

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a lovely half term break. It's been great to see the children back in school this week, ready and eager to learn. It's another short but packed half term so I thought I'd send out a newsletter with some important information for your calendars.

Thank you!

Mrs Kelly and Lucy both wanted to express their thanks for all the good wishes and lovely messages they received from both parents and children before they left Hurst Green. Mrs Kelly is currently enjoying the Mexican sunshine on a well-deserved holiday!

Mrs Baker

Mrs Baker is taking retirement from Hurst Green on Thursday 29th February, after working here for almost 9 years. We want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Baker for her continuous hard work across the whole school and wish her a long and happy retirement! The staff and children are really going to miss her.

World Book Day -7th March

World Book Day is just around the corner on Thursday 7th March. Miss CE is busy planning an exciting week of reading related activities under the theme of 'Celebrating differences'. We invite children to come to school on Thursday 7th March in their pyjamas ready for a day of stories and book related activities. Alternatively, children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character – considering the current climate, please do not feel pressured into buying a brand-new costume for this – cosy PJs are perfect! We have ordered some exciting books for children to share in class using the commission from the last book fair, so thank you for your support! Watch out for more details coming soon.

Comic Relief – Red Nose Day – 15th March

Comic Relief falls on Friday 15th March this year. Children can come to school in non-uniform, wearing something red if possible, for a suggested donation of £1. Instead of cash donations, the school have set up their own 'Just Giving' page for this event and QR codes will be made available in due course. Any support for this worthy cause is much appreciated.

Easter plans

With such a short half term ahead, Easter will be soon upon us, so I wanted to give you a reminder of the Easter arrangements! There will be an Easter Fair on **Wednesday 20th March 3:30pm-4:30pm**, run by the PTA. In addition, we invite all children to come to school in an Easter bonnet on **Friday 22nd March**.

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings are on **Wednesday March 6th** and **Wednesday March 13th**. Please remember to book your parents' evening appointments through ScoPay. Parents' Evening for Lime class will take place once Mr Sagar has returned to school.

Book Fair

The Scholastic book fair will be open after school from **Monday 4th March to Wednesday 6th March**, including during Parents' Evening on the 6th. Look out for posters with more information. We do receive a good % commission on every purchase so we are grateful for any purchase you are able to make. This will give us the chance to update more books in the school library and class book collections. We will give the children the opportunity to look round the book fair during the school day on Friday 1st March.

British Science Week

Monday 11th March marks the start of British Science Week 2024. This year's theme is 'Time' and children will be spending a whole day dedicated to Science during that week. They will also be learning about real-life scientists and careers in this area of the curriculum.

Parents' Session – Prevent

Mark Wilson from Dudley Local Authority is coming into school on **22nd May at 2:30pm** to hold a session for parents about Prevent. Prevent is about safeguarding and supporting those vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism. Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Mark is coming to deliver a parent session and is also providing training for staff. More details to follow.

Dogs outside school

Please can you be mindful of where you are securing dogs when leaving them outside of the school gate. We appreciate you not bringing them onto the school site, however please try to avoid tying them up directly opposite the school gate, if they are close enough to interfere with passersby, as some of our children are scared of dogs. Thank you.

As you can see, there is a lot happening during a very short half term. As always, we thank you for your support and cooperation.

Mrs N Webb