



## Welcome to the 2025-26 Academic Year

It is my pleasure to welcome you back to the start of this new academic year and to welcome our new families into the Hitherfield Community. I hope that everyone has had a happy and safe summer and that the children are rested and ready for the return to school. I am sure parents and carers are delighted that the children are returning to school!

I am looking forward to another successful year for the children and the school. We will be sending our Year 6 children off to Dorset on School Journey in a couple of weeks and there are many more exciting opportunities ahead. This summer has seen some sad and disturbing protests around the country. I am proud that Hitherfield will continue to be a safe, inclusive, community focused school that welcomes every child as an individual and their family into our loving community.

Please see the photos and names of the Senior Leadership Team below in case you need to speak to any of us.

I look forward to seeing you all at the school gates or around the school soon.

Best wishes,

Chris Ashley-Jones

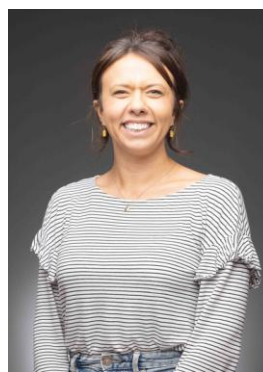
## Hitherfield Leadership Team



Chris Ashley-Jones  
Executive Headteacher



Luke Parker  
Head of School



Lauren Cater  
AHT EYFS & YR 1



Clare Christie  
AHT Years 2,3 & 4



Tom O'Flynn  
AHT Years 5&6



Melanie Lucombe  
SENDCo EYFS, Year 1 & 2



Unta Taiwo  
SENDCo Years 3,4,5 & 6



Arlette Wells  
School Business



## EDIBLE GARDEN

Thank you to the lovely families who worked to maintain the edible garden over the summer. It's a lovely resource for the kids to share. The children will be able to eat cucumbers, tomatoes, sweetcorn, carrots, sorrel, beans and plenty of apples in gardening sessions this term.



### Volunteering 9:00 - 9:40am Thursdays

Drop-in sessions in the edible garden for adult's start next week. Jessi will be waiting by the garden gate outside the reception classrooms from 9am Thursday mornings. You can see what kind of edibles we grow around the school and how your children get involved. Pick up new skills and ideas on how to grow your own. Autumn term we still have a few interesting things growing, we can start making plans for winter and in December you can learn how to prune and propagate berry bushes.



### Children may enter only when supervised by an adult.

...before and after school. We ask that the adults ensure that the children are respectful to the garden, only picking what is ready and what they are going to eat, so nothing is wasted. We do not use pesticides or herbicides for the children's safety so there may be a worm in the currently ripe apples. Please do not allow them to pick one if they are likely to discard it. We teach the children to cut the worm out or eat around them. You are welcome to take windfall apples home. They make great crumble.





## Hitherfield Needs Just 5 More Heroes!



We're so close! We need just 5 more volunteers to ensure that every class has a reading volunteer, to read with our target learners!

Can you spare just 30 minutes a week (9 - 9:30am or 3 - 3:30pm) to help a child develop their essential reading skills?

You'll be matched with a class and listen to three children read, once a week on a day that suits you.

One-to-one reading changes lives!

Just 5 minutes a day can boost fluency, confidence and comprehension!

With fewer staff due to funding cuts, this support is more vital than ever.

As the school pays for DBS checks, we ask for a 6-month minimum commitment.

Sign up here to be one of the 5 volunteers that makes that difference!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdRz24QihvA52ZouKDr6jzywc1PON1QaYf583E4V16jEwYw/viewform>












## **Parent & Carer Alert: The “Salt & Ice Challenge”**

A dangerous online trend is resurfacing where children put salt on their skin and press ice on top.

-  This causes serious cold burns (like frostbite).
-  Injuries can need hospital treatment and even skin grafts.
-  Young people may not realise the damage until it's too late.

