



# Harestanes Primary Newsletter

## AUGUST 2023



Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the 'new faces' to Harestanes Primary – an exciting new year of learning lies ahead for us all! The children all look so smart in their school uniforms helping us all to feel like a school family. Just as we returned to school we were delighted to discover that we are now a **Bronze Level Reading Award School!** Everyone worked so hard last year to achieve this and I can share that we are firmly committed to working towards our Silver Award this year.



We continue to be an enthusiastic and committed team striving to ensure that this is a secure and nurturing place for your child to learn. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new staff and parents.

Teaching:

Miss Webb (P1)  
Miss McGoohan (P2)  
Miss Barclay (P3)  
Miss Grainger (P6)

A newsletter will usually be emailed to the main carer/parent of each child near to the last **day of every month** to keep you informed of school news and events but if you'd like to speak to us about any matter in person then please contact the school and we will be delighted to phone you back. Alternatively, you could checkout our school website at

[www.harestanes.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](http://www.harestanes.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)

**Parental Contact** We recognise and strive to support a positive partnership between home and school. This year I am delighted that we will be able to continue the many opportunities for parents to be in school and we will continue to send home the children's work at points during the year to share with you. These term, jotters will be sent home over the weekend **22nd September** to be **returned on Tuesday 26th September**. We aim to hold two Parent's Nights **on 22/11/23 and 6/3/23** where your child's progress can be discussed. We will also hold a 'Meet The Teacher' event on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September** – details to follow.



Many parents particularly enjoy keeping up to date with the very latest news and tell us that they like the regular updates and photos. Please do come and join us by asking to 'follow' us **@HarestanesPS** (*This is a protected and locked site and not available to the general public*)

**Attendance** Children perform better if they **come to school regularly** and on time. If your child is going to be **absent for any reason** please contact the school office **before 9.30am** or use the **Parent Portal** so that we can account for their whereabouts. I am obligated by EDC to **closely monitor attendance** and may contact you if your **child's attendance or late coming has fallen to an unacceptable level**. I would remind you that EDC discourage holidays being taken during term



time as this can be disruptive to your child's learning and overall progress. All children should now attend school from 9am-3pm unless there is a bespoke arrangement.

**Please ensure that you are now registered for the Parent Portal. If you are having difficulties please phone the school office for support.**

### School Car Park

We take the **safety** of our pupils very seriously and try to ensure that we make the areas around the school as **safe as possible**. To this end I must ask parents **to ensure that they do not come into the school car park at all** in the morning to drop children off as this may interfere with some of our pupils arriving by prearranged EDC taxi. Harestanes staff are on the school gates in the morning from 8.50am and at dismissal to ensure pupil safety. Parents can collect their child at the school gates.



**Bikes to School** It has been great to see so many children **arriving at school by bike**. We know of the **enormous health benefits** of children being active so if you deem your child responsible to travel by bike ( or scooter!) to school please encourage them to do so. Please remind them to **wear a helmet** and bring a chain to lock the bike up in our school bike shed.



**After School Arrangements** Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child knows **where to go at the end of** each day. Many of our children attend Out of School Care and are picked up by these services at the main office daily. We no longer have an Aftercare service based in Harestanes – but you can get information of local providers from the school office. Please ensure **your child knows their individual arrangements** and phone school to inform us of any changes. I would ask that you phone school to inform of your delay/change as soon as you can. **We will always hold onto your child if you are delayed** and have phoned to inform us **beforehand**. We take the safety of our pupils very seriously.

**Mobile Phones** It is a fact that many of our pupils now own mobile phones. We would urge children to **leave their phones at home** to ensure they are not lost or damaged. However, if you deem your child responsible enough to bring their phone to school they must follow these simple rules in line with EDC Policy



- **phones (and tablets) must be switched OFF in class**
- **Smart Watches with the capability of texting should be left at home.**
- **no calls to be made at ANYTIME during the school day whilst in the school building**
- **no photographs/videos to be taken of any other child on school grounds**

**Jewellery** It is often helpful to be clear about the **wearing of jewellery** during P.E. at the start of a new term. In order to maximise the safety for our children **no jewellery at all** should be worn during a P.E. lesson. We cannot 'tape' earrings and so children who cannot remove them must sit the lesson out. This is particularly unfortunate as **the recommended Government input for P.E. is 2hrs per week** and they will miss this.







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**School Meals** Our school meals service provides a great selection of hot and cold foods. Children in P1- 5 can receive a free school meal which they pre order each morning **The most recent menu is available on our school website.** All children P6-7 are currently required to bring their own packed lunch or purchase lunch via the Cashless Catering System if they are not a Free School Meal Entitlement. If you have lost the details of your unique information to access the system please contact the school office. **There is no facility to purchase lunch with cash payment.**

**We are a 'NUT FREE' school. We have children who are severely allergic to nut products and so please help us protect these children by ensuring you never send your child to school with a nut snack or nut spread sandwich.**

**First Aid** We have members of staff (Mrs Laurie, Mrs Summers and Miss Kirk) who are trained in **Emergency First Aid and Emergency Paediatric First Aid** and are our **First Aid Responders.** Minor injuries such as cuts and grazes will be cleaned with an antiseptic wipe and a plaster covering applied where required. **Head bumps will always be treated with an ice pack and the parent informed.** Children who have received a head bump will wear a sticker alerting all staff that the child has had a bump and should be monitored if they remain in school. Our fully trained First Aider is Mrs Summers.



***Finally, as always, please do not hesitate to speak with us about any aspect of your child's experience at school by making an appointment through the school office.***

Best Regards

*Ms. Jackie Gillespie*  
Head Teacher

