



Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with great anticipation that I write this newsletter at the start of the first term of the new school year, ready to welcome existing pupils back and to welcome our new families to Hornbill School!

I am really looking forward to the year ahead and know that it will be filled with your child or children's achievements and successes.

Our first day of term is nearly upon us – **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August** is the first day of term for children in FS2 up to Year 6, with **our FS1 children starting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September**. It is always a very special time in school, with our new pupils arriving full of excitement and our existing pupils returning ready to take up responsibility for modelling the Hornbill way to our new friends, firmly focussed on what they need to do to achieve their various goals. It would be appropriate at this point to congratulate all our pupils who achieved such great results at the end of last term – our end of KS2 data was again, significantly above the national picture and we are incredibly proud of every child's achievements and hard work. I feel extremely proud and am sure that you will join me in sharing a huge well done to all of the pupils, our teaching team and of course a huge thanks to you, our families, for the continuous support and care that you each provide for your children.

I know the start of term can be quite daunting (particularly for parents) but want to reassure you that we will be on hand in the morning to support you! Members of the school's Senior Leadership Team will, as always, be outside each morning at the school gates to meet the children and will be happy to speak to any parent or carer should you have any questions or concerns. I would also welcome any suggestions that you may be able to offer us to help us to further improve our work as a school. Please don't hesitate to come and talk to us at any time!

**Packed Lunches** – All food on our premises must be **nut free** to protect individuals within our community who suffer from severe nut allergies. We politely request that everyone observes a nut-free policy and therefore do not include nuts, or any traces of nuts (including food items such as chocolate hazelnut spread) in children's packed lunches. Within each classroom, cold packed lunches are stored within a fridge, and thermos lunch boxes can be used to keep any food hot for your child. Please talk to your child, or to the teacher, if you are sending hot food in so we can ensure that your child does not place it into the fridge!

All packed lunches should arrive at school with your child at the start of the school day. Thank you for your support with this.

**The School Run** – With the new school year fast approaching, please can I encourage you to please remind children of the importance of crossing the road safely (please remind them with of the importance of stopping, looking and listening) when crossing the road.

Further to this, for children cycling to school, please can I request that parents ensure that cycle helmets are worn and fit securely. Cycling and scooting to school are a great way for children living in the local area to travel to and from school. It is our policy that anyone using this mode of transport (including younger siblings) dismount from their bike or scooter on arrival at our school gates and then push it into (and out of) school. This is because the school paths are often very congested and we also have quite a number of blind corners, which make it difficult to know if the pathway is clear. We would be very appreciative if parents could support

us with this to help make arriving and leaving our school as safe as possible! We ask that children follow this rule, even if the paths are quiet, to prevent any confusion.

**Class Timetables** – Your child’s teacher will share their timetable with you presently, but we thought it would be sensible to share an overview of our PE and library timetable for children in Year 1 to 6. On your child’s PE days, they should wear their PE kit instead of their usual school uniform for the day.

Please note that as tomorrow is our first day of term, we will not have PE and so your child will not need to wear their PE kit tomorrow if they are scheduled to have PE on Wednesdays..

Year group	PE Day 1		PE Day 2	Library day
KS1 / KS2	PE			
Y1	Tuesday (this will be swimming from the 8 <sup>th</sup> of September)		Wednesday	Tuesday
Y2	Thursday (this lesson be swimming from the 8 <sup>th</sup> of September)		Tuesday	Friday
Y3	Friday (this lesson be swimming from the 8 <sup>th</sup> of September)		Wednesday	Thursday
Y4G	Wednesday		Monday	Wednesday
Y4W	Friday		Monday	Wednesday
Y5	Tuesday		Thursday	Thursday
Y6	Tuesday		Thursday	Wednesday

The school’s library will reopen for library sessions week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Children will be able to borrow a book each week, bringing it back to school to either return or renew their book a week later.

Your child’s school reading book will be sent home by the end of this week to enable their new teacher to assess their reading and interests.

Swimming sessions for children in Years 1, 2 and 3 will begin week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September, with Years 4,5, and 6 beginning their swimming lessons later in the year. A letter regarding swimming lessons will be sent to parents of children in Years 1,2 and 3 shortly after the beginning of the term.

**Dashain** – The festival of Dashain will soon be upon us and we are really looking forward to celebrating across the Garrison. Whilst the festival occurs during our school term this year, we recognise the importance for children to attend key events during this period. We will write to parents later this week with further information.

We look forward to welcoming your children to Hornbill School tomorrow morning!

With warm regards,



**Mrs C. Neal, Headteacher**



## School Term Dates – Academic Year 2024/25

### First Term 2025

INSET Days (School closure)	Monday 25th & Tuesday, 26th August 2025
First Day of Term 1	Wednesday, 27th August 2025
Mid Term Break	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, 24th October 2025
Last Day of Term 1	Friday, 12th December 2025 at 1200hrs

### Second Term 2026

First Day of Term 2	Tuesday, 6th January 2026
School Closure INSET Days (staff only)	Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026 Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Last Day of Term 2	Friday, 20th March 2026

### Third Term 2026

INSET Days (staff only)	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
First Day of Term 3	Tuesday, 7th April 2026
Mid Term Break	Monday, 25th – Friday, 29th May 2026
Last Day of Term 3	Tuesday, 14th July 2026