



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER 10 – JULY

Academic Year 2015 - 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

We have just under a week to go and the children and staff are working as hard as ever. I had the enjoyable experience of watching the Year 6 performance during the dress rehearsal on Monday and have to say that I have never seen such a well-polished and entertaining production. Well done to all the children and Year 6 staff and teaching assistants who have made this possible – thank you to all of you for helping the children with their lines and providing costumes! A massive team effort and the children (although probably very tired now we have reached the end of the week) should be extremely proud of themselves.

Contents

Latest News

Secondary Admissions
Results
Reports
School Visits
Outdoor Learning
Site Works
Parent Governor Election

PTA

End of Term Discos

Notices:

Kent Libraries Reading Challenge 2016
Breakfast Club
School Uniform
School Meals

Dates for Your Diary

Overview of key dates for new academic year

Secondary Admissions

The children from Year 6 are going to 16 different Secondary Schools. Fifty-five per cent of Year 6 are moving onto non selective schools with Longfield having the largest number of children going compared with other schools. This year there is a much wider spread across different types of school and location.

Results

This year's results at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception classes) remain as high as last year and we are very proud of our Early Years team. Year 2 and Year 6 have been assessed against the new national Curriculum for the first time. This has brought many challenges in meeting the much more demanding expectations and also reporting these in a way to parents that demonstrates how well the children have done. The outcomes for both year groups remain high comparative to both local and national results. We are very proud of the way the children have risen to the challenge and they have a huge amount to celebrate.

Reports

Reports have been produced differently this year due to the expectations that children will progress through Stages and not levels. When you read your child's report please remember that this is a new curriculum with new, higher expectations and use different language for reporting attainment and progress. It is much harder for children to move upward through Stages as the emphasis is now on mastering and working at greater depth - before moving a child onto the next Stage.

Pupils at Hartley continue to perform well in all year groups and I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of your children in their learning beyond the classroom.

School Visits

Year 1 children had a wonderful trip to Buckingham Palace – they behaved impeccably and I thank both staff and parent helpers for ensuring the trip went so smoothly. The children were lucky enough to have their own personal guide to the mews in the shape of our outgoing governor, Mr Roger Brindle. Our Year 2 children have been very busy this week – first a visit to Botany Bay and then yesterday, parents were treated to their class assembly – showcasing all the work they have covered in previous terms.

Year 6 attended a Safety in Action event recently at Cobham Hall and we also sent a contingent of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils to take part in a Take Pride Athletics competition in Gravesend. Thank you to Mrs Fewell and Mrs Masters for supporting the children at the event this week and to parents for transporting children to the venue.

Year 3's will be going on their last swimming session today – a very big thank you to all our parent volunteers for joining us on these trips over the last few weeks; assisting the children and ensuring clothing has been reunited with its wearer on (most) occasions! Without your help we would find it extremely difficult to coordinate these activities.

Mrs Adams took a contingent of children to the annual Longfield Music Festival – held at Longfield Academy. Along with other local primary schools, the children spent the day rehearsing and performed for parents in the evening. Thank you to Mrs Adams and Mrs Collings for not only looking after the children on the day, but for spending lunchtimes practicing with them so they were pitch perfect!

PTA

The Summer Fair was a great success – the weather turned for the better – having been torrential leading up to the day, and it stayed dry for the afternoon. A fantastic effort by everyone involved – to keep us entertained and fed! Thank you to parents for bringing in sweets and bottles for the Tombola.

The PTA are tireless in their work; not everything they do is 'headline' material. For example, they provide refreshments for the Reception Parents' Evening and then again, for the transition days. Water is provided each year for Sports Day courtesy of the PTA. The 'Washed and Ready to Wear' rail is maintained (we have our last one this **Monday - 18th July**, on the top playground) and our PTA have kindly donated their time to sorting through all the Lost Property and trying, where possible to reunite clothing with their owner.

Finally, for this year, the **End of Term Discos** are organised and run by members of the PTA and they do a fantastic job in supervising the children and keeping them replenished with much needed refreshments.

Please note – we are continuing with the entry system which we employed at Christmas and last summer. Please take coats away with you at drop off, to make the system run smoother.

5 – 6pm Foundation Stage/KS1 (Years 1 & 2)	= Entry via the Main Entrance
6.15 – 7.15pm KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)	= Entry for Years 3 & 4 – Entry via Redwood classroom
	= Entry for Years 5 & 6 – Entry via Cedar classroom
7.15 – 8.15pm Year 6 Only	= Entry for Year 6 – Entry via Cedar classroom

All children will be reunited with their parents in the hall – and must exit via the back of the hall. Thank you.

Outdoor Learning

When I first arrived at Hartley the children asked that the Forest School area be available to all year groups and not just Reception. Staff here are very keen to accommodate these wishes as outdoor learning is an inspirational way to engage all pupils and actually provide essential life skills as well as improving standards in all areas of learning.

