

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to begin this newsletter by thanking you all for supporting our Christmas efforts. Christmas lunch was appreciated by hundreds of children and staff with festive music, hats, crackers and of course, Christmas jumpers, created a wonderful atmosphere. Our Christmas concert and school production was an engaging 'Brexit-free' evening with a full house audience for both nights. The concert included a range of performances by pupils, including those who are in the early stages of their musical career! Well done to all for having the confidence to play in front of a large audience. The chamber choir performed 'That's what Christmas means to me' which they sang for the Barnardo's concert at Southwark Cathedral. I was fortunate to be able to attend this and hear their voices in such a serene atmosphere.

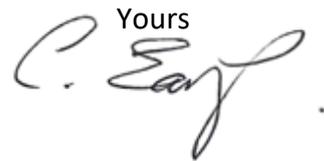
'The Twelve Days of Christmas' was a vibrant performance with costumes galore and an amazing talent in both voices and actions. Well done to all those who took part and the Year 8 pupils in support, providing lighting and narration.

Christmas trees are in evidence across the school and our festive 'bake off' being prepared as I write! Even the library has had a festive makeover as a magical winter wonderland in which to lose yourself in a book.

The Christmas card competition was a real success and all four of the commended cards appear within this letter with Evie's winning card taking centre stage.

Finally, at Christmas time we often take a moment to think about the needs of this less fortunate than ourselves. Our children can pat themselves on the back for raising £2,858.67 for charities dear to all our hearts.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2019.

Yours


Caren Earp

Head Teacher



All Things Christmas

Christmas Concert and Key Stage 2

Drama

Well done to all the performers in the Christmas Concert and Key Stage 2 Drama this week.

The concert included a range of groups from the school including the Young Voices, Orchestra as well as a Brass Duet from Freddie and Alfie in Year 5 who performed for the first time since starting to play the Euphoniums in September.

The Key Stage 2 Drama featured Mr Partridge and his Amazing Performing Troupe in the musical The Twelve Days of Christmas. The actors were superb following the



Henlow Academy Chamber Choir Support

Barnardo's at Soutwark Cathedral

A huge congratulations goes to the Chamber Choir who performed at the Barnardo's Christmas Concert at Southwark Cathedral on Thursday 29th November. The Chamber Choir performed That's What Christmas Means to Me. In previous years we have performed as part of a massed choir with other schools, this year we performed by ourselves which was a daunting task.

The choir performed superbly and received many comments from the audience about the quality of the singing.

The school will be supporting Barnardo's again in June 2019 when we will be performing at Central Hall in Westminster in their inaugural Schools Concert. More details to follow.

Well done to the Chamber Choir



The Travels Of Henry Henlow



On the Saturday me and Henry were just chilling on the sofa and getting ready for the big journey tomorrow so we were packing our stuff like pants, socks and other stuff. On the Sunday me and Henry set off to Centre Parcs in the Netherlands. We went on the Euro tunnel. It took forever so we stayed at a hotel in Belgium and went to Bruges for dinner. In Centre Parcs we did loads of activities like paintball, swimming, badminton, football, bowling, climbing, bike riding and skiing. Henry's adventure with me



Christmas Card Competition

The pupils really excelled themselves with their entries for Mrs Earp's Christmas Card Competition. Mrs Earp faced a difficult decision but the winning design was by Evie H.



Our runners up were
Charlotte L,
Phoebe B,



Sportability



On Monday 24th September 8 pupils, Leylan, Mason, Morgan, Devon, Ben, Sam, Alex and Nathan, went to Biddenham Upper School to take part in a Sportability TBall competition. It was a great afternoon of TBall matches, with Henlow finishing second in their first Sportability competition of the year. Leylan was awarded a special Values Award for Passion. Well done to all that took part.



On Wednesday 14th November 10 pupils, Leylan, Archie, Mason, Devon, Mason, Adam, Samuel, Sonny, Brody and Ben went to the Bedfordshire FA in Dunstable to take part in the first of this year's Attitude Counts Cup competitions. It was a fantastic day of football. All players were put into mixed teams with pupils from other schools. Brody and Mason were both voted players of the day by pupils from other schools. Well done to all who took part.



Year 5 Rugby



Well done to the Henlow Year 5 rugby team. They have played excellently this season and have gone on to win the district rugby tournament.



