



School Cuts – Ongoing impact.

It has been my pleasure and honour to be in my 19th year of headship at Hitherfield Primary School. I honestly believe I have one of the best jobs in the world. Unfortunately, since 2010 schools across England have seen real term cuts in their budgets. As a school we have managed these cuts for many years by not replacing staff as they have left and gradually reducing the amount we spend on resources. We have become increasingly reliant on the PTA and parental donations for some basics, such as reading books, and for improvements to the astroturf and other play equipment.

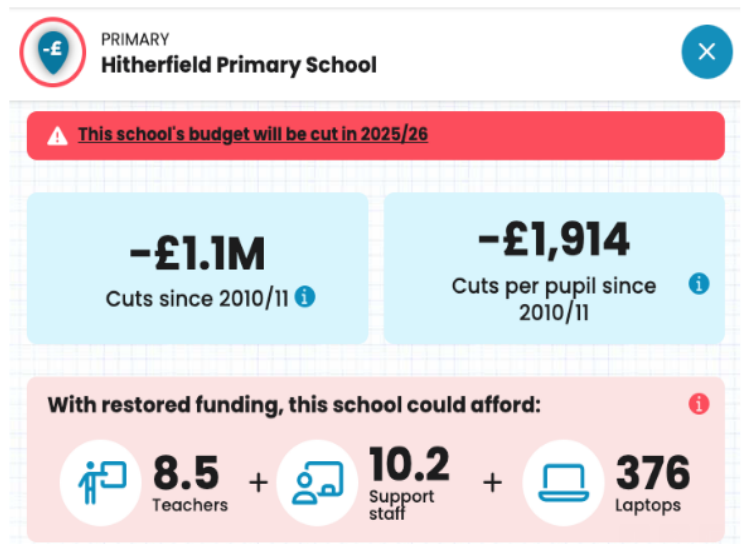
Unlike many schools in Lambeth and across the country who are in financial deficit, we have managed to maintain a positive financial position. However, these real term cuts are now reaching a point where even we may struggle to remain in a strong financial position going forward. In the last two years we have seen futher unfunded staff pay increases, which are expected to continue again next year. Pension and national insurance costs incurred by the school have rapidly increased and, as I am sure you will know, gas and electric bills have increased 50%, as have many other associated costs such as cleaning and maintenace.

Sadly, even with a change in government, there appears to be no signs of this financial pressure improving. I have therefore decided to throw myself behind the Stop School Cuts campaign. Many of you may have seen the posters around the school or even had a flyer sent home. The Stop School Cuts campaign highlights the amount of real terms cuts our school has had to deal with in the table below. Things have to change, so I have agreed to take part in a short film to support the campaign. You may see a camera crew on the school site on Monday 24th March, especially around the Leigham Vale entrance in the morning. We will be filming in the school that day. No child will be featured in the film, but they may appear in the background, so please inform the admin school office if you do not want your child to appear.

In the meantime please take a look at this link for more information about the campaign and how you could support it. We need to ensure the government is aware of the stuggles all schools are facing.

Thank you,

Chris Ashley-Jones
Executive Headteacher





Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 19th March Year 5 trip to
Elmgreen School for a Author Visit

Friday 21st March – RED NOSE DAY

Wednesday 26th March – 4 Flamingo Class
Assembly and Open Morning 9:15am –
10:30am

Thursday 27th March – 4 Cheetah Class
Assembly and Open Morning 9:15am –
10:30am

Friday 28th March – 4 Hippo Class Assembly
and Open Morning 9:15am – 10:30am

Wednesday 2nd April – Nursery Class
Assembly and Open Morning 9:15am –
10:30am

Thursday 3rd April– **Eggstravaganza
(drop off)**

Friday 4th April – **Eggstravaganza
(collection)**

Friday 4th April - EID Fair 3:30pm – 5pm

Friday 4th April – Last Day of Term

**Tuesday 22nd April - Children return to
school on there is no inset as previously
advertised**



Sponsored cycle/scoot/run/crazy/hair day - Friday
21st March 2025

We will be selling Red Nose's in the school office
from Monday £2.50 each.

