

Hurstmere News

9th February 2023

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www.hurstmere.org.uk



Our Core Values
Assembly Theme
after half term is
Leadership



“If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader”.

Dolly Parton

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



What do great leaders
have in common?

Thank you for the wonderful feedback on our first edition of 'Hurstmere News'. It is great to be able to use this platform to communicate the remarkable things happening in our school community.

I am proud of the ambition and resilience our Year 11 pupils displayed during their recent Pre-Public Examinations; they engaged well with the extra support and revision classes offered in our Raising Aspirations Programme and have used the experience of their previous PPE exams to refine their preparation. We look forward to meeting our Year 11 Parents on 23rd February to discuss the progress their sons have made and to continue to work in partnership to support their son's learning and development in the lead up to the exams in the summer.



In this edition of 'Hurstmere News', we feature History, Geography, French and Computing in our 'Take a Sneak Peek into our Classrooms' section. Do take a look at some of the fantastic work taking place in these departments! There is also wider learning beyond the classroom that take place through the co-curricular offer, which supports the development of personal and interpersonal skills, emotional wellbeing, resilience and character. We believe these skills and attributes are vital for promoting motivation, positive relationships and behaviour, and contribute to supporting academic success.

Many of these experiences take place within the traditional school setting, but others can only be offered by learning from the wider world. Our dedicated staff have organised a residential Ski Trip to Killington, Vermont, USA this half term (9th – 17th February) and will be taking 44 pupils from Years 10 and 11. I would like to offer my personal 'thank you' to the staff and I wish them an amazing time on the slopes.



Wishing our staff, pupils and parents a good and restful half term break.

Lynn Bennett
Principal

Meet our new Curriculum Leaders



Miss Bernarte – I'm proud to be the Curriculum Leader for Maths at Hurstmere School and form tutor of 11 Cobham X. I'm enjoying getting to know the boys and supporting them with their Post-16 choices.

I have always had a love for my subject and from a young age, I knew that I wanted to be a Maths teacher. The beauty of Maths is that it can be communicated universally, no matter which part of the world you are from. I hope that as Curriculum Leader, I can share my love for Maths and inspire our pupils to be the next generation of mathematicians. I am refining the Maths Mastery Curriculum and have plans to launch exciting programmes, such as the UK Maths Challenge (UKMT), Maths in Action Events, Maths House competitions and invite some guest speakers in - watch this space!

Fun fact about me - outside of this amazing profession and school, I have over 20 years training and experience in martial arts (karate). I have competed at Regional, National, European and World level, and have previously secured the European Grand Champion and World Grand Champion titles.



Mrs E. Owusu-Taylor - It's a great pleasure to join Hurstmere School as the Curriculum Leader for Design and technology. The last 19 years of my career as head of Design and Technology, Consultant for Design and Technology and Examiner, has enabled me extensive hands-on experience spanning across the subject, with a prior career in furniture and graphic design. I am a great believer in a personal quote of mine "never underestimate a young person's ability to be creative and innovative". Already, we are seeing the amazing talent of our boys with the current projects they are working on.

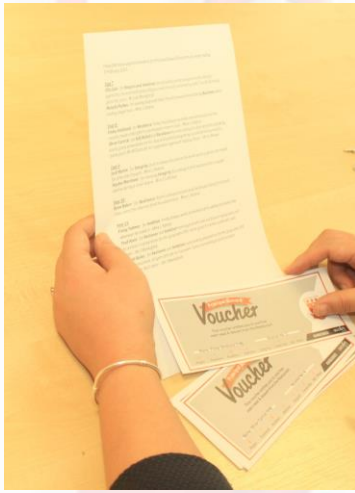
I am passionate about setting up a clear strategic vision, direction for Design and Technology, to develop the boys at Hurstmere into thriving individuals in a highly popular subject.



And the Principal Reward goes to...

The first year of the Principal's Reward Vouchers has seen more than 400 pupils being awarded a voucher for their hard work, determination, achievements, thoughtfulness and excellent manners. Staff nominate pupils who have exhibited one of our 'R Trails' school values: Respect, Teamwork, Resilience, Ambition, Integrity, Leadership and Self-Belief.

These vouchers are presented to a maximum of 10 pupils each week and entitle the pupils to a free two-course lunch in the canteen. It is a privilege to see our amazing young people on their journey to becoming the best that they can be.



