



LIVING EGGS

Since the beginning of last week we have been hosting eggs, and now chicks, in Ladybird Class.

It was incredibly exciting last Wednesday morning when the first egg hatched at morning registration and every class was able to see it via our webcam - we hope some of you were able to watch too at home on the school website.

Every pupil and staff member in school has had the opportunity to hold the chicks, and we hope that it has helped them develop a greater understanding of the wonder of life.

At the time of writing we haven't decided on names yet, but they will be announced in assembly before the end of term.



KINDNESS CUP & MANNERS MEDALS

The Kindness Cup is awarded to someone who has shown great kindness during the previous week. Manners Medals are awarded to pupils who have shown great manners during the previous week. The school takes a pride in high standards of behaviour and this is just another way to celebrate great role models every week.



RSPCA DANAHER ANIMAL HOME

Last Wednesday two representatives from Danaher Animal Home came to speak to the children about their roles in caring for a wide range of animals. It was great to have an Easter bunny join us along with the Easter chicks!



BIKEABILITY 2

This week, the second Bikeability group have been impressing the tutors with their biking skills - well done to all of them too!



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WWW.HTTPS.CH/NEWSLETTER - Thursday 30th March 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we come to the end of the spring term, it has been a real joy to reflect on all we have accomplished since January, and it is not surprising time seems to have passed at great speed with all we have managed to fit in! Highlights recently must include the chicks hatching live on our school webcam and our Easter service at St Andrew's Church as these have provided something 'extra' to our routine school day. This spring term often sees the children make huge leaps of progress in both their academic studies and personal and social development and they certainly haven't disappointed this year! We are so proud of how hard the children have worked this term and we are already looking forward to continuing their learning journeys with them in the summer (after a very well-deserved rest over the Easter break!) I wish you all a very happy Easter and look forward to seeing you all return for our summer term.

Sarah Rowe

WORSHIP THEME

Easter Celebrations



CALENDAR DATES - <https://ch/calendar> & APP

30.03.1853 - Vincent van Gogh born
30.03.23 - End of Spring Term
31.03.23 - INSET Day
17.04.23 - Sublime Science
18.04.23 - Science Day (Parents invited in after school!)
20.04.23 - School Journey meeting for parents. 3.30pm
26.04.23 - Fencing PE Sessions
04.05.23 - School Closed for Polling
08.05.23 - Coronation Bank Holiday
07.07.23 - PTFA Summer Fete

Further dates/details of these and future events will be published as soon as confirmed. **New dates in bold.**

The remaining INSET Days for the 2022/2023

Academic Year have been confirmed:

Monday 5th June 2023

Friday 21st July 2023

All term dates, and INSET days for 2023/24 can be found at [www.https://ch/term-dates](https://ch/term-dates)



WOW WORSHIP - Returns on Friday 21st April!

TEAM POINTS

Well done to Red Team who won the team points title for the Spring Term and earned themselves a non-uniform day. Totals reset for the Summer Term so anyone could win next time.

COMIC RELIEF DAY

Thank you to everyone who brought in donations, together we raised over £190 for good causes in the UK and across the world. An amazing effort, well done!



CHARITY CAKE SALE

On the last newsletter we announced that the charity cake sale devised & run by pupils in Year 5 had raised £120. We are delighted to re-announce the total as being over £160 now that all the final sales and donations have been counted. Well done to the organisers!

APP REMINDER

A quick reminder that the app is not only free, but can also be installed on as many devices as you wish. There is no need to register on the app, but you must choose Holy Trinity Halstead as your school and should choose your children's classes in settings to make sure you get the correct alerts. Full details are on our website [www.https://ch/ool](https://ch/ool)

E-SAFETY CORNER!

"Be careful who you talk to online!"



Playing games online in 2023 can often involve playing alongside people we don't know - just as when we walk amongst people in town. It's important to remember that these people are still strangers even when they're online, and we must be careful how we interact with them. If you are in any doubt at all, don't chat with them - you don't have to if you don't want to.

If you are worried about anything online tell a trusted adult immediately. Adults please do come and speak to us if you need any help and support.

RESPECT.

HONESTY.

LOVE.



ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

94.4%	WHOLE SCHOOL
94.5%	LADYBIRD CLASS
91.9%	ALPACA CLASS
93.4%	PANDA CLASS
95.7%	HAMMERHEAD CLASS
96.0%	ARMADILLO CLASS
96.3%	COBRA CLASS
93.0%	AXOLOTL CLASS
97.0%	SCHOOL TARGET

HOW CLOSE IS YOUR CHILD TO 100%?

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year.	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year.	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year.	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year.	85%	Very Concerned

HAMMERHEAD RESTAURANT

On Tuesday morning Hammerhead Class prepared, cooked, and served a three course meal they had planned to some special guests. They did amazingly well and we are very proud of them all!



NATIONAL SUMDOG CONTEST



Well done to everyone who took part in the latest Sumdog Contest earlier this month.

Special mentions go to class winners: Luke D, Rupert K, Freddie M, Max J & Stanley J.

All of these children, plus Emily V & Holly R completed 1,000 questions over the course of the week!

And congratulations to Max J, who came 71st out of 21,526 pupils from across the UK.

