



## Issue 13 - October 2021

# Henlow Heart

Dear parents/carers

Reflecting on the first half of our Autumn term 2021, the word that comes to mind is Courage..... I am so proud of our whole community for working together to achieve the balance needed in this complex era. Risk assessments are essential in our quest to ensure that learning continues to take centre stage throughout the school.

We have welcomed a new cohort of Year 5 pupils this year in addition to Year 5 pupils from our sister school, Meppershall Academy. The pictures in this newsletter of their recent River Walk shows how well they have settled in. At the other end of our current age range we have welcomed our very first Year 9 cohort who are continuing their educational journey throughout Key Stages 3 and 4. As Mr Baxter notes later in the newsletter, this new venture is genuinely exciting for all of us. The students have appreciated their senior role within the school, confidently sporting their new blazers and taking the first steps in our new buildings and facilities.

All year groups have enjoyed spending time in the new theatre which many parents, carers and family members will remember as the old gym. Events throughout this year will continue to provide Covid safe ways of ensuring everyone is able to come in and see the fabulous new facilities and transformation of our site. The new MUGA is a welcome addition to The Four Courts Sports Hall and the students currently enjoy the full range of sporting activities in both areas.

The new science facilities have to be seen to be believed and our recent Secondary open evening offered the opportunity for all to see the high standard achieved throughout this building. The pictures included here provide a glimpse of the activities and information shared last week. The prospectus and the slides from Senior staff's presentations can be accessed via our website. If any Year 8 parent/career would like a tour of the building or meet with senior staff this will still be available after Half Term. Please email [nchalkey@henlowacademy.org.uk](mailto:nchalkey@henlowacademy.org.uk). For entry into Year 9 2022 the national closing date for application is 31st October and our Google link to formally accept a place can be accessed here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVMkC9hfnHqN-AcAzZ5O69SD5nEbzt-BrOm7YJczCYdU7JxQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVMkC9hfnHqN-AcAzZ5O69SD5nEbzt-BrOm7YJczCYdU7JxQ/viewform?usp=sf_link).

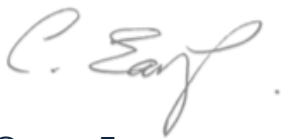
**HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM**



As you will be aware, we are working alongside our feeder lower schools as they become primary schools. In support of their transition and Central Bedfordshire's move to a primary/secondary model Henlow Academy will cease to have a Year 5 entry point from September 2022. From September 2023 entry into our school will be in Year 7 as we become a secondary school. All of our current students have the unique opportunity to enjoy the Henlow experience from Year 5 through to Year 11.

In rounding off I would like to again thank you all for collaborating with us throughout this complex era. I hope families are able to enjoy the Half Term break and we look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 2nd November.

Yours sincerely



Caren Earp

Head Teacher





# Henlow Welcomes Year 9



Our Year 9's have settled really well into this academic year. The pupils are displaying positive learning behaviours in lessons which has led to a very high standard of work. Year 9 students have also set a fantastic example to younger students with how they conduct themselves; standards in all areas are high, from how students present themselves, to how they prepare for and achieve in lessons, it really is great to see Year 9's taking this responsibility and leading younger students. We are very proud of the start they have made to their studies and attitudes towards school, and we are excited to see what they can achieve in the future.



**HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM**

# Key Stage 4



PROSPECTUS - YEAR 9 AND BEYOND

## Growing together



Over the last three weeks we have offered a number of opportunities for parents of current secondary age students in our school and locality to visit Henlow to find out more about our unique and student focused learning journey.

Our Year 9 curriculum is unlike any other schools, offering students the opportunity to focus their curriculum and select the two foundation subjects they most enjoy. They also have the opportunity to complete an additional qualification. This year in Year 9, the favoured option was the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award with over 90% of the students opting for it. With an hour a week of curriculum time dedicated to this qualification all the students are on track to complete their Bronze Award by the end of the summer term. It is an exciting time to be a student at Henlow.

The progression to Year 9 and onto Key Stage 4 is an opportunity for our students to remain with us. Whilst we will, as we always have, welcome students who wish to transfer to Henlow we are not a transition point for external students. Therefore additions to the year group will remain small.

