

Friday, 13th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We have completed our first full week of the new academic year and the children are now settled into their routines. I am pleased to inform you that our first '**Stars of the Week**' have been announced; choosing them was quite a tricky job for the staff as **so** many children have stood out for being 'Halebank Heroes', demonstrating impeccable behaviour, hard work and a willingness to give their best. Well done to everyone, but particularly the following 'stars':



STARS OF THE WEEK



Class 1	Lyla: for settling in so well and for always making everyone smile!
Class 2	Ruby: for having an excellent attitude towards her learning
Class 3	Arthur: for trying hard to follow our class rules
Class 4	Lucas: for working really hard in all subjects

Requests for Leave of Absence

I have received a number of requests for leave of absence from parents this week and have tried to meet with all concerned to talk through the school's expectations in terms of attendance throughout the year. **Unfortunately, unless there are 'exceptional circumstances', the school will not be able to authorise an absence, in particular for holidays during term time.** I met this week with Julie Whitehead from Halton's Education Welfare Service to discuss the matter in more detail. She urged me to remind you all that your child should only be missing from school if either they are too ill to attend or if advance permission has been given by the school.

Furthermore, she informed me that I am required to notify the Education Welfare Service of any periods of unauthorised absence; this may then result in the issue of a fixed penalty or legal action. If you are considering making a request for a leave of absence during term time, please make an appointment to speak to me about your circumstances beforehand. Thank you in advance for supporting the school in this very important matter.

YOU'RE INVITED



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Macmillan Coffee Morning: Friday, 27th September

We will be running a Macmillan Coffee Morning on the last Friday of the month and we hope you'll be able to support the school's fundraising by baking and bringing in cakes and biscuits for the event, then coming along at the start of the school day to join in. Further details will follow nearer the time. Your support is very much appreciated.

Parental Feedback

As your new headteacher, I am very keen to gather feedback from all members of the community about the school's current position. I have already started to collate the views of the staff and pupils regarding the school's strengths and areas for development. Next week I will be sending out a questionnaire to establish the views of parents and carers. Before you receive and respond to this, I wonder if you could consider the questions below. Feel free to chat to me about your views if you are around at the start and end of the school day.

- *What is good about Halebank and what makes it special?*
- *What are the school's strengths?*
- *What improvements could be made to the school?*
- *What do you see as the key components of a 'great curriculum'?*
- *Which key skills do you think your child needs to learn through his/her time at Halebank?*



Mobile Phones

Staff would prefer mobile phones to be left at home and not brought into school. If they are needed by our older pupils who may be walking to and from school on their own, we would ask that they are handed into Mrs Bennett at the start of the school day. Thank you.

A Request from Mrs Power: Class 1's Outdoor Area

Class 1 would kindly like to ask you not to allow your children to play in our outdoor area before school and after school due to health and safety reasons. Thank you for your cooperation.

Reminders from the School Office

Mrs Fenlon has asked if your after school club letters, flu vaccination forms and SIMS Parent app sign ups could be completed/returned as soon as possible. Many thanks.

I hope you all have a great weekend!

Yours sincerely

Richard Harley

Mr R Harley