Year 8 War Poetry

Move Forward, Advance They Said

Remorse, blood fill the crimson barrel of death,
Move forwards, advance they said.
Again the withered gates to hell open,
Move forwards, advance they said.
The stuttering of fire returns from the stiff, stale air,
Move forwards, advance they said.
Tight trenches bind my shoulders, as my body's cocooned in noise,
Move forwards, advance they said.
The hiss of the bombs carving their passage through the air,
Move forwards, advance they said.

This year our Year 8's wrote poems for Remembrance. Three of these were then chosen to be read out at the Remembrance Service held at the Church.



The War

The lice scurrying across your body.
The slushy mud squelching underneath your feet.
Bombs everywhere you turn.
A thousand men's lives gone in a blink of an eye.
Rats festering amongst maggot infested flesh.
Lives at risk.
The innocent souls fading away.
Teams struggling for their loved ones.
The horrifying sounds of men screeching for help.
Until darkness takes over.

On No Man's Land

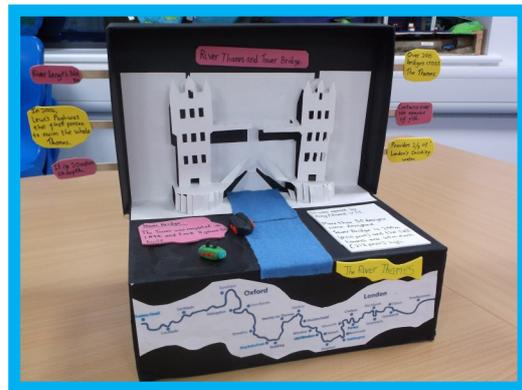
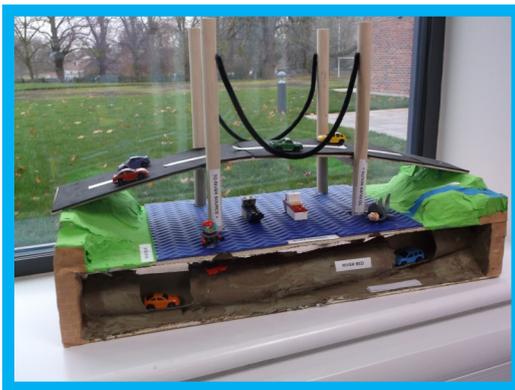
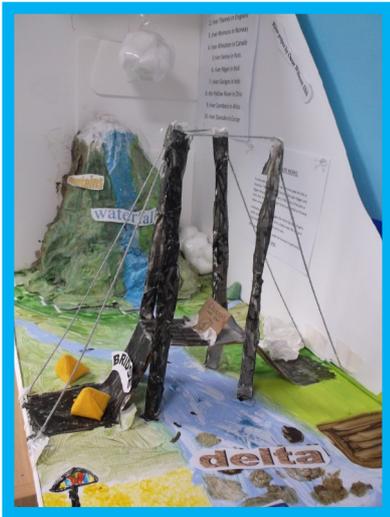
A new morning has dawned; much like others before,
Soldiers heavily pitched to one side,
Blood seeping from wounded limbs,
Lice slowly devouring rotting corpses,
Barbed wire catching spirits and souls,
Bodies drowning in perpetual mud,
Crimson stained hands stared upon by guilt ridden eyes,
Guns firing, bullets screaming, men dying,
Plunging deep into memories of loved ones,
The soldiers are cold, they are resigned, they sleep.



Outstanding Work

Year 5 River Projects

It has become something of a tradition here at Henlow for Year 5 to produce a 'River Project' in their autumn term. This year we have seen a big range of projects including posters, framed pictures, dynamic PowerPoints, beautiful artwork, intricate booklets some quite spectacular models. Thank you to Year 5 for their amazing efforts this year! You have excelled yourselves.



Blast From The Past



We absolutely love to hear how our past pupils are getting on and there is always excitement amongst staff on the extraordinary things they go on to do. We've recently been contacted to let us know that one of our past pupils, Paris Musgrove, has been selected to be the Captain of the England Under 16 Rounders Team. We are all incredibly proud of Paris!



Pupil Equipment



All pupils at Henlow are expected to have the correct equipment with them for all lessons. Increasingly pupils are coming to school without even the basic equipment to be able to complete work. Please can you ensure that your child(ren) have the below equipment with them every day.