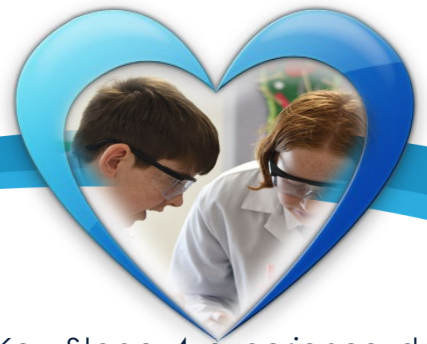
The deadline for students to complete applications to leave Henlow at the end of Year 8 is the 31st of October.

If you have any questions about progression into Year 9 please email: [nchalkley@henlowacademy.org.uk](mailto:nchalkley@henlowacademy.org.uk)

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# Key Stage 4 Experience Days



We are excited to give you further information about our Key Stage 4 experience days which we discussed at our open events. Our first one will be on Monday 8th November where Year 8 pupils will be able to experience GCSE Science and our Duke of Edinburgh community option. In January pupils can experience GCSE Graphics, Textiles and Computing and in May GCSE Food. We will be hosting our annual Careers Fair in March for our secondary pupils where we will show a range of different careers available to them.

## Henlow Academy

## Key Stage 4

## Experience

## Days

## Monday 8th November

## G.C.S.E Science

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

## We're GCSE Ready! Are You?

Alongside our experience days for what pupils can expect from Key Stage 4 at Henlow, we will be offering a range of information days about life after Henlow including Apprenticeships, Level 3 courses, sixth form and the world of work experience.

In November we will be releasing our GCSE options information which will be followed up with a an Options Open Evening in January. Through February we will be offering options interviews with staff and finally in March Year 9's will then make their options choices.

