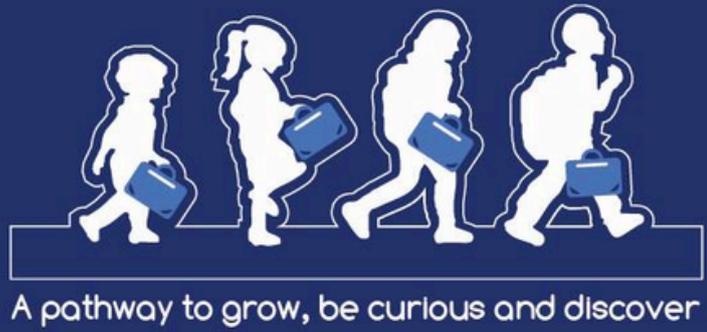




# Welcome to Homerswood



A pathway to grow, be curious and discover

## Diary dates

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

Choir singing event with Welwyn  
Male Voice Choir

### **W/B 15<sup>th</sup> September**

Clubs after school start

### **W/B 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Year 6 PGL

### **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

House Afternoon

### **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

School Effectiveness Advisor Visit

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Individual Photos

Parent Forum 1

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

Census Day

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

Family Book Looks

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

Full Governing Body 1

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

Year 6 Class Assembly at 9am

### **W/B Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Bikeability Yr 5 and Yr 6

### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

Online Parent Consultations

### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

Face to Face Parent Consultations

### **W/B 27<sup>th</sup> October**

HALF TERM

# Newsletter

Headteacher: Miss Mica Kettle BEd (Hons), MaST  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Fitts BA, PGCE  
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Jenny Greogry BA,  
PGCE

## **Week one completed and what a full week it has been!**

We welcomed our new Reception and Nursery children to the school this week. They have all settled in well and they have made an excellent impression on their teachers. Well done Reception and Nursery children and thank you families for your support in preparing your children to be school ready each and every day - a great start all round.

## **Pupil Leaders**

The Pupil Leaders have conducted their first assembly of the year with confidence and a smile. The adults were very impressed with how they have started and we will all look forward to our Friday celebratory assembly led by them.

## **Choir**

Homerswood Choir have had the honour of being invited to perform alongside the Welwyn Male Voice Choir to celebrate their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The performance will take place tomorrow at Welwyn St Marys church; we wish the choir luck and hope they enjoy the performance and represent our school as beautifully as they always do.

## **Introducing.... Maths Mascots and Reading journals!**

Each class will now have a maths mascot and a reading journal to take home and enjoy some activities in. These will be handed out on rotation so your child may not receive it straight away, but stay tuned, they will reach you eventually!

Instructions will be included in the bags that will be sent home. One child from each class will receive the bag on a Friday and then we ask you to return these on the following Wednesday. The Maths Mascots can also be shared with different year groups, please ask your class teacher if you would like to borrow a mascot from another year group.

We hope you enjoy these activities with your child.

Maths Mascots:

Nursery: 2d shapes

Reception: Counting Crow

Year 1: Number bonds

Year 2: Telling the Time

Year 3: Measurement

Year 4: Fractions

Year 5: Angles and protractors

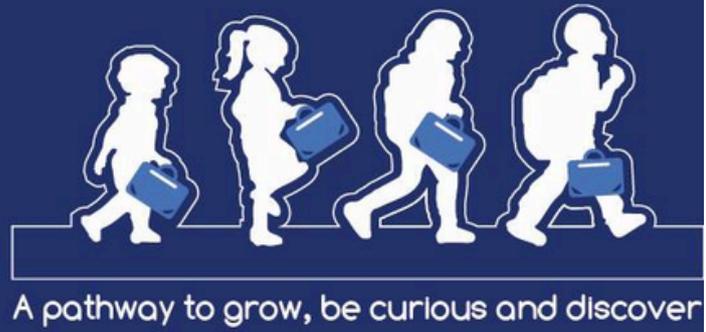
Year 6: Scientific calculator

## **Contact**

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school at [admin@homerswood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@homerswood.herts.sch.uk) or call us on 01707 320610. Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will be out on the playground in the mornings to support you too.



