



Newsletter

Date: Friday 25th March 2022

www.hallmeadow.org

HMPS-Admin@hmps.inmat.org.uk

Phone: 01536 417627

Inclusion Integrity Initiative Inspiration Involvement

Headline!

News!

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was lovely to see so many happy parents at parents evenings this week. Thank you to all those that came; all staff felt they were positive and rewarding. I hope you have heard why I am so proud of each child in our school.

Last Friday, I attended a head teacher's training session at InMAT. As always, these sessions are aimed at reviewing the school's vision within the trust, which I will then disseminate to staff, pupils and parents. We are currently reviewing the data from the Spring assessments and are pleased that Miss Letts has been asked to support with moderation across the Year 6 assessments across the eleven schools.

On Wednesday, I was able to 'show off' again with pride to two new members of the Trustees and Board of InMAT. Both have said what a wonderful school we have here, how smart the children looked and how well the children responded in phonics lessons and to reading comprehension. Once again, I shared my vision for developing the school further through the curriculum but also to improve our grounds with shade, designated areas and the installation of additional safety features for which we are currently collating quotes to put to InMAT to purchase on our behalf.

This week also saw the whole staff team back together for the first time since December! It was so lovely to have everyone back in school however, we are constantly assured COVID has not disappeared with more children testing positive this week again. Please remember to be vigilant and to follow the 5 day guideline to ensure that the staff can continue to attend school and support our children.

As well as wearing our odd socks for World Down Syndrome Day this week and reflecting on how we need to continue to be inclusive and think of others, we discussed forgiveness with our friends from The Gospel Hall, Northampton. Pete told the children a story about forgiveness from the Bible and related it to how we need to remember to say sorry but also to forgive those who have said sorry to us. It was a timely reminder to start every session and every day with a fresh mindset, to accept people make mistakes and again include all in all we do.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Bodman-Knight

Inappropriate Content – Poppy’s Playtime

It has come to our attention that some children in school, as young as 5, are watching a programme called 'Poppy's Playtime' on YouTube. This contains a character called 'Huggy Wuggy'. This programme and character have been highlighted by Northamptonshire Online Safety as inappropriate viewing for young children due to its alarming content.

Please be aware of this and monitor children's viewing content.

Kind regards, Mrs Ricotta (Deputy safeguarding lead/Wellbeing Lead)

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From the continuing impact of COVID-19 to the war in Ukraine, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

- FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS**

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they have seen.
- RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE**

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.
- KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE**

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what is happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.
- EMPHASISE HOPE**

Upsetting content can make us feel angry, scared. Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.
- MONITOR REACTIONS**

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.
- CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS**

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.
- SET LIMITS**

Managing screen time and content can be difficult at the best of times, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try and at least limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen time limits.
- TAKE THINGS SLOWLY**

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once; instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.
- ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS**

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.
- FIND A BALANCE**

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.
- BUILD RESILIENCE**

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.
- IDENTIFY HELP**

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

Meet Our Expert
Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.03.2022

Parking

This week, parking has once again been highlighted.

Hemery Way seems to be blocked most days which is resulting with staff struggling to pass but also parents who have parked sensibly, being wrongly accused by residents.

Please be mindful of this when parking. The weather has warmed and walking an extra 50 meters should be seen as a pleasure not a chore.



Parking on site

We have some parents/carers with valid reasons to park on site daily.

If you need to drive onto site please contact the school prior to doing so. Those offenders who are 'tailgating' or 'taking a chance' on driving down whilst the gates remain open please expect to be challenged.

We have asked for them to be re-programmed and are looking at installing CCTV to further monitor the use of our gates. Mr Luke Johnson, our site supervisor, will be helping to monitor the main car gate whilst I welcome children and families on the playgrounds over the coming weeks



School Dinners

Lunch Staff have asked if Parents/Carers could please let children know what they will be having for school dinners each week. This would be very much appreciated, as they are finding an increasing number of children confused by what they have ordered, and some even refusing to eat, believing they have the wrong meal.

Thank you for your support with this.



Good Luck!

This weekend Oliver, Darcey and Harriet are participating in the National Cross Country Finals. The race, at Market Harborough Showground, will be challenging, with age appropriate distances.

I'm sure you will all join me in wishing them the very best of luck. We are all so extremely proud of you all!

STAFF VACANCY



Casual Mid-Day Supervisor Wanted

We are seeking a Casual Midday Supervisor to join our team.

Please see the attached advert for more information and how to apply.

PACT - UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Queen's Jubilee Commemorative Gifts

Thank you for the orders we have already received.
Could we please ask that all remaining orders are in by Wednesday 30th March.



Easter Egg Raffle

PACT will be selling tickets for the Easter Egg Raffle from Monday - Thursday next week on the playground, after school. Tickets are £1 each. The draw will take place on the last day of term. The funds raised from this will go towards the Year 6 leaver's gifts.

Spring Disco

Our Spring Disco will be held on Thursday 31st March. Tickets must be ordered by Monday 28th, either return the paper slip or purchase via the PTA Events system: <http://www.pta-events.co.uk/hallmeadowspact>

School Lottery

Our first draw takes place on Saturday 2nd April. There's still time to enter at: <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/hall-meadow-primary-school> Good luck!



Mary's Kettering Cuppa & Chatter

Mary, our lunchtime supervisor, would like to welcome you to a group for adults with visible and hidden disabilities.

Please see the attached flyer for further details.



This Week's Stars are:

Iris - Leo
Demeter - Charlie
Apollo - Elena
Poseidon - Ella
Athena - Joseph
Ares - Eva
Zeus - Taylor-Storm



Whole school - @primary_hall
Iris - @HMIris2
Demeter - @DemeterHm
Apollo - @HmApollo
Poseidon - @HmPoseidon
Athena - @HMAthena6
Ares - @HMAres2
Zeus - @hm_zeus

Tweet of the week!



DATES FOR DIARY!

March

28th Mar - M&M Productions Jungle Book

29th Mar - Tennis Taster Session

29th Mar - Visit from NMPAT Strings Quartet Team

30th Mar - Apollo Class Assembly

31ST Mar - PACT Spring Disco

April

26th April – Reception and Year 6 Health Screening

28th April – PACT Cake Sale

2021-22

Term 4

Friday 1st April – End of term

Term 5

Tuesday 19th April – School open to all pupils

Friday 27th May – End of term

Term 6

Monday 6th June – Training Day

Tuesday 7th June – School open to all pupils

Thursday 21st July – End of term