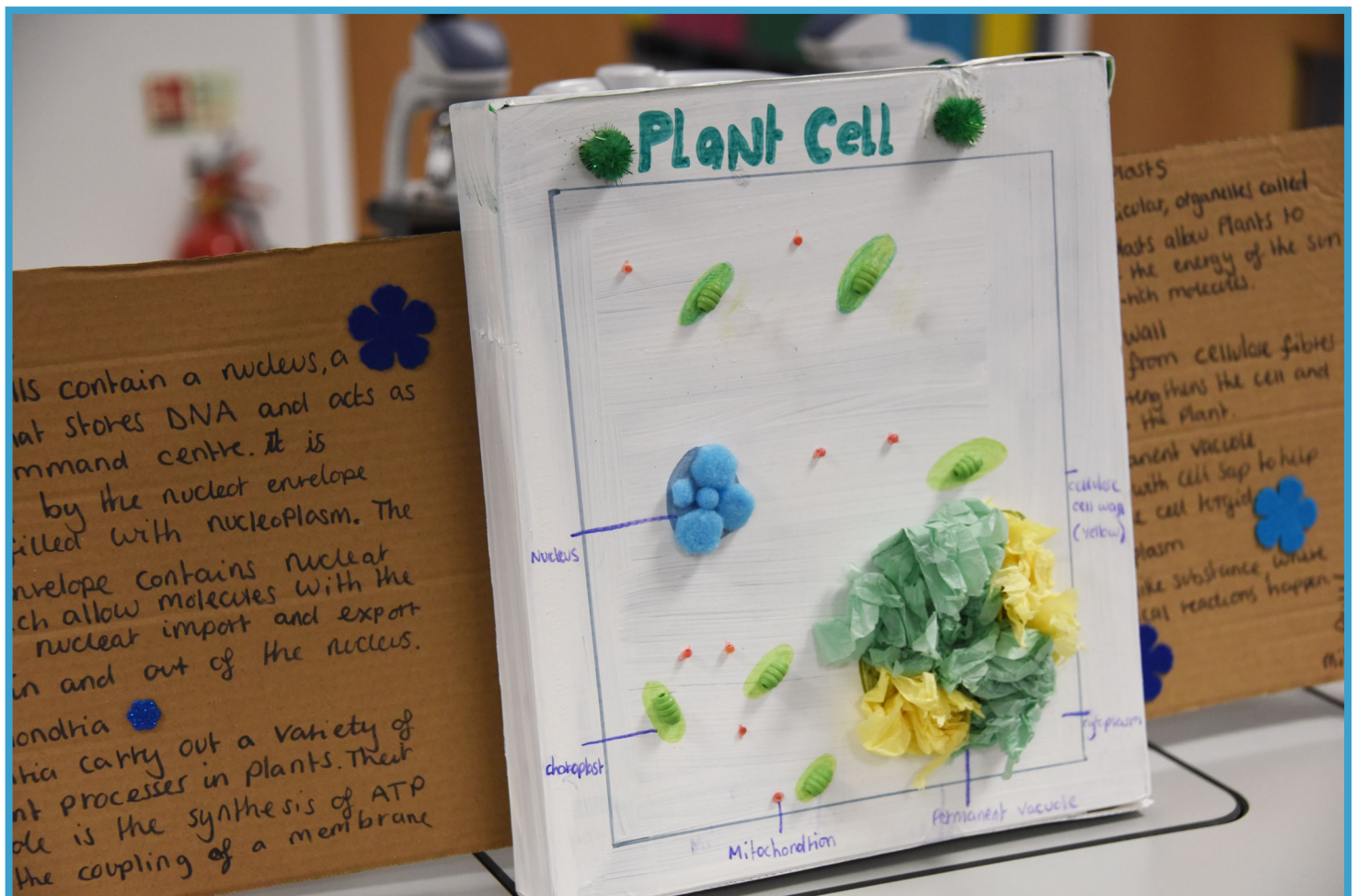


# Homework @ Henlow



Thank you to all our students for their commitment to supporting their studies in school with equal enthusiasm in homework. We have been delighted to see the high quality work continuing outside of school. As you will know we have recently reviewed our homework policy in line with our move to a full secondary school. All students should be receiving homework in English and maths; Key Stage 3 students will also have weekly homework in the foundation subjects too. Please refer to the guidance for parents which was recently sent via ParentMail and can also be accessed via the school website. [http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/homework\\_/535711](http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/homework_/535711)

If you would like further information about homework, in the first instance please contact your child's subject teacher, or for more general information I can be contacted on [nsharp@henlowacademy.org.uk](mailto:nsharp@henlowacademy.org.uk).





# Our Open Events



It has been two years since we were last able to welcome parents to one of our open events and so we are thrilled that we have been able to introduce our state of the art facilities to parents. We are incredibly proud of our Year 8 and Year 9 pupils who toured parents and helped with demonstrations. We can't wait for next years open evening when we hopefully will be able to invite all parents to see our whole school and all it's facilities in action!

**HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM**



# House Sports



We have had a fantastic week with all years participating in House Sports. This term pupils have been competing for House Points in football, netball and basketball. Our Year 9 pupils have had the opportunity to be the referees for all the matches (did you know we offer Sports Officiating as a Key Stage 3 Option!). We look forward to revealing how the houses have done in the next issue of Henlow Heart.



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# Shuttleworth Trip



On Thursday 21st October Shuttleworth invited a group of Year 6 pupils to come and experience some of the STEM activities that they have on offer. Pupils had a fantastic day exploring the Shuttleworth exhibitions and taking part in activities with the Shuttleworth staff. Pupils even got to make some cardboard gliders and then carry out testing on them. A big thank you to Shuttleworth for offering Henlow pupils this opportunity.



HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM



# Lego Club



We would like to say a HUGE thank you to Joshua and his family for donating 10 brand new boxes of Lego to the school for our Lego club. The incredible generosity has benefited so many of our pupils who enjoy Lego Club. Here are some of the brilliant creations Lego Club have been making.



**HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM**



# Year 5 River Walks



We were so delighted this year to once again be able to take the Year 5 out on their river walk to investigate our local river, the River Hiz. Armed with clipboards, pencils and Bonios everyone made their way down to the river with a stop at Henlow Grange to learn about the important role this house and its family played in the village and our school. Due to recent rain, the river levels were very high but that did not stop eagle-eyed pupils spotting the American signal crayfish scampering about on the river bed. We may just have had bacon in the teachers' bags to help us catch these invasive species and inspect them more closely! Once again, this was a delightful visit, the pupils were brilliant and thank you to all the parents who helped support these walks.



