



Welcome back to school for this 2023/2024 session!

It is wonderful to see all of the children back in school, looking very smart in their uniforms and full of anticipation and enthusiasm for their year of learning ahead! We hope that all our families have enjoyed the summer break as much as we all have.

We welcome all our new pupils across the school, especially our new P1 learners who have done a fantastic job coming into school. The children will soon settle into school life and will get to know our staff, building and our routines.

Uniform

Our uniform policy was introduced in August 2022 and we would like to thank you all for your ongoing support in implementing this. As mentioned previously, we have a budget to help any family who is struggling to pay for school uniform. Please get it touch with the school office, Miss Johnson or myself if you would like us to support you with this.

PE

All children P2-7 will change for PE. They need shorts, a T shirt and indoor shoes (gym shoes or old trainers) in a named bag. P4-7 will use the changing rooms and P2-3 will change in class. P1 will start changing later in the term. No football strips to be sent to school please.

Indoor shoes

As the weather worsens in Autumn, we ask that all children have shoes to change into inside. These can be their gym shoes from their PE bag.

Start/finish times

Children are to arrive at school by 8.45am each morning where they will be greeted, welcomed and registered by their class teacher. Please note there is no longer a 'soft start' window however all children will continue to have an opportunity to check-in with their class teacher each morning on arrival at school. Any children arriving after 8:45am should enter through the office door and will be marked as late. Please ensure your child(ren) are at school on time as it is very disruptive to their, and their classes, learning if they are late.

All children should be picked up promptly at 3.15pm Mon-Thurs and 12.20pm on Fri.

Outdoor clothing

We intend to have our children out in the playground in most weathers. Please ensure that they come to school with coats and appropriate footwear. A change of shoes are handy at this time of year to save our carpets from getting muddy!

Pupil attendance

Attendance levels in both primary and high schools have been a key priority of the Scottish Government and Midlothian Council since COVID, as figures show that attendance rates have not reached their pre-covid levels. I am sure you will appreciate that unless unwell, the importance of your child attending school in terms of their social, academic and general wellbeing is of vital

importance. The impact of your child having days off school for reasons other than sickness and medical appointments soon accumulates to rather startling figures.

Playground

I know it is tempting, but can I please ask that parents and carers do not come up to speak to pupils through the school fence over break and lunchtimes. It is very difficult for staff to monitor interactions and to ensure the safety of our pupils.

Thank you for your support with this.

Dates for the diary

Please also find attached a note of planned events for the coming year. These are subject to change and will be added to as events are organised throughout the session.

I wish your child(ren) a successful year of learning at Hawthornden!

Best Wishes,

Jackie Mellon