

21st September 2021

Headteacher's Newsletter - September

Dear Families,

A very warm welcome back to a new school year to all our families, new and old! It has been great to see all the children return so excited and ready to learn – school feels extremely calm and settled as new relationships are starting to be built. Many thanks to you all for supporting the school's uniform policy – the children look so smart and proud to attend Huntingdon Academy

A quick update on the work that has taken place over the Summer period:

- A new training room has been created which will be used by Huntingdon Academy and Trust staff so that we can continue to deliver the best possible teaching for our pupils.
- All areas of school have been deep cleaned.
- Both Year 2 classrooms have been redecorated.
- The mid-day / medical room has been relocated
- A new office / meeting room has been created for the school's attendance officer.
- New vision and values boards have been put up in every classroom.

A huge thank you to our Site Manager, Mr Coates, and the cleaning team, managed by Mrs Connellan who have made the school shine – their hard work is greatly appreciated.

Learning Environments

As usual, staff at Huntingdon Academy have worked incredibly hard to get classrooms ready for the start of the new school year, making sure that they are bright and welcoming.





Huntingdon Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Headteacher: Mr Ross Middleton

Address: Alfred Street Central, St Ann's,
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Telephone: 0115 915 6841

admin@huntingdonacademy.co.uk



Staffing Updates

As mentioned in the July newsletter, we are delighted to announce that Miss Lindsey (F2) and Mrs Young (Y5) have joined the teaching team at Huntingdon Academy. We also welcome back Mrs Mather (F1), Mrs Carrette (F1), Mrs Cousins (Y1) and Mrs Rhodes (Y2) from maternity leave.

We have also recently appointed a new attendance and medical officer called Sally King who we hope will be starting at Huntingdon Academy in early October.

Drop-off & Collection

Many thanks for your support and flexibility in adapting to the new start and end times of the school day. Depending on the child's year group all children are expected to be in school at 8.45am or 8.55am. Arriving late for school can be very upsetting for children and the learning time lost cannot always be caught up. Lateness is recorded on your child's official school attendance record and we are obliged to take action if this falls below the expected standard. Thank you also for promptly collecting your children at 3.00pm or 3.10pm (year group dependant) - this allows teachers to be able to spend more time planning, preparing and assessing, and undertaking the wide range of other duties that are part and parcel of the role.

We are still working through new systems and routines following 18 months of COVID restrictions and we appreciate your patience as we try to get operational procedures correct. Particularly around the start and end of the school days.

Registered no. 08296921



School Uniform

The children look fantastic and very smart in their school uniforms - thank you for your support with this. Further to previous communication, we are now once again fully-aligned with our school uniform policy which can be found on the school website here

Please note key points below:

- Only smart, black school shoes / trainers are allowed at school.
- The only jewellery permitted is a wrist watch and a single pair of small, flat stud earrings. Necklaces and bracelets/wristbands are not permitted. No jewellery at all is allowed for PE (this includes earrings which cannot be taped up);
- Please make sure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name
- Pupils should wear a white polo shirt and a navy jumper or cardigan (with or without the school logo);
- Black/grey socks/tights only or white ankle socks with dress or skirt;
- Charcoal grey trousers, shorts, skirt or dress (or a summer dress);
- Extreme hair styles or colours are not permitted at school;

Any exception to the uniform policy is with the prior agreement of the Headteacher only. Exceptions on medical grounds will only be permitted with evidence, e.g. a letter from GP or consultant.

Where families have difficulty in finding or purchasing items (either due to logistics or cost), we will support you with this. Please get in touch with the school and we resolve any issues ASAP.

Please can we also remind parents/carers that, where long enough, hair should be neatly tied back and not worn down. This is to ensure the health and safety of all pupils.

Contact Details

Please ensure that the school has your up to date contact details, including phone numbers, home address and email address. Please can you also ensure that we have the most up to date medical details for your child, especially if there have been any changes. Please contact the school office with any changes in personal circumstances, medical details or contact details.

Attendance at School

All children are expected to attend school for 190 days per year (100% attendance). The only exceptions to this would be a genuine illness, where the child is too unwell to physically attend school, or another rare and exceptional circumstance.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that any requests for absence must be put in writing to the Headteacher. Only in exceptional circumstances will an absence be authorised.

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Family holidays will not, and cannot, be authorised (regardless of extenuating circumstances), and will usually result in a fine from the local authority.

Keeping our community safe:

We also want to reassure you that we have developed comprehensive contingency plans for next year should we either have an increase of Covid-19 cases in the school or an increase of cases in the local community. Should either of these occur, we will be in immediate contact with the local public health team and will act on their advice without delay. We all hope this will not be necessary, but should it occur, we may be told to bring back some more of the safety measures that have been in place previously. The safety and well-being of all our community remains our number one priority. If you have any specific concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school. We are gently returning to normality and hoping to make Huntingdon Academy feel more like a school should.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Ross Middleton
Headteacher

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