We have agreed as a team that we will be opening up this opportunity on a regular basis for all classes. The lessons will be planned carefully and linked to the topic of study. Children will therefore need to bring a water proof coat, trousers and wellies from the **beginning of next term**. These outdoor clothes will remain in school just like their PE kit so that they are always prepared for outdoor learning activities. As with school uniform, please ensure all outdoor 'kit' is labelled with your child's name.

Site Works Over the Summer

Site works and improvements include the upgrade to our security – around the site and internally. In addition, we are currently confirming plans to renovate the pond and the surrounding area. We would love to hear from parents who can donate some of their time to coming into school to help! Please don't contact us just yet – but you may receive an email over the summer holidays calling for parents to form a working party. Watch this space!

Parent Governor Election

I am pleased to be able to say we have 9 candidates for the position of Parent Governor at Hartley Primary Academy. For each child you have at the school, you have one vote. One child one vote. If you have more than one child at the school, you will have received (via your child) further letters and ballot papers. Please ensure you return the correct ballot paper (in a sealed envelope) which lists 9 candidates. Any voting papers received after Thursday 21st July will not be counted.

The results of the election will be published on the school website.

Kent Libraries Reading Challenge

Our local libraries are all supporting this year's Reading Challenge. Please refer to the website: <http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk>. There are booklists, suggestions and all sorts of activities to encourage children to read. Please do encourage your child to read as much as possible over the summer holidays; a 6-week gap in reading is a significant one and we play 'catch-up' with the children for a number of weeks on our return in September.



Breakfast Club

For those parents who asked for their children to be placed on the waiting list, we will be contacting families individually before the end of term to confirm if their requests can be accommodated.

Please can I also take this opportunity to ask that **all** children are escorted across the car park to Breakfast Club. Too often I see children running across the car park from the barrier – this is potentially dangerous with staff driving into school at that time of the day. Please keep hold of your child. Thank you.

School Uniform

Please can we ask that uniform is named in **black pen** on your child's return to school in September.

Please check after every wash to ensure names are still clearly marked on labels.

Please visit our supplier's website: <http://www.brigade.uk.com/> to order items for September. In order to guarantee delivery for the start of the term, orders must be received by 7th August. Thank you.

School Meals

Continuing from last year, all children in Years R, 1 and 2 are entitled to Free School Meals. However, parents with children currently in Year 2 will need to take the decision about whether to carry on with School Meals when their children move into Year 3 and the funding stops.

IMPORTANT: Families who would have been eligible for Free School Meals should still apply. Additional funding is made available to schools based on the numbers of children eligible for Free School Meals and this helps us provide intervention groups and additional adult support. I cannot emphasise how important this is – if you are in any doubt about your eligibility, which is based on income, please contact the School Office in confidence. They will be happy to support and advise – and are able to make a claim on your behalf.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, Olive Dining will be providing school meals from September – therefore, it is very important that all balances owing to TCS Independent Ltd are cleared before we break for the summer.

Calendar for 2016/17

With the new term being such as a busy one, please see below for an overview of the dates and events booked in so far.

September Dates	
Monday 5 th September	STAFF TRAINING DAY - School closed for children
Tuesday 6 th September	Term 1 begins – welcome back!
Tuesday 6 th – Tuesday 13 th September	Foundation Stage Teachers Home Visits
Thursday 8 th September	Year 6 Grammar School Selection Tests
Wednesday 14 th September	Foundation Stage pupils first day
Thursday 15 th September	PTA Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Monday 19 th September	Phonics Meeting for Foundation Stage parents (2.00pm)
Monday 19 th – Wednesday 28 th September	Foundation Stage stay in school for lunch (collection at 1.15pm)
Wednesday 21 st September	'Meet the Teacher' 6.00pm (6.00 – 6.30pm Session 1 in classes. 6.30pm – Principal's Address. 7.00 – 7.30pm Session 2 in classes. PTA AGM 7.30pm.
Monday 26 th September	After School Clubs start
Thursday 29 th September	Foundation Stage are full time from this date
October Dates	
Tuesday 4 th October	Kent Messenger – First Class photos
Friday 21 st October	Term 1 Ends
Monday 31 st October	Term 2 Begins. Deadline for Secondary Applications
November Dates	
Tuesday 1 st November	Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 3 rd November	Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday 8 th November	New Reception 2017 – Open Morning
Wednesday 16 th November	New Reception 2017 – Open Morning
Thursday 24 th November	New Reception 2017 – Open Morning
December Dates	
Wednesday 21 st December	Term 2 Ends

Last Day of Term

Our last day of term is **Thursday 21st July** - school will be open to pupils on **Tuesday 6th September 2016**. We will issue a full diary of events to parents as early as we can in the new academic year.

Although this is the last newsletter of the academic year, please look out for my last blog of the year – which will be posted on our website before we break next week.

I wish you a happy and safe summer break and look forward to seeing the children refreshed and ready to go in September.

Yours sincerely

S. Goosani

Mrs S Goosani
Principal