- * Pencil case containing:
- * Cartridge pen, handwriting pen or a friction pen (blue)
- * 30cm ruler (not Superflex or folding)
- * HB pencil and a spare
- * 2 slim dry wipe board marker pens and a wiper/cloth
- * Coloured pencils (not felt tips)
- * Ink eraser pen (if using a cartridge pen)
- * Green pen (friction pen preferred)
- * Rubber
- * Pencil sharpener (which can collect shavings)
- * Glue Stick
- * Scissors
- * Highlighters, 1 pink and 1 green
- * Simple calculator
- * Protractor (kept in original protective packet)

If you are experiencing any difficulties in providing your child(ren) with equipment for school, please contact their form tutor in the first instance.

We have a school stationery shop, which is open every day at break time, where pupils can buy any equipment

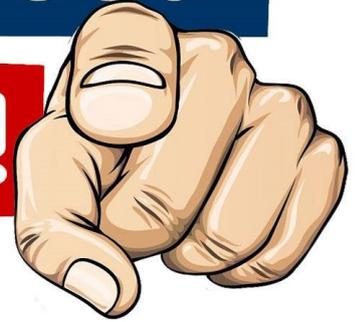
Berol handwriting pen	40p	Pencil	20p
Calculator	£6.50	Protractor	20p
Cartridges	30p	Rubber	10p
Compass	80p	Coloured rubber	20p
Highlighter	40p	30cm ruler	30p
Large pencil case	£1.20	15cm ruler	20p
Double pencil sharpener	50p	Whiteboard pen	30p
Single pencil sharpener	25p	Frixion Pen	£2.30
Fountain pen	80p	A4 wallet	40p
Whiteboard erasers	40p	Colour pencils	90p

Help Needed

From time to time we need the help of volunteers to ensure we have an appropriate number of adults to run trips. We also need many extra helpers for SATs exams for pupils who need support to enable them to complete their work.

We need

YOU!



SATS Helpers



Key Stage 2 tests

Thank you to those who have volunteered already! We still need more helpers...

We still

Could you spare a few hours to volunteer to help children during their Mock SATs and the real thing?

No experience necessary as training will be given.

Are you available on any of these dates?

Mock SATs - Monday 4th March - Thursday 7th March from 9:00am -12:30pm.

SATs - Monday 13th -Thursday 16th May 9:00am-12.30pm.

Please contact: mpigram@henlowacademy.org.uk (Head of KS2)



Kingswood Helpers

Would you like to volunteer to come on our 2019 Year 6 activities week at Kingswood? Maybe you know someone else who'd like to?

Are you free from Monday 8th July until Friday 12th July 2019?

If so we would LOVE to hear from you. We desperately need some more adults to come with us on our Year 6 residential. Ideally if you are DBS checked that would be even better!

Please email Mr Gully, Head of Year 6 on jgully@henlowacademy.org.uk if you can help.



School Dinners



Please can you make sure that your child(ren)'s Squid account is topped up with sufficient funds to pay for their snacks and school dinners. It is important that the account has money on it BEFORE your child buys their



squid

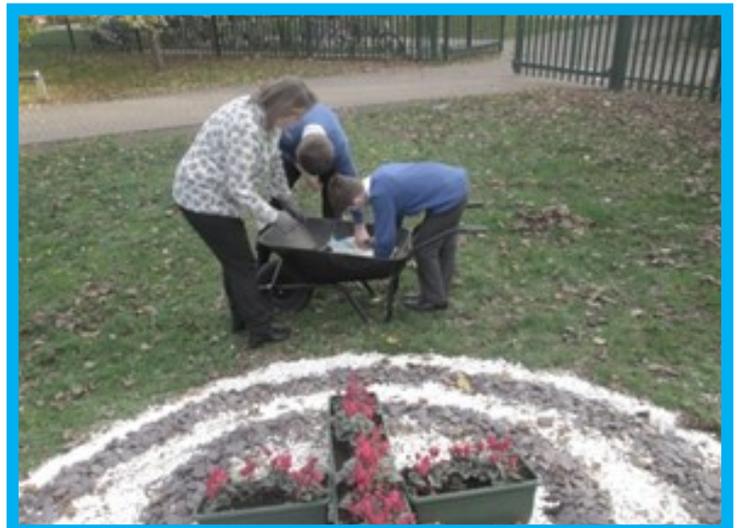
From January, we will no longer be selling bottles of water or flavoured water at break time and lunchtime. There will be jugs of water available at lunch and there are multiple water stations around the school for pupils to use. ALL PUPILS are required to bring a named, reusable water bottle in every day.