# Welcome to Homerswood



## Attendance Update



### Whole School Attendance: 97.1%

Here are this week's attendance figures:

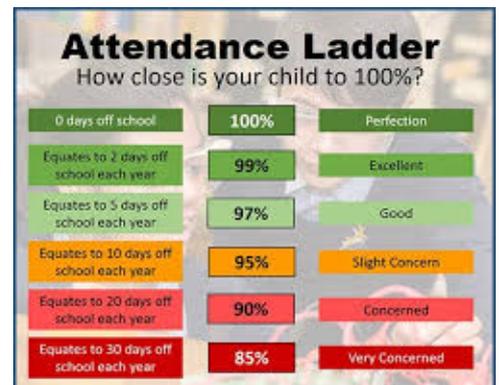
- Nursery: 94.3%%
- Reception: 100%
- Year 1: 97.2%
- Year 2: 98.7%
- Year 3: 96.1%
- Year 4: 97.0%
- Year 5: 97.5%
- Year 6: 95.0%

Congratulations to **Reception** for the best attendance this week. Keep it up!

### Class Attendance Rewards

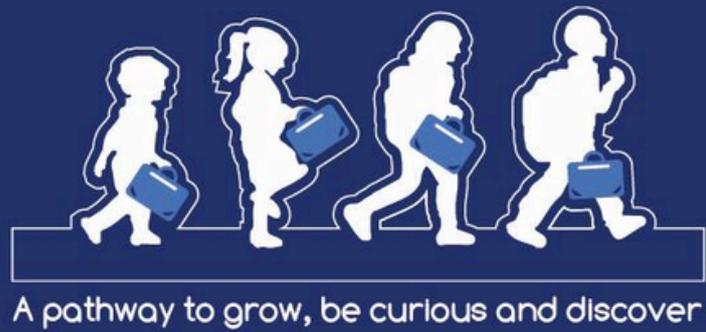
Each **DAY** a class achieves 100% attendance they get a letter from the word ATTENDANCE. When they have spelt it completely they get a non uniform day. This way everyone can contribute over time #teamwork

- Reception: **AT**
- Year 1: **AT**
- Year 2: **AT**
- Year 3: **A**
- Year 4: **AT**
- Year 5: **ATT**
- Year 6: **ATTEN**





# Welcome to Homerswood



## Proud Of My Class:



Each week the class staff team will share in assembly why they are particularly proud of their class that week.

- Nursery -
- Reception -
- year 1 -
- Year 2 -
- Year 3 -
- Year 4 -
- Year 5 -
- Year 6 -

**To begin next week. Well done to everyone for settling in well to new classroom routines.**



### Superstar Singers:

To return next week



### Handwriter of the Week:

To return next week



**Weekly Winners: Most Minutes Played Over the Whole Academic Year.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Phoebe (Year 3)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Tabitha (Year 3)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sebastian (Year 3)



# Welcome to Homerswood



## Sports Diary Dates

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Year 5 Whole class (8 from Year 6)  
Cross country at Monks Walk

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Sports ambassador training at  
Monks Walk

### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September

Mr Williams in for Tag Rugby for  
years 4 and 5

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Mr Williams in for Tag Rugby for  
years 5 and 6

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October

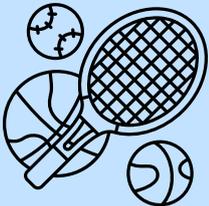
Tag Rugby for years 5 and 6 10 girls  
at Monks Walk

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Football and Netball fixtures night  
at Monks Walk

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Football Festival at Monks Walk  
Year 4 AM 10 girls PM 10 boys



## Sports Updates



As we welcome everyone back to the new school year, our sport and PE is as always thriving. We are back to two hours of PE weekly for each class, active blasts every afternoon and active play/lunch times for all. We want to make sure every child is receiving at least 60 active minutes every single day.

A reminder of our wonderful Year 6 sports leaders who are supporting are PE and sport across the school:



As always if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

For further updates and information about sports and physical education at Homerswood please visit our webpage:

<https://www.homerswood.herts.sch.uk/physical-education/>

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

### TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

### PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

### VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

### SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them, validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

### Meet Our Expert

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



#WakeUpWednesday®

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## To register

Phone or text/Whatsapp on **07813678660**

or email: [welhat@bagsoftaste.org](mailto:welhat@bagsoftaste.org)

or you can sign up online:

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