



Welcome to the 2026/27 Academic Year

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back to the new academic year and a special welcome to our new families and children in the reception and nursery classes. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and it was obvious that the children were well rested and eager to return to school this week.

I am sure it will be another busy and successful year for our school community. Here are a few updates and some other information:

Smartphone Free School

We are very pleased that from the start of this academic year Hitherfield is a smartphone free school. This was in response to the overwhelming evidence that young children having access to the Internet and social media is very detrimental to their well-being. We also undertook a survey in the summer of the last academic year where 100% of respondents agreed that smartphones and other Internet enabled digital devices should not be brought onto the school site by the children. Whilst we appreciate a limited number of children may require a mobile phone if they are walking to and from school alone, they are now only permitted to have a non-smart phone device. There are plenty of these on the market and more information is available from the school if you need it. If a child brings a smartphone onto the school site, we will contact parents and ask the parents to collect the phone and not to send it in again. Thank you for your cooperation.

Meet the Teacher and Class Socials

This year we have arranged social sessions for families to meet their child's class teacher/s and the other families in their child's class. We invite parents/carers in Years Reception to Year 5 to come to their child's classrooms between 3pm and 4pm on Wednesday 16th September to meet the teacher and to see the classroom. Nursery and Year 6 parents/carers are invited to their child's classrooms between 3pm and 4pm on Wednesday 23rd September. We will provide some refreshments, but families are encouraged to bring in a small contribution, such as a cake, to get everyone in the mood! Please note this is not a parents' evening. They will happen later this half term as usual.

School Grounds

As per usual families are welcome to stay afterschool and use the school's wonderful outside spaces. Children are only permitted to stay if they are under the care of a responsible adult and it is the adult's duty to ensure their child is safe and not damaging school property. This is the only way that we can continue to offer our grounds to the community and we are still the only (known) Lambeth school to offer this.

School Uniform

The children have returned looking very smart in their school uniforms. As well as avoiding having arguments at home with the children about what they want to wear, having a school uniform helps develop a sense of belonging and community for the children. We insist on unbranded black trainers/shoes, to avoid competitiveness amongst the children as they grow older. Having your child's name on their clothing (especially coats and jumpers) really helps us to ensure they can be returned to the right child.

Toys, jewellery and Fidget toys

Children should not bring in toys or wear jewellery in school. These items can get lost or broken and this causes great upset. If a child requires a fidget toy we can provide that for the child.

HITHERFIELD HERALD

www.hitherfield.co.uk



Important Dates

This year we are replacing the usual important dates leaflet with a list of dates also being emailed today. Please do check the Herald which is emailed out every Friday, for updates, upcoming events and general school news. It is our main form of communication.

Parent Teacher Association

The PTA are a very important part of our school community and is invaluable in running social events and fundraising for the school. Every parent, carer or grandparent of a child in the school is automatically a member of the PTA. The PTA have their Annual General Meeting, AGM, on Friday 18th September from 9:15am to 10:15am in the Staffroom (come to the main school office). The PTA needs more people to be actively involved, so please do support them as much as possible, because every child in the school benefits from their work. You can also email them on hitherfieldpta@gmail.com

As always Luke (Head of School) and I will be on the school gates most days, so please come and talk to us.

Best wishes,

Chris

Executive Headteacher

Price increase for BASC and nursery school dinner prices are going up from September 2026

Nursery to yr 6
BC: £9 per session
ASC £16 per session
Ad-hoc sessions will be:
£15 BC
£25 ASC

Nursery school dinner will now be charged at £2.70 per day. As always please ensure all payments for BASC and school dinners are paid for in advance.

Also please note that both Breakfast and Afterschool Club are now full. If you need to apply for a space the application form is on our website. Your child will then be added onto our waiting list and you will be contacted once a space becomes available.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Club information will be sent out to all families
once the clubs are confirmed.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 7th September - Secondary
School transfer meeting in the studio
3:45pm – 4:15pm PGL meeting
4:15pm – 5pm

Monday 14th September – Friday 18th
September – Year 6 to PGL

Friday 18th September – PTA AGM
9:15am – 10:15am

Friday 25th September – PTA McMillan
Coffee Morning 9am – 11am

Wednesday 14th September – Parents'
Evening Reception to Year 6



CHOIR of FRIENDS

**A weekly singing
group for adults in
the Hitherfield
Primary School
community!**

Sing feel-good songs
and make friends
along the way!

**IN THE
MAIN HALL**

Mondays 9am-10:15am

**Contact choir leader Ian Bennett
for more info or to book:**

CHOIROFFRIENDS@GMAIL.COM

Concessions available





Families' Lives, Families' Futures study

Do you care for a child aged 10-16 on a
Child in Need or Child Protection Plan?



Take part in this study to help us better understand the
experiences of families like yours

You will have a **1 out of 4** chance of receiving £100 per week for
35 weeks. If not, you will receive a gift or voucher worth £100.



This independent study looks at how financial support can help families
This is separate from social care services and taking part will not affect your
care support or any other money you receive

Parent/carer & child
complete our surveys –
Get up to £110 in
vouchers!



SCAN to
sign up!

Your eligibility to join the study will be confirmed with
your local authority.

This study is funded by The Youth Endowment Fund



Contact us:



family.lives@annafreud.org



07990 237 223



Anna Freud



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