

Happy New Year to you all! I trust you had a wonderful festive break with your families and enjoyed the rest.

We launch the new year with a '**2024ward thinking**' approach, diving into technology and computing to support our curriculum. Look out in the newsletters for more information over the term - word has it I'm going to learn how to play Minecraft!? Wish me luck - I'm such a techno-dinosaur!

We thought we'd kick off the year with a note from our Chair of Governors sharing the results of our recent parent/carer survey. Your opinion on how successful the school is matters very much indeed; we work hard to ensure that we get it right for both you and your children, so please take some time to hear how our parent/carer community feel about the day-day running of the school.

We've also attached an initial 'Countdown to Spring' with a few diary dates to note, this will build over the next few weeks as the Spring term is jam-packed! 2024 - here we come!

Pippa x

Dear Parents and Carers,

At last term’s parents’ evenings many of you filled out a questionnaire about your views of the school and your child’s education and a good number talked to a governor at the time.

These questionnaires are important to staff and governors to get your opinions of our work in a representative fashion. We study the responses in some detail and a report on them is always discussed at a Governor Meeting. However, we thought, as you have gone to the trouble of filling in these important forms, we ought to let you know what the school community was feeling about your responses.

We received 175 of them, and I am pleased to say that they were both statistically significant and overwhelmingly positive.

Two thirds of you **strongly** agreed that your child is happy at school and 96% agreed that they were happy. The answers to the question about your child feeling safe were almost exactly the same. This is really pleasing. School is, of course, about learning, but children do not learn well if they don’t feel happy and safe. So, making sure that they do is a vitally important aim for us, and we are really pleased that you feel that we are hitting the target,

Over 90% of you agreed that Thomas Hickman Birds are well behaved. This too is pleasing but not something we will ever take for granted. Some young children find it hard to understand the rules which they need to obey and a small number are a real challenge. It is great that you feel that we are meeting that challenge and your responses very much encourages those who put in so much work to achieve it.

It is part of life that children fall out with each other, but it is very important to us that this does not become bullying. It is pleasing that a significant majority did not feel that their child had been bullied at school and, of those who felt that they had, most said that the school had handled the matter quickly and effectively. This is something that we keep under continual review – governors and staff alike have zero tolerance of bullying.

Over 90% of you agreed that, when you have raised concerns, the school has dealt with them promptly.

Over 90% of you felt that your child is doing well at Thomas Hickman. This is very encouraging for our staff who work hard to try to ensure that children achieve as much as they possibly can. Indeed, it is perhaps the key measure of how well the school is doing. This is not something on which we can or will compromise. We are very glad to see that you believe that your child is doing well at Thomas Hickman but we will continue to push them to do the best that they can.

Over 90% of you felt that there was a good range of subjects taught at the school and that the school supported your child’s wider personal development. A similar number felt that there was a good range of clubs and activities for them to partake in. We expanded the number of clubs last year and we hope to continue to do so. However, it is important to remember that the staff who run these activities are volunteers doing it in addition to their paid work.

I am grateful that the vast majority of you would recommend our school to others. I am proud of what we are achieving at Thomas Hickman and am glad that parents recognise it too.

While I thank you for your very positive responses to our questionnaire, I am very aware that it is a snapshot at one moment and we will have to work hard as a school to maintain and, indeed, improve your opinions of us. I am also aware that a lot of parents did not fill in the questionnaire. If you are one of them, please do reply at your next parents evening. We want to know your opinion and I hope that this letter shows that we value it.

Yours sincerely

Alan Sherwell
Chair of Governors



Step into Spring 1.....

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>School Holiday</u>	<u>School Holiday</u>	<u>School Holiday</u>	<u>4th January</u> School opens 8:30am	<u>5th January</u>
<u>8th January</u>	<u>9th January</u>	<u>10th January</u>	<u>11th January</u> Reception and Yr6 Height and Weight	<u>12th January</u>
<u>15th January</u> <u>CLUBS START</u>	<u>16th January</u> Yr2 Our experience - Past productions King and queens day	<u>17th January</u> Yr4 Trip to River & Rowing Museum (Henley) Reception -Science Oxford trip	<u>18th January</u>	<u>19th January</u> Yr5 – Kew Gardens
<u>22nd January</u>	<u>23rd January</u>	<u>24th January</u>	<u>25th January</u>	<u>26th January</u>
<u>29th January</u>	<u>30th January</u> Yr6 Spirit of the Wild with animals from the Polar Tundra – Frozen Kingdom Pyjama pit-stop for Reception parents invited from 2pm	<u>31st January</u>	<u>1st February</u>	<u>2nd February</u>
<u>5th February</u>	<u>6th February</u> Parents evening	<u>7th February</u> Reception – Finale Invention Convention Yr3 -Pitstop 2.30pm	<u>8th February</u> Parents evening Yr4 Pit Stop @ 2:15pm Yr6 Pit Stop - Northern Lights Art @ 2:30pm	<u>9th February</u> Break up for half term Yr5 – Pit Stop experience Yr2 – Pit Stop

In the community

Buckinghamshire Family Learning

Understand how shape, data and measurement are taught in school and how you can help your child



Learn fun activities to help your child to learn this important part of the curriculum.





Years 3&4 Shape, Data and Measurement

Join our **free**, 5-week online course,

Tuesday 9th January 12.30-2.30pm
Thursday 11th January 6.30-8.30pm

To book a place, please click on a day above or scan the QR code

  buckinghamshireadultlearning  BucksAdLearning  adultlearningbc.ac.uk

Buckinghamshire Family Learning

Learn ways to help your child stay safe online.

Understand the benefits and issues of your child doing schoolwork, gaming, or chatting online.

Happy, healthy and safe online- tips for Y3-6 parents and carers

Join our **free**, 2 hour, 5-week online course. Starts on:

Tuesday 9 January, 9:30 am

To book a place, please click on the day above or scan the QR code below.




  buckinghamshireadultlearning  BucksAdLearning  adultlearningbc.ac.uk

Buckinghamshire Family Learning

Learn how your child is taught phonics at school.

Discover how to find easy, fun activities to help your child to use phonics to read and spell.

Support your child with phonics- Reception

Join our **free**, 2 hour, 5-week online course. Starting on:

Tuesday 9 January, 9:30am
Wednesday 10 January, 9:30am

To book a place, please click on a day above or scan the QR code below.




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Buckinghamshire Family Learning

Help your child manage their Wellbeing with these FREE online workshops

Mondays 7pm-9pm

for parents and carers with a child in Years 7-11 only*

Years 7, 8 & 9

- 15 January: Help your child build confidence and resilience (FMWB056)
- 22 January: Help your child cope with stress and anxiety (FMWB081)
- 29 January: Help your child to develop positive friendships and manage peer pressure (FMWB087)
- 5 February: Happy, healthy and safe online-tips to help your child (FMWB092)

Years 10 & 11

- 8 January: Help your child cope with stress and anxiety (FMWB105)

* For parents and carers with a child in Years 7 to 11 at one of the following schools: Aylesbury UTC, Aylesbury Vale Academy, Beaconsfield School, Bourne End Academy, Buckingham School, Chiltern Hills Academy, Cottesloe School, Cresser Community School, Highcrest Academy, John Colet School, Mandeville School, Princes Risborough School, Sir William Ramsay School, Stony Dean School, The Grange School, Thomas Freemantle School and Waddesdon C of E School



SCAN the QR code, CLICK on the course date link or PHONE 01296 383582 with the course code (eg. FM.....) For more information, text Kathryn ☎ 07770 641997



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