



Henry Whipple Primary School

Padstow Road, Bestwood Estate, Nottingham, NG5 5GH

Tel: 0115 915 5723

Website: www.henrywhipple.co.uk

Email: sbm@henrywhipple.nottingham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr C Johnson, BA QTS, MA, NPQSL

27.02.2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term!

We were really proud of all of the achievements shown last half term academically, in sporting events and with attendance too. There was also a huge turn-out for the E-Safety Learning Together sessions. The feedback from these was overwhelmingly positive and detailed. Any feedback you provide is really important and we aim to work with parents to ensure HWPS is the best school it can be.

Governor elections

We are in need of two parental governors to join our excellent governing body. Attached to this letter is a parent governor advert outlining the position. It is an exciting time at Henry Whipple and this is an excellent opportunity to be a vital part in supporting the school.

Attendance

There has been a huge increase in school attendance since Christmas from 92% to 95.2%. This is a fantastic increase in only 6 weeks. Thank you to all parents who have worked hard to ensure your children are here, in school and on time each day. There is always something happening in school each week and any days missed are hard to catch up with - Miss School, Miss Out! Sometimes, absence is unavoidable so if your child will not be in school, please contact the school office before 8.45am. We still have work to do achieve our 97% target.

Planned absences

For any absences that are planned, there are strict rules and guidance that school must follow from Ofsted and Nottingham City Council. Only under very certain circumstances are these granted. In some cases where the absence has been for an extended period, a fixed penalty notice will be given. The school does not receive any of the money from the fixed penalty notice.





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After School Learning

If your child is in a club, please ensure they are collected promptly at the time indicated in the letter and that they visit every session. It is important as places have been limited with not every child being chosen. Any child not chosen in these recent clubs will be given other opportunities in school and in the next round in the second summer half term.

Uniform

Shoes need to be black for both PE and non-PE days. Fully black trainers are acceptable for PE/ non-PE days. This will ensure you do not need to purchase two pairs of shoes.

As part of our commitment to ensuring we can support all families with affordable uniform, we would like to encourage donations of any used uniform that you do not require anymore. These will be then available for families as part of our 'pre-loved' uniform. They will be charged at a heavily reduced price to cover the costs of washing and cleaning them.

World Book Day

Next week is World Book Day. Theme is 'Adventure'.

We have made the choice not to dress up this year. There will be a huge number of activities during the day to celebrate reading, books and all things adventure. As part of the day, we want children to bring in their favourite story to talk about with their friends and class.

Complaints

At HWPS we have high expectations of children and ourselves. Sometimes mistakes can happen and we encourage open dialogue with all of our parents in order to learn from anything that occurs. Sometimes these may be minor and speaking to the class teacher in the first instance should solve most concerns so they do not escalate. If you have more serious concerns, please refer to the complaints policy which is available on the school website.





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School updates

This half term we are working hard to support children's handwriting and transcription. Staff have had training on how to support your child to improve their handwriting and will be assessing to see if any need further support. Being able to write clearly and quickly is important so that pupils can concentrate more on their ideas. This might involve your child receiving further support with handwriting and your child's teacher will inform you if this is the case. If you would like to support your child at home with this or feel like your child would benefit from further support, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Building Site Safety

We have had a number of complaints from the Vistry, the builders who manage the new housing development about parental behaviour. Please can we remind all parents that the housing estate is a construction site and has hazards and dangers which they carefully manage. School have worked hard with the development to minimise disruption and we kindly ask that all parents ensure they are not walking through the building site.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Johnson

Head Teacher





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Governor Elections

What are we looking for?

Henry Whipple is looking for 2 enthusiastic and dedicated parents who are keen to play a role in helping the school to run effectively by working as part of a team alongside Governors, the Head and school staff to ensure a happy and safe learning environment and excellent education for all pupils.

What skills are needed?

You do not need leadership or education experience, just a desire to give back to the school and its community. The school is looking for a broad range of skills, experiences and backgrounds. This voluntary role can be challenging yet extremely rewarding and is a great way to build on personal and professional skills. Parent Governors are supported in their role through a programme of training and mentoring, allowing you to use your knowledge and experience to provide supportive challenge.

What will you do?

You will work with the Local Governing Board to develop the school's priorities and provide effective oversight, support and challenge. Parent Governors are representative parents rather than representatives of parents. You will not be expected to gather the views of other parents or become personally involved in individual concerns. You will need to be able to present a balanced and impartial view, based on benefits for every pupil.

What will your contribution include?

Meetings take place each term throughout the year and can be combined with school visits focused on school priorities. You will receive reports from the Head and senior leaders and need to be able to question and support decisions. You will also be expected to visit the school as a Governor which will be a different experience to visiting as a parent. You will be expected to undertake induction training, annual safeguarding training, and other training as assigned by the school. The school operates a code of conduct which sets an ethos of professionalism and high expectations for all Governors.

What can we offer?

- a chance to develop skills in strategic management
- the opportunity to work with our team of Governors and staff in improving our School
- a sense of achievement in making a difference to our School





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- the pleasure of helping pupils to reach their potential
- the opportunity to contribute and represent the school community

Next Steps ...

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the school office. To apply you should be a parent or carer of a pupil currently registered at Henry Whipple Primary School. Nomination forms can be found on the school website, or at the school reception area.

Depending on the number of applications there may be an election process. All nomination forms must be received by email, by hand or by post to the school office no later than 3.00 p.m. on Friday 13th March 2026.