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# The Travels of Henry Henlow



## Henry Henlow's Holiday to Northumberland

Whilst I had Henry Henlow, I went to Northumberland with my mum, dad and younger sister. We stayed in my uncle's holiday house in Seahouses, which is a seaside town and the house was right on the beach. We went swimming in the sea loads and found some bodyboards in the house, so we used them sometimes. There were also loads of rocks on the beach with great rock pools and we caught loads of crabs and a couple of tiny fish. Our cousins came to see us at the house too and we had a barbeque and went bodyboarding. One day we went to Lindisfarne



(Holy Island) and took Henry Henlow to the Lindisfarne Abbey, then we got hot chocolate at a cafe and got some souvenirs at a gift shop. Another day we went to Bambourgh and visited the castle (but didn't go inside) and had an ice cream. On most days, though, we just stayed by the beach and went rock pooling and slid down sand dunes. We took Henry Henlow everywhere we went and had a great holiday. **Isla C**

## Henry Henlow's Holiday to Connemara, Ireland



I've been to Connemara before and was keen to show Henry this beautiful place that is famous for its beaches and bays, peat bogs, Connemara ponies and donkeys. We stayed in a tiny hamlet next to Cashel Bay and Hill on the Atlantic coast. We went kayaking and watched several seals and also swam in the sea, although Henry didn't go in because he was scared that the jellyfish would sting his toes (we saw a Lion's Mane jellyfish). He loved catching some big crabs with me, his sailing trip across to a

deserted island, meeting the wild Connemara ponies and the best bit of all, riding and cantering along the beaches. **Holly W**

**HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM**

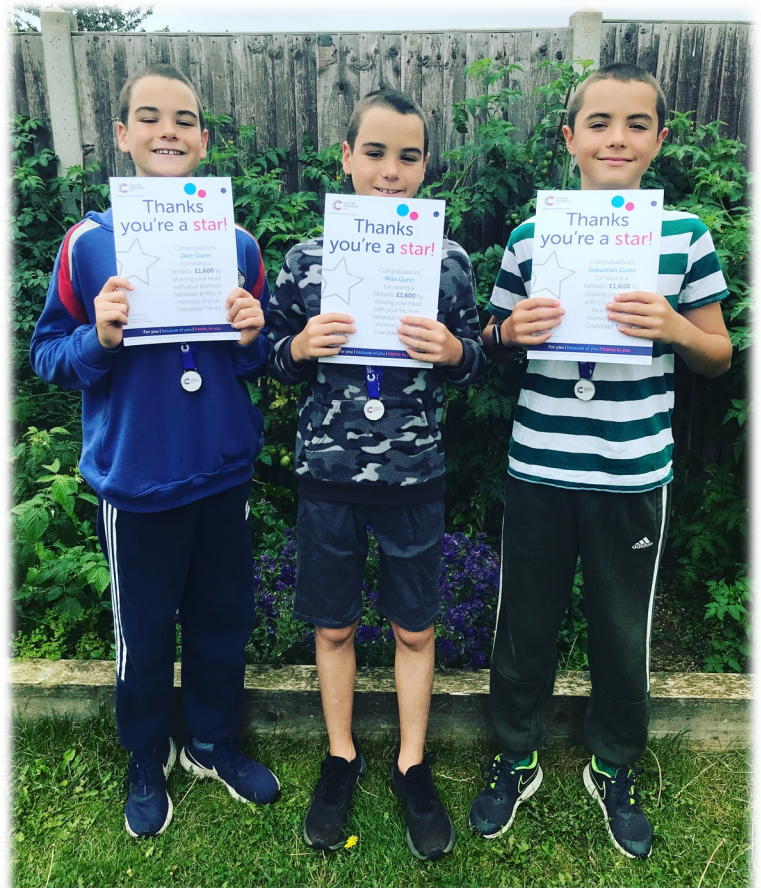


# Our Amazing Pupils



Alex A was nominated for a young fundraiser award for the 106 mile walk he did for Sheffield Children's Hospital last year to say thank you for his continuing care. 106 miles is the distance from Henlow to the hospital. He did this walk over the space of a month and raised an amazing £1,436.

Seb, Jack and Milo G shaved their heads for Cancer Research UK. They raised an incredible £1 600.





# Christmas Card Competition



## Design the Henlow Academy Christmas Card

**The winning entry will be turned into a professional Christmas card for Mrs Earp to send.**

**DESIGNS MUST BE ON ONE SIDE OF AN A4 PIECE OF PAPER.**

**Closing date – Wednesday 3rd November.**

**Post entries into the collection box on the main corridor outside Mrs Westcar's office.**

**Your name and form must be written on the BACK of the piece of paper.**

**Make sure you can't see any rubbing out of pencil lines.**



# Pupil Premium



## Could you be entitled to Pupil Premium Funding support?

### Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

If you think you are eligible please contact Central Bedfordshire on the number below. As well as receiving the option to have Free School Meals you may also be entitled to a variety of initiatives at school. These may include free access to Breakfast Club and 4:45 club, support with the cost of Food Tech, help towards uniform, subsidised music lessons, help towards the cost of school trips as well as other initiatives throughout the year.

