



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER 3

Academic Year – 2015-2016
November



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's definitely 'Winnie-the-Pooh and the Blustery Day' time! Finally we feel we are in autumn. It has been the most beautiful season so far, with the leaves remaining on the trees and changing colour so gradually. The 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' has given way to a fiercer nature, with gales and storms; not yet the frosts of winter – which we need to kill off the tummy and cold bugs which are plaguing us currently.

Contents:

Latest News - Children in Need
Events and Visitors - 'Roots to Food'
Year 4 – Egyptian Day
Year 5 – Royal Greenwich Observatory

Focus on Antbullying

PTA

After School Clubs

Parent Input - Pupil and Parent Survey 2015
Informing Parents about the Curriculum
Parent Consultations
World of Work

P.E. Funding

Site Update - Cars, Pollution, Parking
Winter Arrangements

Total Catering – Winter Menu

Christmas Events

Forthcoming Events

Children in Need

What an amazing day we had! The children were spotty and yellow and had a thoroughly fun time. Thank you to the School Council led by Mrs Creed who works with us 2 days a week. She did a remarkable job organising various events and counting money. Mrs Creed was a Hartley Superhero! Year 6 children were incredibly entrepreneurial, making biscuits, models, bookmarks and jewellery which they advertised and sold at the beginning and the end of the day. They cannot do this without both the financial and moral support of their parents who generously contributed the 'raw materials' which the children needed to produce their unique and lovely wares. Altogether a fantastic £805.52 was raised! Thank you all for your generosity.



Events and Visitors

'Roots to Food' was an incredibly exciting event; sponsored by our caterers, TCS. Darren Tinkler came to tell us all about healthy food and then lead a 'Ready, Steady, Cook'-type event. Miss Grundy and Mr Goldsmith were the team leaders, cooking chicken with pasta in a ragu sauce and salmon fishcakes with lemon-infused rice. This they did before our very eyes and the Official Tasters pronounced the contest to be a draw. Darren had to make the tiebreaking decision and Mr Goldsmith's team won by a whisker! Key Stage 1 children had the opportunity to make and sample smoothies.

Year 4

Year 4 had a wonderful Egyptian day experience, with visitors to school taking them on a fabulous adventure into ancient Egypt. Thank you to all of you who supported your children by encouraging them to dress up on the day. (Luckily the Roman outfit from Year 3 can be easily adapted to become an Egyptian outfit for Year 4 and a Greek robe for Year 5!)

Year 5

Year 5 are visiting the London Planetarium on November 30th as part of their work in Science.

Focus on Antibullying

I would like to take the opportunity of it being Antibullying Week to remind parents that bullying in any form will not be tolerated. This includes Racist and Homophobic bullying.

What does Homophobic bullying look like?

- Homophobic bullying/name calling occurs when bullying is motivated by a prejudice against lesbians, gay or bisexual people.
- It can include spreading rumours that someone is gay, suggesting that something or someone is inferior and so they are "gay" – for example, "You're such a gay boy" or "That's gay".
- Even when pupils may not know what the words mean, but use homophobic language against others, it is still a form of bullying/name calling.

We do not view homophobic name calling as "harmless banter". We recognise that if it is not challenged at primary school it is harder to address at secondary school. If a pupil is not explicitly told that homophobic bullying is wrong they may think it is OK to do this.

What is Bullying?

Children will often 'fall out' or have an argument or spat with friends or a group of people in their class. This is not bullying. There is no legal definition of bullying, however, it's usually defined as behaviour that is:

- Repeated.
- Intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally.
- Often aimed at certain groups, e.g. because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

It takes many forms and can include:

- Physical assault.
- Teasing.
- Making threats.
- Name calling.
- Cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (eg email, social networks and instant messenger).

Responding to an Incident

Incidents of this nature are fairly rare, but if we hear a child using homophobic language we will address it, guided by our knowledge of the individual pupil's maturity and personal circumstances. If a child persistently uses homophobic language to bully another child, parents will be informed and there is an expectation that parents will support the school.

PTA

Thank you to the PTA for providing, once again, a welcome and refreshments for prospective parents who are currently visiting us during Open Mornings and are making decisions about which primary school to send their children to for September 2016

The PTA's next project is the Christmas Fair on **Saturday 28th November** - with the School Choir to open the event from 11.00am. On **Friday 27th November** we have our annual Christmas Funky Hat/Christmas Jumper Day where we ask children to bring in sweets or a bottle for the Christmas Fair tombola in exchange for wearing their latest festive accessories. Children should come dressed in school uniform please. If you can spare some time on the day of the fair to help out please email the PTA – hartleyprimarypta@gmail.com

The PTA will run the Christmas Discos on **Thursday 17th December (not for our Reception children this time around)** and just when we feel the PTA has earned the right to have a brief respite, we begin Term 3 with the PTA Movie Night on **Friday 8th January 2016!** Clearly some of these events are fund-raisers but also they are opportunities for families and children to meet socially. The PTA committee is always most keen to spend the funds raised on equipment or facilities which improve the children's school experience. The latest project is replacing equipment on the lower playground Trimtrail.