- O. Sale (Y7) for demonstrating Respect and Ambition
- M. Parkes (Y7) for demonstrating Resilience
- F. Stickland (Y8) for demonstrating Resilience
- O. Carrick (Y8)- for demonstrating Self-Belief and Resilience
- J. Martin (Y9) for demonstrating Integrity
- R. Baker (Y10) for demonstrating Resilience
- F. Tettmar (Y11) for demonstrating Ambition
- F. Ward (Y11) for demonstrating Resilience and Ambition
- D. Bailey (Y11) for demonstrating Resilience and Ambition



Take a sneak peek into our classrooms...



Year 8 Geography - pupils are learning about life in Kenya, exploring how the quality of life varies in areas of low and high incomes. Pupils are applying their understanding in 'push and pull factors' for why people in Kenya might want to migrate from a rural to an urban location.

Year 10 Geography - Following a key piece, pupils had a DIRT lesson (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time) focusing on urban issues and challenges. Pupils were being introduced to key coastal processes, which is part of their physical landscapes of the UK unit. This enabled them to broaden their understanding of weathering and mass movement processes at the coast.



Year 7 Geography - pupils have been studying geology and the rock cycle. They have been learning how different rocks are formed, and in this lesson, pupils were given different rocks to observe and determine their key features. Pupils then had to make a rock presentation on the rock they had been given.



**GCSE GEOGRAPHY
PAPER 3: FIELDWORK**

Year 11 Geography - pupils are focusing on fieldwork data in preparation for the summer exams.



Year 9 Geography - pupils started off with a recap of developmental aid and the problems that can be associated with it. We then explored the concept of poverty in the UK and what that might look like. This was particularly relevant when discussing the cost of living crisis.

Take a sneak peek into our classrooms...



Year 7 Computing - pupils are learning about the various storage units and what they actually mean in terms of data storage. For example, 1 Megabyte can store an equivalent amount of text as one thick novel or about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an mp3 song. 1 Gigabyte can store about 1 hour of high-quality video or the same amount of text as 1000 thick novels (about 10 metres worth of books on a shelf). Ask your son about how much video can be stored in a Terabyte or Petabyte!



Year 9 History – pupils are completing their Nazi Germany knowledge organiser for a key piece on “Explain why support for the Nazi party rose from 1928-1933.”

Year 8 History - a variety of media is used to help the pupils immerse themselves in world history. In this lesson, pupils were using a re-creation of the Munich Putsch to show an on-the-ground view of the coup.



Year 10 French - pupils have been learning their French perfect-tense verbs using their verb table and booklet. The mini whiteboards at the back of pupils' planners are great to question all pupils at the same time and give individuals immediate feedback.



Year 8 French – pupils are learning how to say and write a variety of activities that can be done in town, e.g. *J'habite à Bexleyheath où on peut regarder un film.*



Year 11 French – pupils discussing reading strategies such as using cultural context. This allowed them to complete a comprehension activity on a new school in Togo.

Opportunities Beyond the Timetable



Some Year 11 pupils attending English Intervention sessions every Tuesday after school. This week, they worked on question 5 from English Language Paper 1, aiming to improve their writing skills.

Year 11 Raising Aspirations Programme (Intervention Lessons)

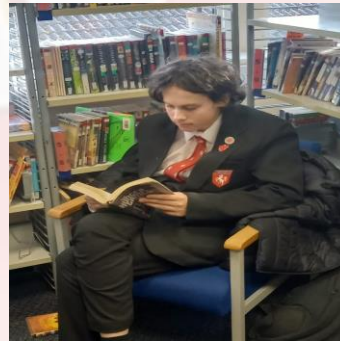
Please encourage your son to engage in extra support.

French – Tuesdays
History – Fridays
English – Tuesdays
Geography – Wednesdays
Computing – Thursdays
Media – Thursdays
Maths – Wednesdays
Art – Thursdays
DT – Thursdays
PE – Thursdays
Science – Mondays
Psychology – Thursdays and Fridays

Maths Clinic is on every lunchtime for pupils wanting some support with their learning. Please see Miss Bernarte for further details.



Banagram Club runs on a Monday lunchtime for our KS3 pupils.



Books & Biscuits Club runs before school on a Monday for all pupils who enjoy reading (whilst having a biscuit...or two!)



Lunchtime Basketball Club is on everyday, all pupils are welcome in this very popular club.

Opportunities Beyond the Timetable



NEWS CLUB

end2end TV runs a News Club where pupils plan, create and produce the new 'Hurstmere Headlines Student News Programme'. The pupils are currently working on their second programme that is due to be broadcasted at Easter! Anyone who is interested is welcome to pop along to the studio on a Monday lunchtime to find out more.