Gardening Club



Our pupil Gardeners have been hard at work. This was the remembrance memorial at the start of the Autumn term. After a lot of hard work weeding, then adding new layers of purple slate and white gravel to reform circles and finally planting winter red cyclamen plants in the shape of the crucifix. The remembrance garden looked simply stunning for the School's Remembrance Ceremony



A Message From Mrs Coster

Watoto Choir....Coming soon to Henlow C.E. Academy

We are delighted to have the Watoto choir visiting us from Uganda again this year. They will be with us on Wednesday 6th February, with a short performance to pupils during the day and a free concert in the evening.

We are looking for families who would be willing to host members of the choir for this night. Ideally you will need two rooms with beds to sleep between two and four people (one adult and one to three children). One of these rooms could be a living room. You will need to provide a light snack after the concert (the choir will have a full meal at school before the concert) and breakfast and a packed lunch for the following day. You will also need to pick your group up after the concert and bring them to school on the following day.



Appeal for donations



As many of you will know, I raise money for a village in Kenya by making and selling items from recycled jeans, if you have any jeans which you would be prepared to donate, please send them to school via your child. I would also welcome donations of old foam (not feather) pillows as I use these to stuff footstools.

In addition, friends of mine are visiting Utange in the new year. I would like to send out some additional items to help the pupils there. Last year I was able to take children's watches, which were used as prizes for pupils. If you have any old children's watches which you would like to donate, they would be gratefully received.

If you are able to help with any of the donations, please send them in to me. If you are able to offer accommodation for the members of the Watoto Choir, please email me on ccoster@henlowacademy.org.uk

Many thanks, Mrs Coster



Our Values - Charity

As we are sure you are aware it's been a busy term for us in many ways, especially with our pupils eager to raise money for various charities. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and their desire to help others less fortunate than themselves. Here is a snap shot of some of the things that have gone on this term and how much our pupils

A group of our years 7's Elis, Mae, Evie, Daisy, Natalie and Grace, held a sponsored silence and organised a mufti day to raise funds for Oak Manor care home. Well done to the girls. They raised just under £ 500 for the home which will go towards creating a sensory garden for the residents of Oak Manor. The staff at the home are so overwhelmed and very grateful. The girls have been invited to visit to meet residents in the new year.



Sponsored Silence

Clifton Church Stained Glass Window Appeal	£528.67
Jeans for Genes	£568.94
Shelter For The Homeless	£111.08
MacMillan Coffee Morning	£75.02
Children in Need	£590.78
Sealife Trust	£503.60
Sensory garden for Oak Manor Care Home	£480.58
Total	£2,858.67



Jeans for Genes



Christmas Shoebox Appeal



Children in Need

Library News

Book Fair

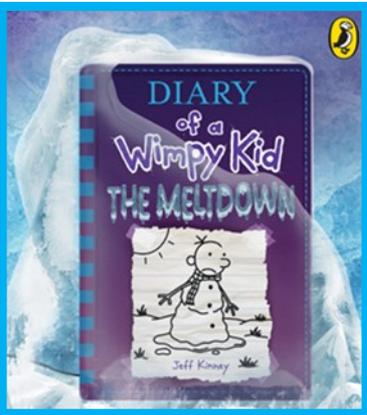
A huge thank you to everyone who bought books from the recent book fair. As a result of your generosity, the library can purchase approximately £450 of new books. Look out for new fiction books joining our collections as well as a collection of new sports books (thanks to Miss Carter!).



The Diary of a Wimpy Kid Competition

The National Literacy Trust in partnership with Penguin Random House, have launched a writing competition for children aged 7-12. Based on *The Meltdown*, the latest book of the ever-popular Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney, we are asking our pupils to write a 500-word diary entry about the most exciting snow day they have ever had or could possibly imagine.

Children entering the competition will be in with a chance of winning a *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown* print signed by Jeff Kinney and £100 worth of Puffin



Ten runners up will each receive a signed copy of *The Meltdown*.

Pupils wishing to enter can ask Mrs White for an entry form or they can email Mrs White at cwhite@henlowacademy.org.uk Please write your full name, class, age and school address on your entry.