The qualifying benefits to receive free school meals for children in Year 3 and over are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (during the initial roll-out of this benefit)

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8306. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- dates of birth for your children
- if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

The school will then be informed and you will receive further information. If you would like to find out more about how the school uses the funding to support pupils in the school, you can find more information on the school's Pupil Premium Strategy on the school's website [http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/pupil\\_premium/396258](http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/pupil_premium/396258) or contact Miss Julia Cave ([jcave@henlowacademy.org.uk](mailto:jcave@henlowacademy.org.uk)) For more information on how to apply for Free School Meals, please contact Central Bedfordshire Council directly on 0300 300 8306.

# Work @ Henlow



Join our expanding Site Team at Henlow  
Church of England Academy

## Assistant Site Agent

**Pay scale:** NJC Level 2b Points 3 - 5  
£18,562—£19,132 FTE +over time as required

**Hours:** 25 hours per week, Monday to Friday

**Start date:** ASAP

**Closing date:** Friday 29th October

**Interviews:** Wk. com 8th November



We are seeking a forward thinking, dynamic and highly motivated Assistant Site Agent with a proven track record of success to join our support staff team. You will be working alongside our Site Agent to ensure the smooth operation of our school site.

The successful candidate will:

- Be friendly, trustworthy and reliable
- Be hardworking, energetic and self-motivated
- Take pride in the high standards of cleanliness in our school
- Have excellent attention to detail



# Work @ Henlow



## MIDDAY SUPERVISORY ASSISTANT

**Pay scale:** NJC Scale Points 1-3 (£17,364 - £18,065 pro rata)

**Hours:** 12:35 pm – 1:35 pm daily, term time only.

**Start date:** As soon as possible

Due to the expansion, we are looking for enthusiastic members of staff to join our midday supervisory team responsible for the supervision and care of our pupils at lunchtime .

The successful candidates will:

- Be friendly, patient and reliable
- Be a good role model to pupils
- Have good communication skills
- Be able to engage with pupils

## CLEANER

**Pay scale:** NJC Scale Points 1-3 (£17,364 - £18,065 pro rata)

**Hours:** 3:30 pm – 6:00pm daily, term time and during school holidays

**Start date:** ASAP

Due to expansion, we are looking for three new enthusiastic members of staff to join our existing dedicated cleaning team, responsible for ensuring hygiene and cleaning throughout our school building.

The successful candidates will:

- Be friendly, trustworthy and reliable
- Take pride in the high standards of cleanliness in our school
- Have excellent attention to detail
- Be able to work on their own and part of a team

Application forms can be found on our website [http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/vacancies\\_1/502822](http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/vacancies_1/502822) Please email completed application forms to [jmarshall@henlowacademy.org.uk](mailto:jmarshall@henlowacademy.org.uk)

If you would like more information about either of the roles please contact Janice Marshall on 01462 813733 or email [jmarshall@henlowacademy.org.uk](mailto:jmarshall@henlowacademy.org.uk).