TV & FILM CLUB

end2end TV also run a weekly TV & Film Club where pupils can learn the basics of setting up an ENG Camera and tripod, use wireless mics, LED lighting and have a taster of video editing. The club is run in four-weekly blocks on a Monday after school and the next one will open for booking after half term. Everyone is welcome to join!

CURRICULUM

In addition, end2end TV are currently working with eight groups of pupils across various subject areas from Geography to Art, where they focus on high level digital literacy skills, combining video, photography and narrative into a visual outcome. The boys are working incredibly well and producing some outstanding results.



Opportunities Beyond the Timetable



Year 8b Team Kent Cup Final

Hurstmere 3-1 Beths AET. A superb performance from the team on a lovely afternoon at Herne Bay. The team showed great resilience after conceding a late goal to take the game into extra time. Well done!

Year 10b Team National Quater Final

Shenfield 0-0 Hurstmere. Shenfield win on penalties.

Unfortunately, our reigning National champions are out of the ESFA Cup after losing on penalties. A game where we huffed and puffed but ultimately could not break our opposition down, leading us to a defeat on penalties. The boys could not have done much more to get the victory and we are proud of their achievements!



Year 7 Rugby

Hurstmere 2-3 Bullers Wood. An outstanding game of rugby between both schools - everyone played with fantastic spirit!

Year 7 Rugby

Hurstmere 2-3 Chis & Sid. After making a slow start to the fixture, the team excelled and showed great teamwork and desire to get themselves back into the game. It was a great game played by both teams which we narrowly lost. Our team keeps improving and the future looks bright!

Year 11 Football Kent Cup Semi Final

St Gregory's 0-3 Hurstmere. Well done to our Year 11s for making their first Kent Cup final. The final is on Friday 23rd February at Ramsgate FC. Good luck!

Monday 6th February - Year 8b North Kent

Beths 3-1 Hurstmere. A repeat of last week's Kent Cup final fixture, but this time we narrowly lost to Beths. There were lots of positives to take from the fixture, with many pupils making their Hurstmere debuts!

Tuesday 7th February - Year 7a

Hurstmere vs Welling – Hurstmere were victorious in a very comfortable win.



