

Newsletter 21th September 2018



Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

As the days turn increasingly cool, and autumn really sets in it is an exciting time around school to look at the changes the new season brings. The windy weather has created a glut of leaves of all colours blowing about the site for us to see, feel and talk about. The noise of the wind around the building and when standing in the playground areas provides another language rich learning opportunity. Please continue this with your young people at home – they have some incredible describing words for this weather.

We have had problems with our phone lines yesterday and today, and I would like to thank-you for your patience whilst we work with the phone company to get a resolution. By the time you read this the system should be fully working again.

The leadership team have again visited several lessons this week to see the learning our young people take part in. We are working hard to provide opportunities for independent work, at an appropriate level, for all of our young people, including in the area of writing. Opportunities were seen across school for this. In class GH a drama activity was happening, followed up by the chance for some written work, maths challenges encouraged the class to write numbers and calculations in an appropriate way, and our youngest children have had opportunities for mark making using different materials. Our post-16 gardeners continue to reap the harvest of last year's hard work, with potatoes being dug and sold in order to purchase what is needed for the next crop.

I am pleased to announce that our new website is now live, and updated with all the latest information about our school. Please take a minute to have a look – www.hallmoor.fet.ac

Please can I reiterate my message from last week:

can we ask all parents to monitor closely their child's use of the internet and social media. Whilst this is an important resource, and part of every day life, young people can be vulnerable to other users, and accessing inappropriate sites. We promote Internet and Computer safety here at school, and would ask that parents do the same at home. If you need support and advice with keeping your child safe on line please see the NSPCC website :

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Wishing you all a peaceful week,

Jo Edwards

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Important Dates

Parents evening – 23rd October 2018

Training days for this year are as follows:

Monday 5th November 2018

Monday 29th April 2019

Monday 22nd July 2019 - please note the last day for students next summer is **Friday 20th July 2019**.

Time of the school day

You are cordially reminded that students at Hallmoor School are in lessons from 9am to 3pm daily. It is a requirement in law that 25 hours of education, excluding breaks, is provided – these hours allow us to deliver this. Students may attend breakfast club from 8.40, or meet their friends in the playground. Due to Health and Safety restrictions there are no staff to receive students prior to this as it is outside of their contracted hours, and therefore we ask parents not to leave children unsupervised on site prior to this. Students will be dismissed from their classes at 3pm. Any queries regarding transport should be directed to Birmingham City Council, as we do not arrange this ourselves. Thank-you for your support with this.

Mobile phones

Please be aware that we do not allow students to have mobile phones during the school day. For those students who need to bring a phone with them each day it is our expectation that they hand them in to their tutor at the start of the day for safe keeping. Please reinforce this message with your child in order to prevent problems arising during the school day.

Transport

All arrangements for transport are made by Birmingham City Council, Travel Assist. Whilst the school will support parents with the completion of the appropriate forms, we do not make the decision about who is entitled to transport or the type of transport if it is offered. If you have any questions, queries or concerns please contact Travel Assist directly on 303 4955.

Dinner money, tuck and food money

When sending money into school, please can you put it in an envelope clearly stating the name of your child, what the money is for, and how much is enclosed. This will help the team ensure it is allocated to the correct place. In the future we hope to move to a cashless system to make this easier for parents and carers.

Attendance

At Hallmoor School we believe that maintaining good attendance is key to a successful learning journey, and in building and experience friendships and social situations. Please support us in this by sending your child into school whenever possible. If your child is unable to attend please telephone the school and inform us. It is your duty as the parent or carer to ensure the good attendance of your child, and our expectation that all learners attend each day.

Support for others/charity work

Today we chose to support the Jeans for Genes day, as part of our commitment to helping others. My thanks to those who took part by wearing their jeans to school and making a contribution. Coming up soon is McMillan coffee morning – details to follow via classes, but this day always produces a wealth of sweet treats and cakes in school, as well as squash, and coffee for the adults.

Coats

The weather has definitely changed this week, with cooler weather and high winds, plus some heavy rain. Please can I ask that all students come to school with a suitable coat – as long as it is dry we will have outside play time, as we believe that fresh air and play are an important part of our school day. Your child will be expected to take off their coat in class and for assemblies.