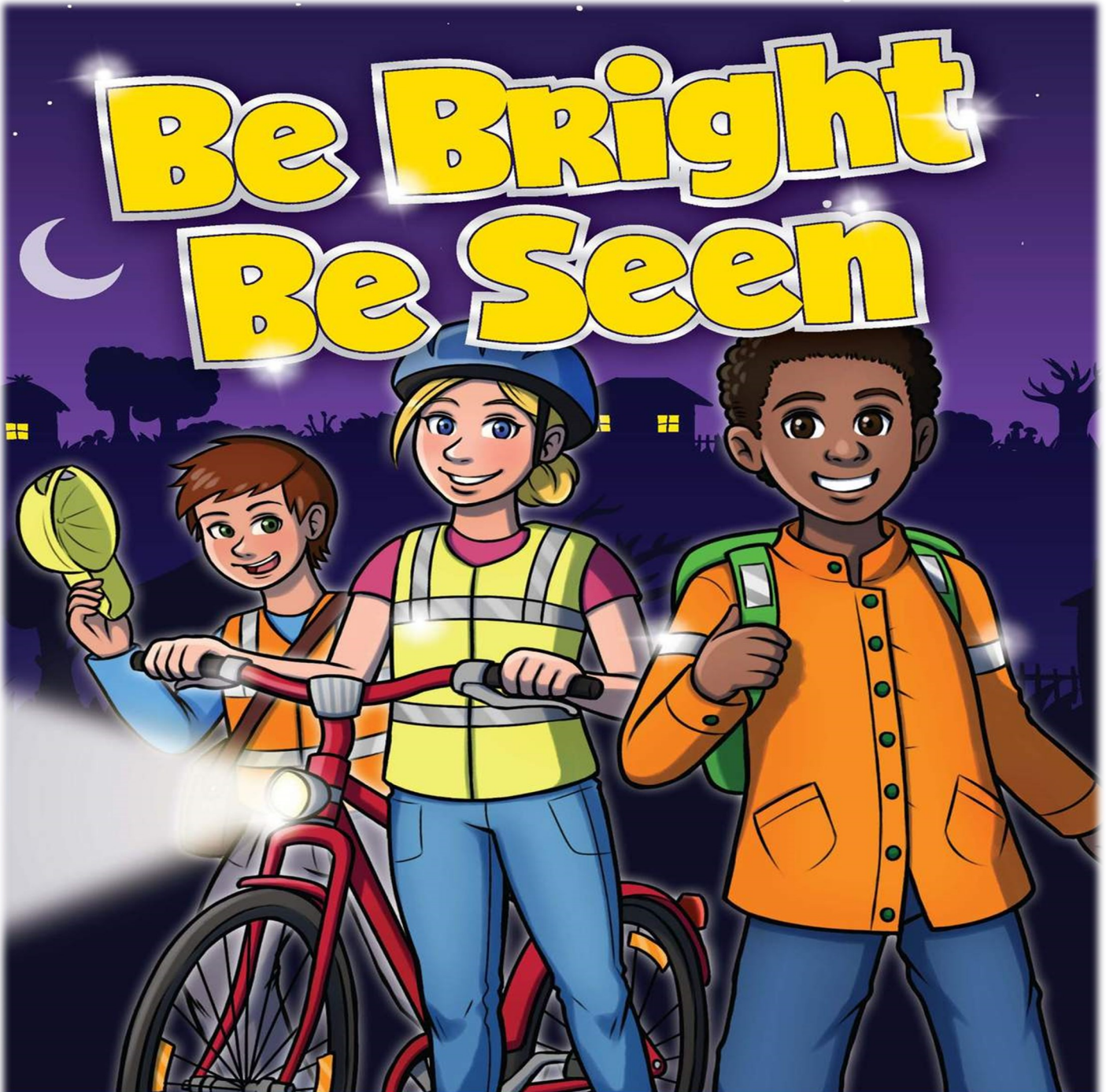
**HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM**



# Road Safety



As the nights are drawing in, please remind your child(ren) about the importance of road safety. Whether they walk or cycle home, are walking from the bus home or get collected in the car, once they have left the school site they need to be visible.



**Get yourself noticed when it REALLY matters!**

HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM



# Please Remember



**Please use ParentMail to make all payments.**

**Please make sure that all your child's clothes and property is clearly named and that name labels have worn off.**

**The school office aren't able to call home if your child forgets something. Please ensure your child checks their timetable and brings all they need each day.**

**We offer Homework Club everyday from 3:45pm to 5:00pm. There is no charge for Homework Club but booking is essential. Please email**

**[jmarshall@henlowacademy.org.uk](mailto:jmarshall@henlowacademy.org.uk)**

**All children need to have a NAMED water bottle with them everyday.**

**Please check your child's ParentMail accounts and ensure they are in credit for school dinners. Dinner money top ups can be found under the accounts section in ParentMail.**

**Breakfast Club runs from 8:00am until 8:30am and must be booked in advance. Do not drop children off before 8:00am as they are not supervised and not insured to be on site. Any pupil not attending Breakfast Club must not be on site before 8:35am.**



# Pupil Equipment List



All pencil cases will have been sent home to be restocked over half term. Please can you ensure your child(ren) has all the right equipment they need for school everyday. We are seeing an increasing number of pupils that are turning up to lessons without even a pen and pencil. As part of The Henlow Home School Partnership, pupils should attend school properly equipped. If you are unable to provide stationery for any reason please contact your child's form tutor who will be able to help.