Preferably card payments only.

More information about the day can be found
futher down

Sponsorship forms will be emailed along side this
Herald and you can pick up a paper copy from the
school office.

Eggstravaganza - Thursday 3rd April

Please bring your entries straight to the Studio on
Thursday 3rd April. Each class will get the opportunity
to visit the Studio to see all of the eggs. Adults can see
the eggs after school on the Thursday 3rd April or
before school on Friday 4th April

The prize winners will be announced at the
Eggstravaganza assemblies on Friday 4th April

Children will take their eggs home on Friday 4th April

**Every entry is rewarded with a cream egg.
Here's are some photos of last year's entries:**





GOOD NEWS CARDS

Congratulations to these children who have really impressed their Teachers this week.

1 COBRA	1 DUGONG	1 SUNBIRD
Alexandra and Alfie	Theo & Sarah	Kylan and Dominik
2 MANATEE	2 MONGOOSE	2 HUMMINGBIRD
Alex and Phoebe	Fraser and Willow	Eric and Zenaya
3 JAGUAR	3 MACAW	3 ANACONDA
Sufian and Emmeline	The whole of Macaw Class	Ely and Louis
4 HIPPOPOTAMUS	4 FLAMINGO	4 CHEETAH
Ted and Stanley	Samuel and Gabriela	Kylah and Baillo
5 KINGFISHER	5 HEDGEHOG	5 OTTER
Sahara and Reece and Alexandra	Luca and Alba	Sam and Arlo C
6 ORCA	6 PUFFIN	6 WOLVERINE
Dylan and April	Elsie and Esme	Jack and William

BiG Holiday Programme

Sorry for any confusion in the Herald last week, as we are excited to confirm that BiG is running 2 fun provisions over the Easter holidays:

1. Our part funding HAF Football Only Holiday Programme at Rosendale Playing Fields (we had 22 free spaces for those on benefit related free school meals and £50 per week for those who are not. This programme is for 7 to 14 years-old)

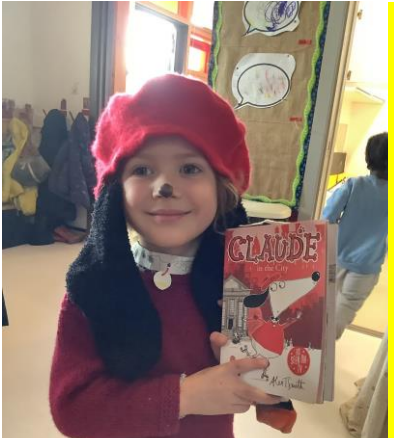
If interested, please complete the registration form - <https://www.bigcic.org/haf-spring-2025-programme> - and following the payment instructions if not on benefit related free school meals. Please note that we only have 10 free places left!

2. Our all-inclusive activities programme at Hitherfield School include Arts and Crafts, board games and other fun out door activities for for £80 per week / £20 per day (which we purposely set this rate low to support our community which is value for money and we know a lot cheaper than most provisions). This provision is for 5 to 13 years-old and to register, please complete the registration form - <https://www.bigcic.org/big-2025-holiday-camps-registration> - and following the payment instructions.

All enquiries should be made to Lionel on 07957 208 930 or email - lionel.best@bigcic.org



(Nursery) DRESSED AS:
Claude



(Reception) DRESSED AS: Elmer



(Year 1) DRESSED AS: Octopants



(Year 2) DRESSED AS: Pippi
Longstocking



BEST COSTUME WORLD BOOK DAY 2025!

