

HOWBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

Head's Half Termly Headlines!



92% of our parents have signed up to Marvellous Me – have you?

We are REALLY pleased to report that **92%** of our parents have already signed up to **Marvellous Me** and are getting daily alerts as to what their child is up to in school, as well as messages, badges and stickers to share.

We want all of our parents signed up so that you can enjoy conversations about what is happening in school for your child – each child's page is personalised and specific to them.

During parent consultations next week, there will be more information about Marvellous Me and the benefits of it for you and your child, so if you haven't signed up or you have any questions, please see us in the hall.

We don't want any of our children (or parents) to miss out – especially as this app replaces the STAR certificates and badges that used to be awarded.

Please also remember that you can share the app with other family members, such as grandparents so they can keep up to date with what is happening and congratulate your child, too!

Thanks to those parents who have been giving the teachers 'High 5s' to let us know you have seen the messages and badges.

Click on the link to find out more:

<https://marvellousme.com/>

Uniform Matters

Please can you help to ensure that all children attend school in full Howbridge uniform, including school shoes NOT trainers.

We have also noticed a number of children wearing all different clothes for PE and not Howbridge PE kit. Please only send your child into school in a kit with one of the house colours OR a plain black, blue or white top if the PE top is in the wash. Please don't send them in other bright coloured tops.

If you are finding it difficult to purchase school uniform, please let the office know or a member of staff on the patio and we can discuss how we might be able to help.

School Council

We are pleased to announce that the School Council has been formed for this academic year, taking two representatives from each class group to come together to be the pupil voice in decision-making for the school. We are very proud of all pupils that put themselves forward as a nominee for School Council and made a speech as to why they should be voted for by their fellow class members.

The first meeting was held at the beginning of this month. The pupils were able to feedback on Marvellous Me, we will be sharing this data with you at Parents Consultation. The pupils also shared their thoughts on Pokemon cards and fiddle toys, with the changes we have since made from this important input of our young people.

We are soon to appoint a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary and Vice Secretary to take on the roles needed to run the School Council this year with the support of Mrs Rae-Shearing.

Self-Regulation

Self-regulation can be defined in various ways. In the most basic sense, it **involves controlling one's behaviour, emotions, and thoughts in the pursuit of long-term goals**

We are working hard to develop our understanding of this and encourage our children to be really good at it.

This 5-minute film (click below) might help to give you more understanding – it is suitable to watch with your child:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0YDE8jsHk>

Cookie Monster and Self-Regulation!

We will send more information as we develop this approach further.

Self-Regulation Room

We have created a space in school to support self-regulation and are continually reviewing its effectiveness.

A child might be asked to join a regulation session at lunchtime if their behaviour during lessons needs a discussion about how it could improve. They may also be asked to go to this room if there is an incident on the playground that means they need to regulate.

The session will be a constructive and positive one with discussion about strategies to:

- support self-control
- regulate emotions
- be aspirational
- make changes for the better

Staffing Update

We have had a number of changes to the staff team this term, as follows:

Midday Team

Mrs Wilkey left the Midday team to start a new role elsewhere and Mrs Hanks is now working as an LSA in school. We have appointed Ms Mbabazi to join us as well as Mrs Hands (who will hopefully start very soon).

We have also appointed new members to the catering team and the office this week and we look forward to welcoming them to the Howbridge family soon, too.

COVID Measures - Latest

We are closely following Essex County Council's advice and guidance around COVID-19. The advice they give is aligned to Public Health England. This includes keeping classrooms ventilated and maintaining hand-washing and additional cleaning.

Although we are not required to, when we are notified that a member of the school community has had a positive PCR test result, we are sending the County model letter to parents.

Track and Trace have been in touch with me this week and have commented that our cases are low at the moment in comparison to many schools. However, they have warned us that cases may spike and fall over the coming months. I will remain in contact with all agencies to ensure I get the latest guidance and let you know if we need to make any changes in school.

One of the actions you can all take to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, and thus keep our school open, is to take a Lateral Flow Test when you know you are coming into school e.g. for parent consultations or an event such as a production.

Vine Passport

Attached to this newsletter is some information about the latest Vine Passport activities that your child can get involved in and earn badges.

They may also get their photo in the Vine Trust Newsletter, which is sent to over 20 schools each term!

The activities cover a wide range of areas, such as art, science, personal development, cooking and spirituality...

Something for everyone!

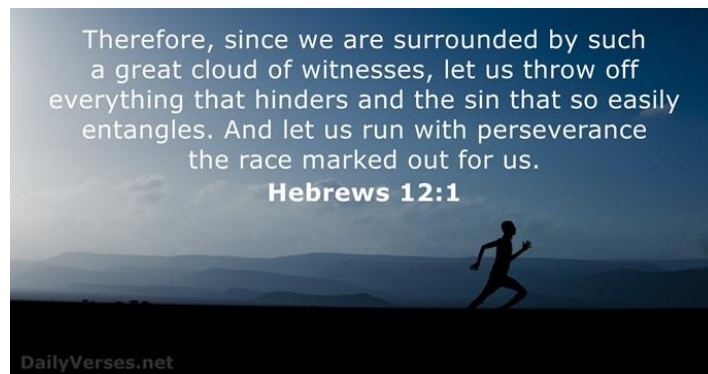


Harvest

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our collection for the local food banks. We have had a good range of food and hygiene items donated and these will be collected from school soon.

School and Church Together

Our school vision is underpinned by the passage from Hebrews 12 below:



We believe this passage describes what we aspire to at Howbridge – cheering each other on to do well and persevering when things are challenging.

We are working closely with Pastor Will and are looking forward to welcoming a new Outreach Worker, Jack, into school over the next few weeks. He will be supporting our work with the children in a wide variety of ways.

Please put the date of Christingle Service in your diaries - Friday 10th December 3.20pm (to be held at school). It would be great to see lots of you there. Details to follow.



Parent Consultations

Our consultation evenings are being held on Wednesday 20th October and Thursday 21st October.

Wednesday – 3.30-7.30pm

Thursday 3.30- 5.30pm

Hopefully, you have already booked your appointment but if not please go to the online system and book in. If you have any problems with doing this, please phone the office and they will be able to help you.

Meetings will be held in the classrooms and you will have the opportunity to look at your child's work as well as discuss how they have settled in to the new school year with their teacher. It is very helpful if you are on time for your appointment and only take up the 10 minutes allotted time slot. We cannot guarantee being able to fit you in if you arrive late. The teachers will do their best to also stick to time!

Please enter school via the main entrance and through the hall then go to the relevant classroom. If you are not sure where to go, we will be able to direct you from there.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs L Dale