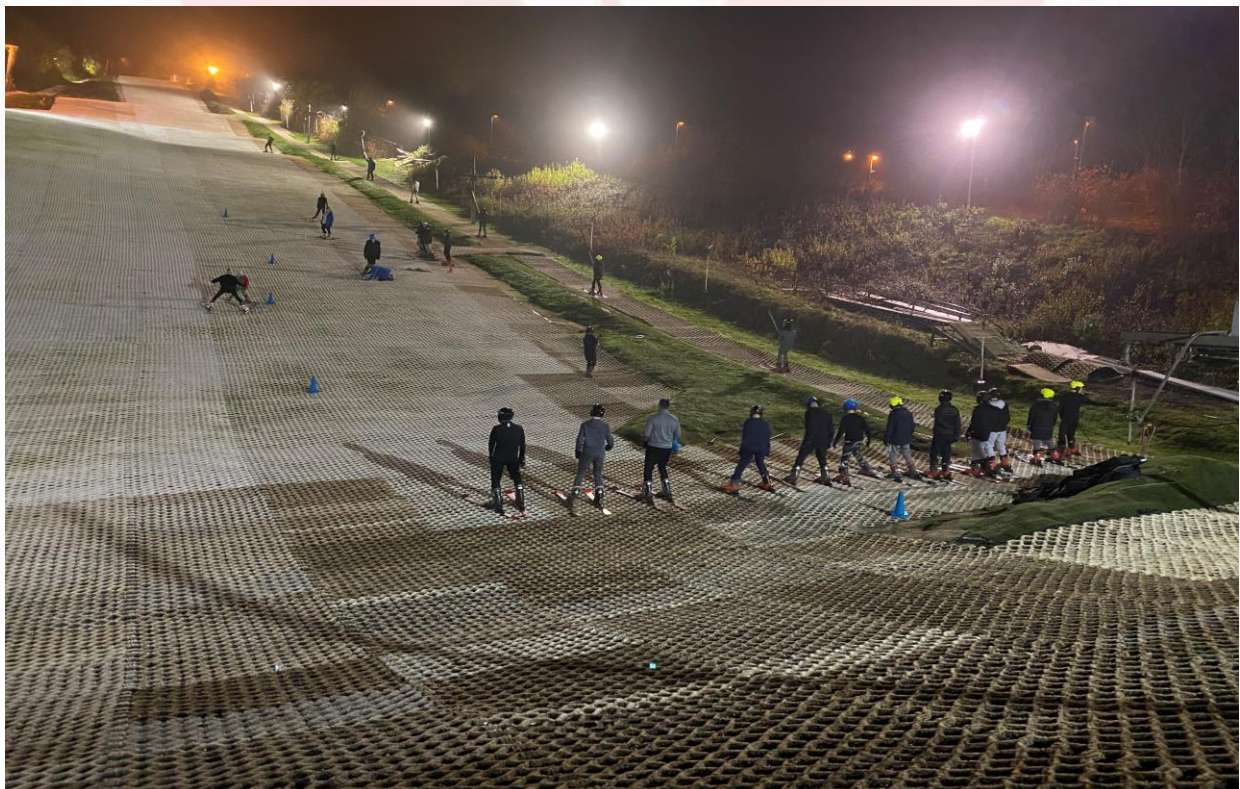
Year 8a

Hurstmere vs Wilmington Grammar School – Hurstmere were victorious in a very comfortable win.

Opportunities Beyond the Timetable



Pupils in Years 10 and 11 have been learning how to ski at Chatham Ski Centre in preparation for the school Ski trip to Killington VT during the February half term break. The boys have been learning how to stop, practising turns and gaining the basic skills ready to hit the slopes. Mr. Dye is also practising his off-piste skiing, without the snow!



Visitors News



University of Cambridge visit our Year 10s and Year 11s

Gwyneth Hammand, a London Outreach Officer from Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge, came in on Wednesday 8th February to talk to Years 10 & 11 about studying at university and what opportunities there are Post-16 and Post-18. The boys found it very informative and many were inspired by the presentation.



Feedback from the boys...

It was helpful to be shown the different routes to degree courses.
CE, Y11

I was surprised just how spread out the timetables are at university. You definitely need to be disciplined not to waste time.
DB, Y11

University study is a definite option for me.
FT, Y11

An informative presentation which also highlights the downside of university debt.
MV, Y11

We were lucky to hear it first-hand from someone working at Cambridge.
JS, Y11

elevate
education



Elevate visited on 8th February to talk about good time management skills with Year 11s.



Information for Parents

Numeracy at Hurstmere:

We understand that not every pupil will arrive at Hurstmere with a love of mathematics and a confidence in their mathematical ability. Our first and most important priority is to encourage a 'can-do' belief, particularly with their numeracy skills. Our Maths curriculum aims to develop fluency in all aspects of mathematics; our approach and curriculum is very much mastery-led, and topics are interleaved to ensure that knowledge is re-visited regularly and linked with new content.

We also run Key Stage 3 and 4 maths clinics during lunch time and after-school so that pupils have the opportunity to consolidate their skills and explore new concepts to broaden their maths knowledge.

We would like to thank parents for their continued support at home with their son's maths learning, but if you would like to explore additional ways to support your son's numeracy development, the National Numeracy website (www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk) is one of the best places to go for resources and practical ways to enhance numeracy skills.



Ways to promote reading for pleasure:

Dedicated time - identify a few minutes a day to create a reading habit.

Read yourself - show that reading for pleasure is for adults as well.

Read to each other - reading together not only allows you to spend quality time together, you can also develop your son's confidence of reading aloud (fluency). Question them about what they have read and get them to predict what will happen next (comprehension). Reading to a younger sibling will support both children with their reading ability.

All reading is good reading - all reading is important for a child's progression. Whether it is non-fiction, a comic, a football programme or a cookbook. All reading contributes to reading comprehension. The key is to vary genres and authors to encounter new vocabulary.

Set a challenge – can they read 3 books in one month? Can they read a book from six different genres? Can they read for 20 minutes without looking at their phone? Can they learn the meaning of one new word per week?

Audiobooks – audiobooks are a great way to introduce a book above your child's reading level. Listening to a story over and over again can improve vocabulary and encourage deeper comprehension of future texts.

Film vs Book – use your child's favourite films to engage them in reading. Knowing the characters and storyline can be a helpful bridge into reading a longer story. Discussions can then take place around the differences between the film and book, and which one was better.

Book club – find out about book clubs in school and in your local area; the library is a great place to start with our local libraries offering groups such as chatterbooks and book worms.

<https://www.better.org.uk/what-we-offer/libraries/activities/book-clubs>



Information for Parents – Half term Ideas



Bexley Junior Choir (for younger siblings)

KS1 & KS2 ages 5-11- Vocal Leader Katherine Burr

Date- Monday 13th February 2023

Time- 10:00-14:00

Venue- Bexley Music, Belmont Academy, DA8 1LE

Please bring a packed lunch

£10 for the days

Bexley Secondary Choir

KS3 & KS4 ages 12- 17- Vocal leader Katherine Burr

Date- Tuesday 14th February 2023

Time- 10:00-14:00

Venue- Bexley Music, Belmont Academy, DA8 1LE

Please bring a packed lunch

£10 for the day!