(Year 3) DRESSED AS:
Tinker Bell



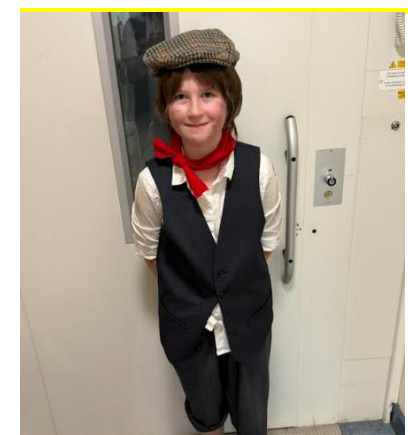
(Year 4) DRESSED AS: Bat
Baby



(Year 5) DRESSED AS:
Maggoty Skull



(Year 6) DRESSED AS:
Oliver Twist





**RAISING FUNDS FOR THE PTA, OUR
Y6 KIDS WILL BE RUNNING A...**

TUCK SHOP FRIDAY



**Pringles, Doritos, Pom-Bears, Popcorn,
Doughnuts, Fruit kebabs, Watermelon,
Capri-Sun, Fruit shoots, Mini eggs & more**

**AFTER SCHOOL, FRIDAY 21ST MARCH
MAIN PLAYGROUND**

Card & cash payments taken



Join us for our first

Hitherfield SEND Parents Community Coffee Morning!

Friday 21 March 9-1030 am

Are you a parent or carer of a child with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities or just curious to know more about neurodiversity?

Come and join us for our first SEND Parents' Community Coffee Morning. Meet Unta, our new SENDCO for the upper years, learn about SEND support at Hitherfield and hear news on the opening of the brand-new space, The Warren, specifically designed as a multi use area to support all students.

The coffee morning will be a great chance to **ask questions**, **meet other parents** and find out more on the **calendar of events** we'll be running throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you all then.

**Join our
Parents'
WhatsApp
Group**

by following
this QR code





Hitherfield PTA invite you to our

Eid Fair

FRIDAY 4TH APRIL 2025

Hitherfield Primary School 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Join us for an afternoon of fun, we have
lots in store for you all.

Delicious home cooked food

Bouncy castles and games

Hot and cold drinks

Candy floss & popcorn

Nutella Chapattis

Cakes

Wear your own colourful clothes for a
small donation!

Cash and card accepted. If you can help by donating food,
cakes or volunteering on the day, please get in touch with
us on hitherfieldpta@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there!



Sponsored cycle/scoot/run crazy hair day - 21st March 2025

We are really excited to be raising money for Comic Relief! This year Comic Relief hits the big 4-0 and they're asking the nation to join the party and go big, give big and feel good! Because when we all do a little something funny for money, big beautiful change happens. A donation to Comic Relief this Red Nose Day will support projects that help children be happier, families stronger, women safer, communities prouder and millions of lives fairer.

This year we are having a sponsored cycle/scoot/run around our school grounds along with sporting a crazy hair doo!

To take part in the event we are asking for donations. Sponsorship forms are also available if you would like to assist your child in raising even more money for the good causes Red Nose Day supports.

We know there's a lot going on right now and for many people things are really tough. But if you can donate, every penny will add up to a life changing difference. Because people matter. Everyone. Everywhere. Always!

You can donate via ParentPay [Click here](#) or by dropping some donations in the buckets on 21 March.

For health and safety reasons pupils must wear a helmet when taking part on either a bicycle or scooter.

So don't forget to bring in your bike, scooter or trainers, a helmet, wear something RED and sport a crazy hair doo on the day! **Red noses will be available to purchase for £2.50 at the office on Monday (Limited availability).**



We're taking part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2025 challenge.

Join in by walking, wheeling,
scooting or cycling to school
between 24 March-4 April.

- ✓ Be active and feel more energised
- ✓ Help the environment by replacing a car journey
- ✓ Help us win some fantastic prizes

www.BigWalkAndWheel.org.uk

Headline sponsor:

SCHWALBE ➔



LOVE TO SING?