All pupils needs a pencil case which contains ALL of the following:

- **Cartridge pen, handwriting pen or a friction pen (blue)**
- **30cm ruler**
- **HB pencil and a spare**
- **2 Dry wipe board marker pen and a wiper/cloth**
- **Coloured pencils (not felt tips)**
- **Ink eraser pen (if using a cartridge pen)**
- **Green pen (friction pen preferred)**
- **Rubber**
- **Pencil sharpener (which can collect shavings)**
- **Glue Stick**
- **Scissors**
- **Highlighters**
- **Scientific calculator (ESSENTIAL FOR KEY STAGE 3 MATHS)**
- **Protractor**
- **Headphones (suitable to be plugged into any tablet)**

# Attendance Matters



**Kelly Jando**

Attendance Officer

[kjando@henlowacademy.org.uk](mailto:kjando@henlowacademy.org.uk)

**Caroline Northover**

Education Welfare Officer

**School Office**

01462 813733

## **Don't be late!**

If your child(ren) arrive after 9:00am they will be marked in late.

## **Let us know!**

You can report your child(ren) absence from school by phone the school office on 01462 813733 or through the ParentMail app.

## **Things to remember!**

You can be prosecuted if your child has unauthorised absences from school.

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**IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL YOU MUST CONTACT THE SCHOOL TO LET US KNOW WHY YOUR CHILD WON'T BE IN SCHOOL OTHERWISE THE ABSENCE WILL BE UNAUTHORISED.**

~

Looking after other children, going shopping and waiting in for deliveries are not valid reasons to keep your child off school and will be marked as unauthorised absences.

~

Parents can request to take children out of school during term time by writing to the Attendance Officer. However, holidays are only granted in exceptional circumstances. Absences taken without permission will be recorded as unauthorised and a fine will be issued.



# Attendance Matters



## Did you know?

- ⇒ You can report your child absence from school through the ParentMail app.
- ⇒ 97% attendance means your child will have missed 6 days of school throughout the year.
- ⇒ 90% attendance means that your child will have been absent for the equivalent of one half day every week.
- ⇒ If you take a two week holiday during term time your child's attendance will automatically be reduced to less than 95%. A two week holiday each year in school means a total of 14 weeks teaching time missed. This is the equivalent of a whole term and can have a real impact on your child's literacy and numeracy skills.
- ⇒ If your child does not attend school regularly and you fail to work with the school and The Education Welfare Service, you may be fined up to £2500 and in extreme cases sent to prison.

## Frequently asked questions

### **Q. My child has a tummy bug and isn't well enough for school. What do I need to do?**

A. Call the school office on 01462 813733 before 9:00am to let us know. Children should not return to school after a sickness bug for 48 hours after their last episode of sickness/diarrhoea.

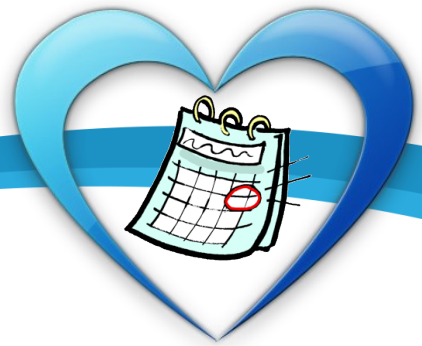
### **Q. I need to take my child to the dentist next week, do I need to let school know?**

A. Yes please! Please inform the school office. Where possible please try to make appointments outside school hours/during school holidays. If that is not possible please make them for the start or end of the school day.

### **Q. I sometimes struggle to get all of my 3 children to school before the school gates close, being 5-10 minutes late doesn't really make that much difference does it?**

A. It is important for all children to be in school on time as it can be upsetting for the child and disruptive for the rest of the class when children are late. Children who are late need to arrive via the school office and will get a late mark.

# Calendar Dates



Date	Event	Additional Information
Tuesday 2nd November	First day back	
Mon 8th - Thurs 11th November	Year 6 Mock SATS	
Wednesday 17th November	Key Stage 3 Covid Vaccines	Available to all pupils who are 12 by 17th November. Please fill in the consent form sent through ParentMail
Friday 19th November	Children in Need	School Action Group will be in contact with more information about this years theme.