

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another week is rapidly passing here at Hornbill School and we continue to be delighted with the positive attitudes and determined work modelled by your children. I would particularly like to highlight our FS2 children, who are now attending full time with great enthusiasm (I was fortunate to join them in our Outdoor Learning Environment this morning and watch them fully engaged with the continuous provision, it was such a great way to start the day!)



We have been delighted to welcome several new families to our community this term. Our new children are delightful and are quickly settling into our school family. We look forward to forging a strong relationship with all of our families, effectively working together to ensure that our children thrive.

BJSL Indoor Athletics Tournament:

We enjoyed a fantastic morning last Thursday, welcoming four other schools to Hornbill to participate in this athletics tournament. The Year 6 children participating from our school were fantastic, demonstrating great sportsmanship and sporting prowess. Our children not only achieved personal bests during the tournament, but we even had pupils set brand new records for our school - a really impressive achievement!

Year 1 Trip to Seria Park:

Our Year 1 pupils enjoyed their first school trip of the term, visiting Seria Park as part of their Geography studies, exploring human and physical geographical features. The children enjoyed a wonderful time – please do visit the Year 1 blog if you would like to see the photos!

Extended Curricular Activities:

A letter sharing this term's before and after school clubs will be emailed to all parents by the end of this week, with our clubs beginning from the 7th of October.

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any suggestions for activities or if you would be happy to help us with our club provision in the future!

Reading Rewards:

A quick reminder that there can be few things as powerful to support children than regularly reading to and listening to them read. It has astonishing benefits for children: comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun. Giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns.

Here at Hornbill School, we support and encourage children to read regularly outside of school and reward this through our 'Hornbill School Reading Reward Scheme.' At the back of each child's reading diary is a box that we ask parents to initial each time they hear their child read. There is a school prize for 50 reads or more each term!

Within the Reading Diary, there is also some really helpful information about reading along with some examples of questions to support children's comprehension.

Volunteering Within Our School:

We are really 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.

Attendance:

As a school, we follow the DFE guidance with regard to school attendance. We understand that the opportunities for travel here in Brunei are significant but I have been asked to remind all families that holidays and travel should be arranged outside of term time wherever possible. As a Headteacher, I am only allowed to authorise absence for exceptional circumstances. The fundamental principles for defining ‘exceptional circumstances’ are that they are ‘rare, significant, unavoidable and short’. If an event can be reasonably scheduled outside of term time then it would not be normal to authorise absence for such an event, for example: holidays or other travel.

Absences to visit seriously-ill relatives or for a bereavement of a close family member are considered ‘exceptional circumstances’, but for the funeral service and travelling time only, not for extended leave. Children with good attendance generally achieve more and are happier at school. Good attendance increases a child's academic success and improves their chances in life opportunities – it really is important!

Local Needs Analysis – An advert from DSPB and DCS:

Service families, help us to better understand the needs, wants, and wishes of children, young people, families and individuals overseas!

On behalf of the Defence Safeguarding Partnership Board (DSPB), Defence Children Services (DCS) are undertaking a Local Needs Analysis to inform the future delivery of social work, family support and personal support for all children, young people, families and individuals whilst both assigned and accompanying on overseas postings.

We want to ensure that no child, young person, family member or individual is disadvantaged by working overseas, by seeking to replicate early intervention, prevention and support available in the UK. The future

services aim to be inclusive, community focused, accessible to all and provide the support you need, when you need it.

To help DCS consider what the support service needs to look like, we need the help of those who we seek to support.

By completing the [Local Needs Analysis Feedback Form](#), which should take no longer than 7 minutes, you can help to shape the future of social care, family support and personal support for you, your family and any entitled individuals overseas. The deadline for completion is **Friday 4th October 2024**

School Blog: A quick reminder that we have a School Blog, sharing information from each class on the school website: www.hornbill.school/?page_id=1455

Every Friday evening, a new post sharing each Year Group's learning is posted. As the Blog is a public site, we deliberately do not share children's names and only share photographs of children for whom parents have consented, but it is a lovely way to gain an insight into what your child is learning here at school. From personal experience, I find looking at the blog with children is a great stimulus for conversation about their time at school – it offers a simple conversation starter and reminds your child about what they have been up to!

Finally, please remember that we have an 'open door' policy at Hornbill School – please come and see us at any time if you have any suggestions, concerns or questions. We want to make sure that our school is getting it right for you, as our community, and so we always appreciate any feedback!

With warm regards,



Mrs C. Neal, Headteacher

Upcoming Events Within our School:

Thursday 3rd October 2024 – Mile-A-Thon – Please see the attached letter from Mr Sherwin detailing how Hornbill School will be supporting the BFBS Big Salute charity event.

Friday 4th October 2024 – Dashain Family Picnic – We will be celebrating the festival of Dashain with our community by holding a family picnic on our school field, please see attached letter for more information.

Friday 11th October 2024 – Non-pupil day – A reminder that our school will be closed to our children on the 11th of October for staff training. This date has been scheduled to enable children to rest following the excitement of the observance of Kalaratri by our BFB family on the 10th of October.

Monday 21st – Friday 25th October 2024 – Half term holiday

Week beginning 28th October 2024: Parents Evenings – A letter will be sent to all parents prior to the half term holiday with information about booking a convenient appointment time.



Thursday 31st of October: Hallowe'en Disco -We are excited to share that we will be holding a Hallowe'en themed disco after school on Thursday 31st of October. Any funds raised by this event will help to swell our fundraising efforts as Hornbill Helping Hands in preparation for events at the end of term. Please see the attached 'save the date' poster!

Friday 8th November 2024: Remembrance Service – This will be a service led by our Year 6 pupils, and shared with their parents, pupils in KS2 and members of our Garrison.