WHY NOT JOIN

THE HITHERFIELD PARENTS' CHOIR

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF HITHERFIELD

- NO CHOIR EXPERIENCE NEEDED -
- ALL SONGS LEARNT BY EAR (NO SHEET MUSIC) -
- SING FOLK, POP, ROUNDS AND SHANTIES -
- AUDIO LEARNING TRACKS PROVIDED -
- A GREAT WAY TO MEET OTHER HITHERFIELD PARENTS/CARERS -
- FUN, RELAXED AND INCLUSIVE -
- BABIES/TODDLERS WELCOME -

NOT SURE IF ITS FOR YOU?
TRY A FREE DROP IN SESSION!

EVERY MONDAY 9:15AM TO 10:15AM
IN THE DOWNSTAIRS HALL

£70 PER 10-WEEK TERM

FREE PLACES AVAILABLE TO
THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR PUPIL PREMIUM

Email choir leader Ian Bennett
if you'd like a place or free taster session:
ibmuso@gmail.com





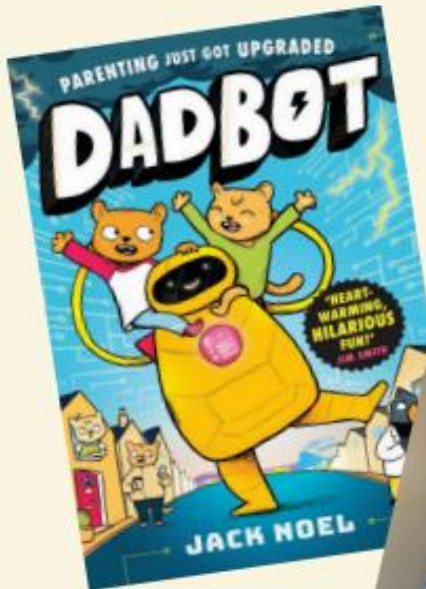
Author visit for Year 1 – 4 only

AUTHOR VISIT

AT HITHERFIELD

The brilliant author and illustrator Jack Noel will be visiting pupils at Hitherfield on **Wednesday 19th March**.

The Paper Cat Children's Bookshop is delighted to offer families the chance to pre-order his books ahead of his visit to be signed and dedicated on the day.



Please use the link below to place an order by **12pm Monday 17th March**

[ORDER HERE](#)



Call: 0204 568 1309
Instagram: @papercatbooks
Info@papercatbookshop.co.uk
25 Half Moon Lane, SE24 9JU



MARCH EVENTS AT THE PAPER CAT



Comic Workshop

with Jack Noel

4pm on Thursday 20th March

Free - Booking required.

STORYTIME & CRAFT

with Alice Alderman

10am Friday 21st March

Fun for kids 2 - 5 years

£3 per child (redeemable against book)



DRAWING WORKSHOP

with Clara Booth

4pm Friday 21st March

Ages 5-8. Free - booking required



STORYTIME & CRAFT

with Momoko Abe

4pm THURSDAY
27th March

Free - booking required

SCAN TO BOOK
OUR EVENTS





The BiG Spring 2025 Holiday Camp!

Engage in.....

Arts & Crafts

Board games

BiG
BESTY'S
INSPIRATIONAL
GUIDANCE

Register now for the BiG Spring 2025 Camp at Hitherfield Primary School, Leigham Vale, Streatham SW16 2JQ - Monday 7th to Thursday 17th April 2025 (**excluding weekends**), 9 days in total,


For all children between 5 and 13 years-old!

..... and just £80 per week!

Multi-sports games

Places will be limited and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis so book now - <https://www.bigcic.org/big-2025-holiday-camps-registration>

All enquiries to Lionel Best on
020 8676 3480 / 07957 208 930 /
lionel.best@bigcic.org

 Think_b.i.g

 BiG2011


Think BiG
 BestysBiG  bigcic_2019



The BiG Spring 2025
Holiday Football Programme



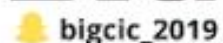
Register now for the BiG Spring 2025 Holiday Football Programme <https://youtu.be/H2dzpAluBMw> at Rosendale Playing Fields, Rosendale Road, SE21 8LW, between Tuesday 8th & Friday the 11th, and Monday 14th & Thursday 17th April 2025, 8 days in total.