 **First Aid:** Cool with lukewarm running water for 10+ minutes, cover with clean cling film, and seek medical help.

 **Do NOT** use ice, creams, or fluffy dressings.

## **Children's Immunisations**

The South London Children and Young People's Community Immunisation Service is hosting two webinars for parents about the flu vaccine. Parents can register using the links below:

- **Wednesday 8 September, 14:00 – 14:45**

[Children's flu vaccine webinar](#)

- **Monday 15 September, 18:00 – 18:45**

[Children's flu vaccine webinar](#)

During these sessions, the team will explain the importance of vaccinating children, the differences between the nasal and injectable flu vaccines, the MMR vaccine, and how to complete the e-consent form. There will also be an opportunity for parents to ask nurses any questions.



## Hitherfield's Macmillan Coffee Morning



### Friday 26th September

After drop off in the  
Main Hall

Everyone Welcome!

### **DONATIONS NEEDED**

We need donations of cakes and other sweet treats. Home-made or shop-bought, but please remember no nuts. Please bring donations to the office on Thursday 25th or directly to the hall on the day



If you can help on the day of the  
event, please email  
[hitherfieldpta@gmail.com](mailto:hitherfieldpta@gmail.com)



## Lambeth Immunisation Team

Phone number: 020 8614 5496

Email: [HRCH.Lambethimms@nhs.net](mailto:HRCH.Lambethimms@nhs.net)

September 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

**Your child's flu vaccination is now due.**

**The Lambeth Immunisation Team will visit your child's school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. If you would like to know more about the flu vaccine, [please visit the NHS website](#). A leaflet can also be collected from your child's school.

Please discuss the vaccine with your child, and use the link provided to access and complete the electronic consent form: <https://cypcis.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/flu/2025/lambeth>

Your child will be offered the live nasal flu spray or the injectable porcine-free flu vaccine. The nasal spray vaccine is a quick and simple spray up each nostril. Alternatively, you can choose for your child to have the injectable porcine-free vaccine. This is given as an injection into the upper muscle of the arm.

It is recommended that your child have the flu vaccine every year due to changes in flu strains circulating each year, even if they had the vaccine last year.

Please ensure you complete the consent form, even if you choose not to vaccinate your child this year. NHS England requires that we provide numbers of parents that do not consent to their child being vaccinated. If you do not complete your consent form, you may be contacted by phone, text, or letter, to offer your child future opportunities to receive a vaccination. If you return a 'no' consent, we will not make any further contact this year. For more information on this, [please see our privacy notice](#).

We offer all children and young people the opportunity to receive their vaccinations in an appropriate and comfortable environment. Our teams hold clinics over the school holiday periods, some weekends, and after school sessions. Please contact your local immunisation team to book a clinic appointment, or for more information.

We have included some frequently asked questions about the flu vaccine below. If you have any queries about the flu vaccine, please contact your Immunisation team:

- 020 8614 5496
- [HRCH.Lambethimms@nhs.net](mailto:HRCH.Lambethimms@nhs.net)

Yours sincerely,

**Lambeth Immunisation Team**



## The Flu vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

### Are there any side effects?

Possible side effects include:

- a blocked or runny nose
- feeling tired
- a headache
- a slightly raised temperature

More serious side effects, such as a severe allergic reaction are very rare. You cannot catch flu from either of the flu vaccines.

### What if I miss my vaccine at school?

Our Immunisation teams run catch-up clinics after school, at the weekends, and during the school holidays. Head to our website to see all the details of our clinics:

[www.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/services/service-search-z/immunisations-childrens](http://www.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/services/service-search-z/immunisations-childrens)

### Does the vaccine contain gelatine?

The most common flu vaccine for children is the nasal flu spray. This contains a small amount of porcine gelatine.

If you do not consume porcine gelatine, you can choose to have the injectable flu vaccine. It does not contain any gelatine. Your parent or carer will have to select this option on the consent form.

### I had a flu vaccine last year - do I need another one?

Yes, every year, scientists predict the most likely flu strain based on flu seasons in other countries. Last years vaccine will not protect you against this years flu strain. Getting your annual flu vaccine is the best way to stay protected.