Closing date is 14th January. (this is our schools deadline to allow time to submit entries)

Top Borrowers

We are continuing to promote reading for pleasure in our school and pupils who borrow 6 or more books from the school library in each month gain house points and are awarded a certificate.

We would like to encourage more pupils to write book reviews on our Reading Cloud Library System. This can be accessed via google classrooms.

For further information about this or any library matters, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs White.



Could Your Child Be Eligible?



Ministry
of Defence



Directorate Children & Young People

2019 Service Pupil Premium

Extra Funding for State Schools, Free Schools and Academies attended by Service Children in England

Service parents with children in State maintained schools, Free schools and Academies in England are encouraged to ensure that the Head Teacher of their child(ren)'s school is made aware of their Service status ahead of the Spring school census deadline of 17 January 2019.

The Service Pupil Premium is provided by the Department for Education, to State maintained schools, Free schools and Academies in England who have children of Regular Armed Forces personnel among their pupil population to provide additional (mainly pastoral) support. Pupils with a parent on full commitment as part of the full-time Reserve Service (FC FTRS) are also classed as Service children.

Service Pupil Premium is currently £300.00 per Service pupil and is paid directly to schools.

Schools with Service children in Reception to Year 11 classes are eligible to receive the funding, but only if the child(ren)'s name appears on the school's roll as being a Service child.

The information recorded by schools regarding Service status is protected and data regarding individual children is not shared outside the school.

For more information on eligibility, please visit:

www.gov.uk/service-premium-information-for-schools

For general queries, please email the Directorate Children and Young People:

DCYP-DCYP-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk



Department
for Education



Langford & Henlow Residents



The Langford Welfare Trust

Every year the Langford Welfare Trust makes disbursements in the community to assist families who are in financial difficulty. If you live in Langford and are having difficulty with paying for something that is important to you and your family why not see if a payment can help you out?

The trust can provide funds for such things as basic items of furniture, school uniforms, books, travel costs, tools, equipment, training costs, or any welfare related item.

Historically the proceeds were distributed to the needy in Langford in the form of bread and coal. In 1899 2cwt (101kg) of coal was given to every family in the village and one loaf of bread was given to each child attending the village school.

Since 2009 an average of 4 disbursements per year have been made to successful applicants.

Today the proceeds are available for the general welfare and educational purposes of residents of Langford.

To enquire about a grant or to enquire for eligibility, please write to the Trust, c/o 3 Old Mill Close, Langford, Biggleswade, Beds., SG18 9QY, or 'phone 01462 700650

Henlow Residents

There is a similar scheme running in Henlow. If you are a Henlow resident and would like more information please contact Mrs Gregory on jgregory@henlowacademy.org.uk



Curriculum Update



On Tuesday 18th December your child will have been given their new timetable for the commencement of January 2019. This should now be glued into their planner. It was necessary to make some amendments to the school timetable as a result of some small staffing changes. On the most part the pupils will still have the same teachers for their lessons but the timing of the lessons may differ slightly from the first term.



Thank you



The Need Project would like to thank all of the parents and children for their generous donations of food. The parcels make a huge difference to families in need and even more so at this Christmas time. We wish you all a wonderful and blessed Christmas.

SEND Support

CBC SEND Parent and Young Person Partnership Service

Central
Bedfordshire



Free Drop In Information sessions

For parents/carers, children and young people regarding Special Educational Needs & Disability in educational settings.

We are a free, confidential and impartial support service for parents/carers, children and young people aged 0 – 25 years.

Get advice about:

- Finding a school
- Classroom Support
- SEND Support Plans
- Behaviour issues
- Education Health & Care Plans
- Annual Reviews
- Exclusions

How we help:

- Telephone helpline
- Leaflets and information
- Website and downloadable resources
- Help with forms, letters, EHCP
- Information on local support groups
- Home visits and support at school meetings

Spring Term Dates 2019

Dunstable South Children's Centre (Wednesdays 10-11.30am)

9th January, 13th March

Leighton Buzzard Children's Centre (Fridays 10-11.30am)

11th January, 1st February, 1st March

Shefford District Children's Centre (Wednesdays 9.30-11am)

23rd January, 27th February, 27th March

Sandy Children's Centre (Thursdays 9.30-11am)

10th January, 7th February, 7th March

No appointment necessary. If you cannot get to a session and need to talk to us, please contact us:



0300 300 8088



cbcsendpypps@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/parentpartnership



CBCSENDPYPPS



@SENDPartnership

In The Bleak Mid Winter

Please make sure you have filled in the online form which was sent out regarding your preferences should we need to close the school due to adverse weather conditions. You do not need to print off the form, just follow the link you were sent and fill it in online.



