama. Artists, athletes, scientists, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, and statesmen all have been able to achieve great things despite trouble with reading.

If you think your child might have dyslexia, talk with your child's teacher. The sooner a reading problem is found, the sooner your child can get the proper help.

There are many remarkable people who have a diagnosis of dyslexia which might be helpful to share with a child facing literacy difficulties. These include:

- [Jamie Oliver](#) (Chef)
- [Jennifer Aniston](#) (Friends)
- [Ingvar Kamprad](#) (IKEA)