For just £50 per week!

However, we are pleased to announce that 22 free places will be allocated to Lambeth residents that receive benefit-related free school meals and they will be offered on a first come first serve basis so book now - <https://www.bigcic.org/haf-spring-2025-programme>

All enquiries to Lionel Best on 07908 950 630 / lionel.best@bigcic.org

FREE PLACES FUNDED BY LAMBETH COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION!



NUMBER 0677 14th March 2025

HITHERFIELD HERALD

www.hitherfield.co.uk



Hitherfield Family to Family Spring 2025

Are you in need of a bag of groceries for your family over the holidays? If you need help or are able to help please email hitherfieldfamily@gmail.com or Whatsapp 07909500713 by Friday 14th March.

Avez-vous besoin d'un sac d'épicerie pour votre famille pendant les vacances ? Si vous avez besoin d'aide ou si vous êtes en mesure d'aider, veuillez envoyer un e-mail à hitherfieldfamily@gmail.com ou à Whatsapp 07909500713 avant le vendredi 14 Mars.

¿Necesita una bolsa de provisiones para su familia durante las vacaciones? Si necesita ayuda o puede ayudar, envíe un correo electrónico a hitherfieldfamily@gmail.com o Whatsapp 07909500713 antes del viernes 14 de marzo

هل أنت في حاجة إلى حقيبة من البقالة لعائلتك خلال العطلات؟ إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة أو كنت قادرًا على المساعدة، فيرجى إرسال بريد إلكتروني إلى hitherfieldfamily@gmail.com أو Whatsapp 07909500713 بحلول يوم الجمعة 14 مارس.

Czy potrzebujesz torby z zakupami dla swojej rodziny na święta? Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy lub możesz pomóc, wyślij e-mail na adres hitherfieldfamily@gmail.com lub Whatsapp 07909500713 do piątku 14 marca

هل أنت في حاجة إلى حقيبة من البقالة لعائلتك خلال العطلات؟ إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة أو كنت قادرًا على المساعدة، فيرجى إرسال بريد إلكتروني إلى hitherfieldfamily@gmail.com أو Whatsapp 07909500713 بحلول يوم الجمعة 14 مارس.

Você está precisando de uma sacola de compras para sua família durante as férias? Se você precisar de ajuda ou puder ajudar, envie um e-mail para hitherfieldfamily@gmail.com ou Whatsapp 07909500713 até sexta-feira, 14 de Março.

Ma u baahan tahay bac raashin ah qoyskaaga fasaxyada? Haddii aad u baahan tahay caawimo ama aad caawin karto fadlan iimay! ku soo dir hitherfieldfamily@gmail.com ama Whatsapp 07909500713 ugu dambayn Jimcaha 14-ka Maarso.



Who are we?

This is an initiative, run voluntarily, by Hitherfield parents with support from the School.

Why?

To support our Hitherfield friends and their families to bring food to the table over the holidays.

If you are a family in need:

Please send us your name, how many children you have, their age and a list of items you need to value of £30. We will then give that list, without your identity, to a family to purchase and it will be at the Leigham Vale school gates for you to collect between 9.15am and 10.30am Wednesday 2nd April. If collection at this time is an issue do mention that in your email. There will also be second hand uniform available.

If you are able to support a family or more:

Thank you. We will send you an email by you by with a bag of groceries to purchase on or before Friday 14th March, the value of which should not exceed £30. Please then bring the groceries to the Leigham Vale school gate at drop off, on Wednesday, 2nd April. If you are unable to buy the groceries you can also leave a donation in cash in an envelope marked Family to Family at the school office or donate by clicking [here](#)