Lost Property



Please make sure you check lost property by the end of school on Wednesday 3rd January. Any lost property remaining will be removed and used for pupils in need.



Cancelled Clubs

Please be aware that if a club/fixture is cancelled on the day it is meant to occur, we will send a message home via Parent mail. Your child will be sent to the homework club after school which finishes at 4:45pm unless you contact the school requesting alternative arrangements which you would like them to do. We are unable to ring all parents



Help Us To Help You



Please treat our staff with respect.

We are doing our best to help you and
your child(ren).

Swearing, abusive language, threats and physical
violence against our staff will not be tolerat-



Attendance Matters



Our Attendance Team

Attendance Officer: Kelly Jando

Education Welfare Officer: Caroline Northover

Useful Numbers

School Office: 01462 813733

App - MyEd

School Arrival

8:40am Warning Bell

8:45- 9:00am Registration

9:00 –9:15am Late mark will be issued

9:15am onwards Unauthorised absence



FAQ

Q. My child has a tummy bug and isn't well enough for school. What do I need to do?

A. Call the school office on 01462 813733 before 9:00am to let us know. Children should not return to school after a sickness bug for 48 hours after their last episode of sickness/diarrhoea.

Q. I need to take my child to the dentist next week, do I need to let school know?

A. Yes please! Please inform the school office. Where possible please try to make appointments outside school hours/ during school holidays. If that is not possible please make them for the start or end of the school day.

Q. I sometimes struggle to get all of my 3 children to school before the school gates close, being 5-10 minutes late doesn't really make that much difference does it?

A. It is important for all children to be in school on time as it can be upsetting for the child and disruptive for the rest of the class when children are late. Children who are late need to arrive via the school office and will get a late mark.

Did you know?

- ☹️ 97% attendance means your child will have missed 6 days of school throughout the year.
- ☹️ 90% attendance means that your child will have been absent for the equivalent of one half day every week.
- ☹️ This also means that your child will have missed the equivalent of 4 whole weeks throughout the school year!
- ☹️ If you take a two week holiday during term time your child's attendance will automatically be reduced to less than 95%.
- ☹️ A two week holiday each year in school means a total of 14 weeks teaching time missed. This is the equivalent of a whole term and can have a real impact on your child's literacy and numeracy skills.
- ☹️ If your child does not attend school regularly and you fail to work with the school and The Education Welfare Service you may be fined up to £2500 and in extreme cases sent to prison.

Things to remember:

- ☒ Keeping children away from school is a criminal offence.
- ☒ If you do not let us know why your child is not in school their absence will be marked as unauthorised.
- ☒ Looking after other children, going shopping, waiting in are not valid reasons to keep your child off school and will be marked as unauthorised absences.
- ☒ Some parents believe that their child is automatically entitled to up to 10 days out of school a year. **THIS IS NOT TRUE!** Parents can request to take children out of school during term time by writing to the Attendance Officer. However, holidays are only granted in exceptional circumstances. Holidays taken without permission will be recorded as unauthorised and the



Dates To Remember



Date	Event
Wednesday 19th December	Year 5 church visit
Wednesday 19th December	Last day of term
Thursday 3rd January	First day of spring term
Tuesday 22nd January	Year 5 & Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 24th January	Year 5 & Year 8 Parents Evening
Tuesday 19th March	Year 6 & 7 Parents Evening
Thursday 21st March	Year 6 & 7 Parents Evening



Year 8 Parents



Year 8 parents should have received an email regarding permissions for future GCSE results to be shared with Henlow CE Academy. The form can be filled in online. If you haven't received this request, please email kevans@henlowacademy.org.uk



General Housekeeping

- Please ensure all money sent in to school is in a sealed envelope and has your child's name, class, what the money is for and the amount of money on the front.
- Please make sure that all your child's clothes and property is clearly named. If your child has lost any items please make sure they check lost property ASAP.
- **The school office are unable to call home if your child forgets something they need that day at school.** Please ensure your child checks their timetable and brings all they need each day.
- **ALL** children are required to bring in a named water bottle daily. The school do not have cups to provide to