Steel Pan Course (back due to popular demand!)

For children in school years 4-9 (ages 9- 14) Course leader- Paul Robinson

Date- Friday 17th February

Time-10:00-14:00

Venue- Bexley Music, Belmont Academy, DA8 1LE

Please bring a packed lunch

£10 for the day!

Please follow this link to register for one or more of these courses.

<https://ukbexley.speedadmin.dk/registration#/course/49/0/0/34>

www.bexley-music.co.uk

£3 ZOO TICKETS!

London Zoo is offering £3 tickets for anyone currently receiving Universal Credit, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance.

The £3 tickets are available for the whole family and under 3's go free.

Tickets can be purchased from the admissions kiosk on the day, from 11am, every day of the week.

Just bring proof of benefit letter (electronic or paper).

Offer runs until the end of March 2023.

Valentine's

MARKET AND LIBRARY EVENT

SAT 11TH FEB
10AM-3PM

Library fun & our first outdoor Blackfen Market of the year is Valentine's themed! Expect gift stalls, handmade cakes, local wine and cheese sets, jewellery, candles and more.

Plus inside Blackfen Community Library: children's crafts, Valentine tattoos and an entertainer.

Book into the Magic Show via Eventbrite
Tickets £1 per child

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Information for Parents

Diary Dates

These forthcoming events will be hosted in school with face-to-face appointments

Thursday 23rd February 2023: Year 11 Subjects Parents Evening

Thursday 9th March 2023: Year 9 Option Evening

To be re-arranged : Year 9 Subjects Parents Evening

Thursday 30th March 2023: Year 7 Subjects Parents Evening



**YEAR 9
Options
INFORMATION**

1st March – Distribution of Options booklet with an assembly being delivered to the Year 9 pupils. The same presentation will be available on the website for parents to view.

9th March – Options Evening – An invitation will go out to parents to attend this event onsite. The hall will have displays delivered from each subject for parents to discuss the course. The Curriculum Leaders will also deliver presentations in various venues to the parents. Once the evening is completed, these presentations will be available on the school website.

16th March TO BE REARRANGED DUE TO POTENTIAL NEU STRIKE DAY – Parents Evening (Subjects) – This will be the usual subject parents evening to discuss progress.

22nd March – Academic Mentoring Day - The Year 9 pupils with their parent will be offered a 10 minute meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss option choices/pathways. Meetings to be held onsite.

Discussions will take place to guide the pupil with their options and future pathways. Finalisation of Option choices must be made by 24th March 2022.

For parents/pupils unable to attend, Mr Davis as Raising Standards Leader for Year 9 will be coordinating discussions with them.

24th March – Options Deadline – To be completed via online Forms application.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something what's intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Information for Parents

Pre-Loved Uniform

Please do remember that you can donate your unwanted/outgrown, good quality, clean school uniform (Blazers, Jumpers & PE Kit) - just bring the items in a bag and leave it at the school office.



A **BIG THANK YOU** to all those who have kindly donated already.

If you would like to know what we have in stock, please contact the school office.

Join our new '**Friends of Hurstmere**' group which has been established to both raise money for, and actively promote, the continual improvement of our School. Although its existence and mission will be very similar to that of a PTA, we are looking to welcome all members who consider themselves to be our 'Friends' whether that is parents, guardians, carers, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents etc.

We held our first Friends of Hurstmere meeting on Thursday 19th January. It was a huge success, extremely productive and we are lucky to have such passionate members who are full of ideas. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd March at 4.30pm and we would like to extend the invite to others who might like to join.

Meetings will usually be held on the last Thursday of each month in school at 4.30pm. If you feel you have the time to commit to attending those meetings and giving us your full participation, then that is great. If, however, you cannot attend but might be able to dedicate some of your time to helping out at some of our events then we would also be extremely grateful for your time.

We are also keen to hear from those Friends who might be able to offer a service or facility that could help with our fundraising endeavours.

Please remember to top up your son's Wisepay online, we are unable to take cash in school.

Term Dates

Half Term – Our last day is Thursday 9th February 2023
Back to school on Tuesday 21st February 2023

Last day of Spring Term is Friday 31st March 2023

Summer Term starts Monday 17th April 2023

Bank Holiday – 1st May 2023 & 8th May 2023

Half Term – Our last day is Friday 26th May 2023
Back to school on Monday 5th June 2023

Last day of Summer is Friday 21st July 2023

