

Happy Half term!

I think this has been the strangest half term of my career and I know it has been very different and challenging for everyone. Thankfully it is behind us now and, hopefully, the next half term will bring about a more normal school life.

I have been very proud of the Hitherfield community as everyone has risen to the challenges and, most importantly, the children's engagement with the Hitherfield Virtual School has been tremendous - well done to everyone at home and in school!

There is no Hitherfield Virtual School next week, as it is half term. The virtual school will kick in again on Monday 22nd February, when we are also hoping to hear an update on schools from the Prime Minister.

If your child has been attending the onsite childcare this week, please email the school if they develop COVID symptoms during half term.

I wish everyone a good week.

Chris Ashley-Jones
Executive Headteacher



Spring Bulb Competition

Some of you have been working hard at home growing your spring bulbs!

Unfortunately, this year the judging will not take place in school as usual. Instead we would like you to take a photo of your lovely flowers and email them to admin@hitherfield.co.uk before the end of Monday 15th March (any photos received after this date will not be able to be sent for judging).

Your flower must be clearly visible and clearly named (first and last name) in the picture. Pictures without a name label will not be able to be judged, so please make sure that we can see your name!

The pictures will then be sent on to the judge and your certificates will be sent via post to the school to be distributed later in the term.

Good luck!





Hitherfield's Got Talent is going virtual!



This year, we are attempting our annual Hitherfield's Got Talent event in the virtual world!

The performing space will be in homes, gardens or any open space the children wish to film their act. It is very important that children performing follow the social distancing guidelines. This means that they will only be able to perform on their own or, for the first time ever, with other members of their family! All children from Years 1 – 6 may take part in auditioning to represent their class in the HGT Final.

Please read the arrangements below so that you know how we are going to make this event happen!

- Children who want to take part must ask a family member to film their act, making sure that the film is no longer than two minutes. The films will need to be uploaded to their Year Group blog by 3:30pm on Monday 22nd of February. That's the day we return from the half term break.

- Please be aware that music choices need to have appropriate and respectful content. We will need the help of all you parents/carers out there to make sure that any music choices are appropriate. If they are not, the film will not be approved for the blog, the act will not be seen and your child will be very disappointed!
- The year group auditions will be held on the morning of Tuesday the 23rd of February. All classes from Years 1 to 6 in the Hitherfield Virtual School and the Key Worker School will spend this morning watching the acts that have been uploaded to the Year Group blog. This will mean that no other activities will be posted that morning for these classes. Recommendations for additional activities will be given by teachers as usual on the 'pinned' section if you would like to access more learning content.
- After watching all of the acts, the teachers will also be sending the children a link to a survey. The children will use this to vote for one act that they would like to represent their year group in the Hitherfield's Got Talent Final 2021. Each class will have a representative in the final. It's very important that the children understand that they can only vote for ONE act in the year group!
- The successful acts for each class will be announced by the teachers on Thursday morning in their morning message.
- The Hitherfield's Got Talent show will be recorded on Thursday the 25th of February. A link to this film will be sent to all families on Friday the 26th of February so that families can watch it at a time that suits them

As usual, judges will comment on the acts and at the end of the show a winning act and two runners up will be chosen for each phase. Awards will be given when the children return to school!

So, children at Hitherfield...if you've got a skill or talent you want to show us, why not spend the half term shaping up your act and make a film of it? **Don't forget...all films will have to be uploaded by the afternoon on Monday when we return to school.**

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NSPCC Net Aware)))

Talking to your child about what they are doing online is a really important step to help keep them safe. But with daily routines changing all the time and the stresses of being in lockdown taking their toll, it's not always easy to find the right time to chat or know what to say to them. The NSPCC have put together advice as well as fun activities to get you and your family talking about online safety during lockdown.

Click here for further information: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/five-activities-to-do-during-lockdown/>

Warm Homes - Keep Well this Winter

Did you know that families in receipt of benefits with children 5 and under may be eligible for £140 credit off their fuel bills? <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme> lists the energy suppliers offering the discount, find your supplier, check they offer it to the "broader group" and apply on line. Some of the energy companies have a limit on the number of discounts they give, so apply now! Available until March.

Thames Water offers 50% off water bills to families in London on a low income. More info & application form: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help/account-and-billing/financial-support/waterhelp>

Talk to anyone on the Healthy Living Team if you need help with printing forms. info@healthylivingplatform.org

Running out of money on your gas or electricity meter and can't afford to top-up?