To play Sumdog and have fun whilst improving your maths you just need to login and play either in the Sumdog app or via the link on www.tabecat.com

Children should use their usual login details (not email address) and the school code is holytrinityhalstead

We are aware that some people using slightly older devices have had difficulty accessing Sumdog, and have contacted the platform for assistance and advice.



SCHOOL LUNCHES - SUMMER TERM

Please remember that school lunches must be booked 48 hours in advance to allow the school kitchen to plan orders and preparation. To ensure your child has a lunch booked for the first day back after Easter the deadline is Friday 14th April.

SCIENCE DAYS!

We will be holding some amazing Science Days on Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th April - the first two days back after the Easter holidays!

Monday 17th April

Sublime Science will be visiting Holy Trinity to lead some amazing science workshops with every class in the school. Thank you to the PTFA for financing this activity!

Tuesday 18th April

Each class teacher will host more fantastic science experiments, and the children will move around the school in mixed-age groups throughout the day completing them all.

After school parents are invited in to see what we've been up to and take part in some of the experiments themselves. This will be for about an hour until 4.15pm.

It's going to be an awesome couple of super science days.



LITTER PICKING

School Council enthusiastically took part in their litter pick project this week, clearing up wrappers around the school grounds. They really hope that litter will reduce and are keen to share their tips on how to make sure litter is disposed of correctly.



ROCKSTEADY CONCERT

Well done to all the musicians who took part in our Spring concert, and thank you to Richard, our bandmaster, for all his hard work. We did video the show, and it will be made available as soon as we work out a secure way to do this via our new website.

PTFA ROUNDUP

We had an egg-cellent time helping the Easter Bunny hide all the eggs today!

Thank you so much to all the volunteers who helped make this experience possible. We're so very grateful. Seeing all the children thoroughly enjoying themselves, it really makes it all worthwhile.

The funds raised this term have enabled us to pay for "Mad Science" to come into school in April to provide some memorable educational enrichment for Science Days.

We have our Summer Disco coming up (date TBC) and also our Summer Fete on July 7th.

If you have a business that could provide a prize for the Fete raffle, or you would be able to volunteer at either event we'd love to hear from you!

From the moment your child becomes a pupil at HTPS you also automatically become a member of the PTFA.

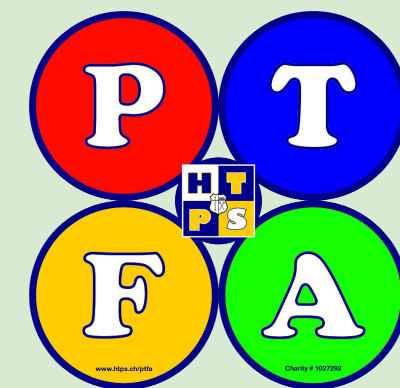
It's your PTFA!

We'd love to hear suggestions for fundraising events or comments via our email address ptfa@holytrinityhalstead.com

Even better we'd love to meet you and hear your views at our monthly meetings - dates are put on the school app.

Hope you have a great Easter from all at your PTFA.

www.https.ch/ptfa
www.facebook.com/groups/httpsptfa



HALSTEAD LIBRARY HOMEWORK CLUB

Every Friday during term time, you can come along from 3.30pm to complete homework tasks.

Use the resources and computers in the library to complete tasks. Juice and biscuits provided.

Don't forget your library card. Print off any work at 20p a sheet. Please note parental supervision is required.

COLCHESTER ZOO 60TH BIRTHDAY ROCKS - The rocks painted by children from around the area are now in place! Our rocks are top right, so be sure to look out for them if you visit the zoo! Thank you to Mrs King for coordinating this for us.



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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.

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 your child 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.

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.

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.

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.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

50+ ways to be kind

BE CONFIDENT use a reusable grocery bag **HANG CLOTHES TO DRY**
 read a **BOOK** **LAUGH OFTEN** bake cookies for a friend
bike instead of drive plant a tree send a nice text to an unknown number
STAND UP FOR A FRIEND take some time for yourself **CLEAN YOUR ROOM**
 switch to paperless mail **SEND A POSTCARD** **SMILE**
carpool to work **exercise** donate your old clothes to charity
 bring toys to a children's hospital call your grandparents share a recipe
 text an old friend **high five a stranger** babysit for free
 tell someone you love them use a travel mug **ADOPT A SHELTER PET**
 make a bucket list (and start it!) **LOVE YOURSELF** thank a teacher
 put a bird feeder in your yard write a review for a local business
 tie scarves around trees Volunteer hug a loved one
 HIDE A SURPRISE IN YOUR FAVORITE LIBRARY BOOK congratulate a friend
PRACTICE PATIENCE give socks to a homeless person **DO THE DISHES**
 start a community garden walk a dog bring soup to a sick friend
 compliment someone **OFFER TO HELP WITH YARD WORK** THANK YOUR BUS DRIVER
 deliver flowers to a well-deserving mother **WRITE TO A PENPAL** BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
PICK UP GARBAGE ON THE STREET VISIT A NURSING HOME fund an online campaign
 give a stranger a lottery ticket DON'T EAT MEAT FOR A DAY be kind to every kind



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION

randomactsofkindness.org

