



## HARLAXTON C of E (Controlled) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lincolnshire County Council

SWINEHILL, HARLAXTON, GRANTHAM, LINCS. NG32 1HT

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Headteacher: Mrs Sheriden Edwards

Tuesday 6th January 2026

### **Start of Term 3**

Dear Parents / Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back after the Christmas break.

Please remember that clubs start next week.

Please also send weather appropriate clothing for your child, some children are still coming to school without coats. Children do go out to play in all weathers so please send them well prepared.

### **Snow Days**

In the event that we need to close the school due to poor weather, we will inform parents via the following methods:

- Website update on the front page
- Facebook
- ParentMail
- Text

Please make sure that we have the correct email and phone number registered to you on ParentMail so that we are able to communicate with you.

**Please do not contact the school to ask if we are open.** The school is open every term date unless you are informed that we are closed. Once the school is open, it will remain open for the remainder of the day unless we have an emergency such as loss of heating. However, if parents feel that the weather is deteriorating where they are, parents are welcome to collect children throughout the day

### **Parking**

Thank you to parents for parking legally and courteously. Please note a new enforced area is in place outside the school where no waiting is allowed. Parking fines have been issued already. Parents are reminded to avoid running engines whilst parked in the village. This is not only illegal, but it is bad for the environment. Parent cars are not allowed in the staff car park after 8:30am or before 9am. Parents can use the staff car park after 4pm to collect their child from after school club if they wish. Please be aware of staff cars entering and exiting. We do try to fit as many staff cars in the car park as possible. If parents do use the area, this is for dropping off and collecting only and cars should be parked in front of the yellow box area only.

### **Dates for your diary**

We will be writing to you again with diary dates. Parents' evening will be towards the Easter break but if you have any concerns and would like to meet earlier to discuss your child's progress then please contact the school office to make an appointment.

Please also look out for exciting events organised by our magnificent PTA; our School Council; our House Captains and other student groups such as the Eco Warrior group.

### **Attendance and Uniform**

Just a reminder that holiday requests are always unauthorised. Please note that this stays on the child's personal record and persistent unauthorised absence can trigger a fine.

For other absences including hospital appointments and sickness, please contact the school office as soon as possible so that your child's absence can be recorded accurately. Please

note that these are government and not school regulations so please be respectful when speaking with school staff regarding your child's attendance; we do not have any discretion in this matter.

### **What does good attendance really mean?**

It can be difficult to understand but this table illustrates how low attendance impacts on your child's learning.

100% Attendance	0 days missed	Gives your child the best start in life
95% Attendance	9 days' absence or 1 week and 4 days of missed learning	
90% Attendance	19 days' absence or 3 weeks and 4 days of missed learning	Makes it harder to learn and progress to your child's full ability
85% Attendance	29 days' absence or 5 weeks and 4 days of missed learning. Almost one half term missed	Will impact on your child's progress
80% Attendance	38 days' absence or 7 weeks and 3 days of missed learning	Seriously affects your child's learning and development
75% Attendance	48 days' absence or 9 weeks and 6 days of missed learning.	

If your child has 90% attendance, they will miss the equivalent of:

- ½ day per week
- 19 days a year
- 247 days over the 13 statutory years of education or 1 year and 10 weeks

It is expected that all children wear school uniform including black school shoes (not trainers). If your child cannot wear the school uniform for religious, medical or health reasons, please let us know in writing so that we can make a record in your child's file. Please note that your child will not be able to participate in PE lessons, including swimming, if they are wearing any jewellery. If your child wears ear studs and cannot remove them themselves, please send them to school without them. Taping over ear studs is not acceptable.

Equipment check list: (please do not bring anything not on the checklist)

- Coat with hood
- PE kit with indoor and outdoor clothing, socks and trainers and swimming kit is necessary with swimsuit, hat and towel
- Lunchbox (with juice drink inside the box) ordered lunches will be distributed to children daily
- Water bottle for the desk containing water only
- Healthy snack for break time (not chocolate or crisps please) and please note that fruit is provided free of charge to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 every day.
- Children should **NOT** bring in equipment from home such as pencil cases or toys etc
- **Everything should be in one single bag**

### **Reading, House points and the School Library**

This year we continue with our house point system to encourage a more consistent approach across the school. Children will continue have access to reading books and there will be increased opportunities for reading in class. Please find just a few minutes to listen to or

check your child has read each night and then sign their reading record. We are continuing to put a huge amount of emphasis on teaching children to read fluently as this skill is such a gateway to future learning.

**Website**

Please keep popping into our school website which we will keep as up to date as possible, and the class pages will be our main vehicle for communicating with you in the event of a school closure. We will post work on class pages for children to complete from the start of the second day of absence from school as per our remote learning procedure.

**Contacts and permissions**

It is vitally important that you let us know any change to your contact details or changes to your child's medical needs. Please contact the school office if any of your contact details or secondary contact details have changed or if your child's medical needs have changed. This should be communicated by email.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs S Edwards