You might be able to get a fuel support voucher that you don't have to pay back

We can also help you to get more credit from your supplier, arrange affordable repayment plans, access hardship funds to clear energy debt and give general energy advice



Independent energy advice from
a local, trusted organisation

020 3674 7519

communitysupport@repowering.org.uk



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Qwell

Parents needing extra care?

Don't forget about your own self-care. Discover our supportive online mental wellbeing space for adults.

- Chat online to qualified counsellors
- Read and write articles
- Get online support from the Qwell community
- Set personal goals and record how you feel

qwell.io

The school has recently been made aware of the launch of a new service for adults in South East London. Qwell is a free, anonymous, online mental health and wellbeing support service, available to all those aged 26 and over in the region. Users can access online counselling, advice and emotional support, anywhere, using a computer, smartphone or other internet enabled device. It provides a safe, secure means of accessing help via the internet from a professional, accredited team of counsellors and well-being practitioners. Please visit www.qwell.io to sign up and find out more.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss what Qwell can offer you or anyone you know, please contact the team at selqwell@kooth.com, who will be able to answer your queries. They will also be offering a series of Qwell information webinars you can join to learn more about the service too.
Thank you.

DISABILITY VIRTUAL HALF TERM

Monday

2 to 3:30pm - Creative Club (all ages)

Tuesday

2 to 3:30pm - Junior Active Online Session

6 to 7:30pm - Adult Active Online Session

Wednesday

2 to 3:30pm - Soccersize for All

Thursday

2 to 3:30pm - Junior Active Online Session

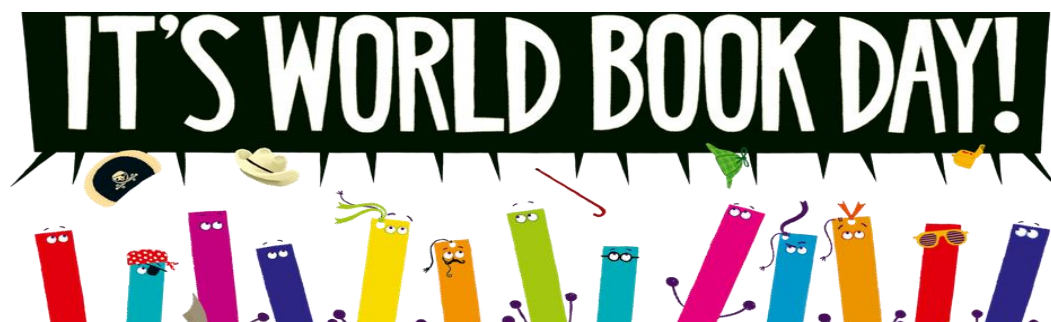
6 to 7:30pm - Adult Active Online Session

Friday

2 to 3:30pm - Creative Club Round Up! (all ages)

Plus, a workbook with activities to complete away from the screen throughout to the week too!





World Book Day is (virtually) coming to Hitherfield Primary School!

Thursday 4th March 2021!

With activities and sessions on Seesaw and Tapestry from...



Storyteller Wendy Shearer



Author Henry White

And many other amazing special guests!

Our theme this year is...



So dress up as your favourite book character! Will you win the online best costume award for your year group?

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PTA News

Well-being Workshop:

This week saw our very first wellness workshop, run by nursery mum and pilates practitioner Lucy Rix. Attendees were put their paces with gentle stretches encouraging them to move their bodies, some breathing exercises and finished up with some relaxation exercises which were very well received. A huge thankyou to Lucy for running the class and everyone who attended for their support. We're hoping to run a few more of these workshops so if anyone has any suggestions or would like to volunteer their services we'd love to hear from you. Here's a picture of some glowing faces at the end of the class!!

Christmas Trees:

In the run up to Christmas, we launched a partnership with Mistletoe & Pine who sell Christmas trees from the garden centre on Leigham Vale. They promised us 10% of all sales attributed to Hitherfield families. We're really pleased to say that we bought £1,640 worth of Christmas trees and so earned the PTA £170 in profit! The company were really pleased with this performance and we're now talking to them about extending the offering for this year as well. Thanks to everyone who bought trees from them and to Toni Malone for the idea!!



SPRING FLOWER TRAIL OPENS

The Hitherfield Spring Flower Trail opens this weekend - in fact some flowers have bloomed early so you may already see them in windows across the community.

The map showing the location of window displays and with a secret message to find as you walk the trail, is attached.

