



28th February 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are thrilled to have welcomed all our pupils back for the Spring Term 2! It has been a joy to see their smiling faces and renewed enthusiasm for learning.

I am proud to report that our pupils' behaviour for learning continues to strengthen. During my time spent in classrooms, I have observed that the majority of our pupils consistently understand and follow classroom rules and routines. Their eagerness to participate in discussions and activities is truly commendable.

This positive attitude towards learning is translating into motivation and significant progress across the curriculum. We are excited to see our pupils making strides in their academic journey.

Safeguarding

At Hannah Ball we take pride in safeguarding our pupils and we strongly believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All our staff are safeguarding trained including how to safeguard your pupils online. Our Safeguarding team members are: Miss Ruby (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mrs Machingauta (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mrs Devine (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) and Mrs Gill (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead). Our Safeguarding Governor is Jo Norman. If you have any concerns please approach any member of the safeguarding team.

Please see our Safeguarding policy here:

<https://www.hannahball.bucks.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=73&type=pdf>

Positive Behaviour Management

At Hannah Ball Academy, we are committed to fostering an environment of mutual respect and cooperation. We view our Academy as a vibrant community where both staff and pupils work collaboratively, ensuring that everyone's views are valued and respected. We firmly believe that high standards of behaviour are fundamental to the success of our Academy. These standards enable:

- All pupils to make the best possible progress in their academic and personal development.
- All staff to teach effectively and promote positive learning experiences without undue interruption or harassment.

Please see our Behaviour Policy here:

<https://www.hannahball.bucks.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=121&type=pdf>

Attendance and Punctuality

Hannah Ball Academy is a successful school and your child plays their part in making it so. We aim for an environment which enables and encourages all members of the community to reach out for excellence. For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and your child should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. Any pupil's absence disrupts teaching routines so may affect the learning of others in the same class.

Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is your legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.

What to do if your child is absent from school:

- Call the school using option 1 or email the school on attendancehba@theparkfederation.org to report their child's absence before 8:55am on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence and advise when they are expected to return
- Provide the school with 2 or more emergency contact numbers for their child
- Where possible, appointments to be made outside of the school day

Telephone numbers:

You are required to provide **three emergency contact details and numbers.**

There are times when we need to contact parents about lots of things, including absence, so we need to have your contact numbers at all times. To help us to help you and your child by making sure we always have an up to date number – if we don't then something important may be missed. There will be regular checks on telephone numbers throughout the year.

In the rare event that we cannot contact you to determine an absence we will:

- call the two remaining contact numbers to check everything is ok and ask you to make contact with the school
- send two members of staff to the family home if we cannot make contact with all three contact numbers held on the school system
- contact the police immediately for a welfare check if we have failed to make contact via telephone and a home visit has taken place and been unsuccessful

Curriculum

Our curriculum is broad, balanced and ambitious. We have thought carefully about the interests of our pupils and the skills of our staff to create learning experiences from the very moment the children join us at Hannah Ball Academy. A range of enrichment activities provide opportunities for all of our pupils to develop their interests and talents. These not only enhance this curriculum provision, but inspire every child and adult in our learning community to thrive and achieve their full potential whatever their starting point.

Our learning never stops and we continually strive for improvement. Our high quality teaching and learning continues to inspire our children to have the confidence, skills and ambition to face the next steps in their learning.

Please take time to have a look at our Spring 2 Curriculum Map and Year group's termly overviews. These can be found on our Website under the Curriculum page.

<https://www.hannahball.bucks.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum&pid=20>

If you need any further information, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Oracy

One of our key priorities this year is to develop the oracy skills of our pupils. We would like our pupils to possess the following lasting skills or qualities into their future lives and careers: The ability to:

- speak up confidently in any situation
- listen carefully to others and show they care, being able to give helpful feedback and replies
- think through ideas clearly and explain their reasoning
- change their communication style to fit different situations
- work well with anyone and respect diverse views and opinions
- be expressive
- stay calm and composed and resilient when speaking to groups
- be able to support their ideas with examples and evidence
- be able to show leadership and take initiative in group discussion

How can you support your child's oracy skills?

- **Regular Dialogue:** Encourage daily conversations about various topics. Ask open-ended questions that require more than yes or no answers, such as "What was the best part of your day?" or "Why do you think that happened?"
- **Active Listening:** Model good listening skills by giving full attention when your child speaks. Show interest in their thoughts and feelings, and respond thoughtfully.
- **Shared Reading:** Read books aloud together and discuss the story, characters, and themes. Ask questions like "What do you think will happen next?" to stimulate critical thinking and expression.
- **Introduce New Words:** Use new and interesting vocabulary in everyday conversations. When introducing a new word, explain its meaning and encourage your child to use it in sentences.
- **Word Games:** Play word games like "I Spy" or "20 Questions" to make learning new words fun and engaging.
- **Family Discussions:** Hold family meetings or discussions where everyone can share their opinions on a topic, enhancing their ability to express themselves in a group.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to create an enriching learning environment for all

Warm regards,

Mrs Machingauta

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