After School Clubs

Our last week of clubs will commence on Monday 30th November 2015.

Parent Input

Pupil and Parent Survey 2015

We continue to roll out our surveys on a 6 weekly basis and we DO take notice of the feedback. Whilst most responses are positive there are a few issues which we will be looking into further. Homework is a regular 'bone of contention' – we either set too much or too little! The National Curriculum is harder and as a consequence the homework will probably reflect this. Please, please let the teacher know if there are difficulties with homework via the homework diary – or at the beginning of the day when they come to collect the children from the playground. If we know of issues we can work with the children and revisit what is set for them or look at how we can better support them. Whilst some of the concerns raised about homework are across the school, the transition from Year 2 to Year 3 can be challenging for children. Again, if they are finding the demands of homework tricky, please write a note to the teacher in the homework book so we can help make things better!

Year 1 parents clearly miss the daily updates which the Tapestry program provides. Tapestry is only for Reception. Beyond Year R we use a different system which will **in time** have the facility for parents to interact with it – but the program itself is still being developed. Also, our use and management of it is prioritising on formative and summative assessment and analysis. Mrs Lambourne will be liaising with a 'working party' of parents from each year group and will update us all with developments.

I remind parents that we have the weekly pop-in facility but also that teachers will contact parents by phone if that is more convenient, if you have a query or would like clarification.

I meet regularly with other local and Trust Headteachers and one of the questions I raise quite regularly is how other schools organise their parents' evenings and communicate with parents. We are certainly in line with how other primary schools operate. Some secondary schools take a whole day for meetings with parents, possibly twice in the academic year. This is something we could consider, but the disadvantage to this arrangement is that parents would have to take time off work to look after their children and come into school for a 20 minute appointment. Some secondary schools finish early one day each week – again we could consider such options – but small children need supervision at home – which would impact significantly on our parents.

Informing Parents about the Curriculum

Last year we held a Maths Workshop event for parents and we will be happy to run a similar evening in the spring. We have also run workshops for keeping children safe on the Internet – again, we would be happy to run such an event once more.

Parent Consultations

The dates for these meetings are published in advance. Thank you to the majority of parents for securing appointments and for attending. It is something that children look forward to and these information evenings are essential. However, an increasing number of parents are requesting to have consultations with their child's teacher at different times which is putting a lot of additional strain on teacher time. After school, teachers have meetings, run clubs and work collaboratively with colleagues - in addition to putting up displays, marking and preparing resources and lessons.

World of Work

As you know this is a project I have been looking forward to getting off the ground, with Key Stage 2 children as a particular focus. We have had our first 'World of Work' Assembly. Mr Behr spent time with us on Wednesday 18th November talking about his role in the world of IT. The children were riveted – and full of questions. It helps our children understand that what they are learning is valid and has a real place in their future. I am keen to make this sort of event happen regularly. We can be flexible on the days. Please do contact us if you feel you could spend 20 minutes or so with our children opening their eyes and minds to what adults do – and what an amazing range of careers and occupations there are in the world of work!

Pupil Roll

We are very close to being completely full in most year groups across the school, however we have a very small number of places available in some of the Junior classes.

P.E. Funding

This year we are working with a team called 'Take Pride'. They are introducing us to less well-known sports, such as Kurling and Boccia! We have participated in our first tournament with Year 3 who acquitted themselves very well.

We are being trained in basketball so we can introduce an additional sport. 'Take Pride' have also updated the training for Year 5 and 6 Play Leaders. We will continue working with them across the year.

Site Update

Over half term we had the lower end of the school decorated, with the corridors repainted and Willow, Ash and Beech classes repainted. The building is redecorated on a rolling programme, so other classrooms will be freshened up in due course. The upper junior toilets had a refresh also. We hope we now have a leak-free roof, work having taken place to seal the vulnerable sections.



Cars, Pollution, Parking

We have received some comments from parents, particularly those with children in buggies, about the number car drivers who sit with their engines running when parked outside the school at the beginning and at the end of the day. They have asked us to suggest that for the sake of global warming and the health of small children walking past vehicles inhaling exhaust gases, that this practice be avoided.

With regard to parking, please can we ask again that parents respect the fact that residents need access to their driveways. With the poor weather in recent days, I understand that parents want to park close to school – but please check your vehicle is not infringing on driveways before you leave to collect your child – thank you.

Winter Approaches.....

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread problems as we know from recent years! Our aim is to ensure the school remains open as far as

possible. However, as you are aware, gritting Round Ash Way and other minor roads is not a Highways department priority – obviously main roads and emergency facilities must come first.

Parents can go online to check if the school is closed, obtain information about road gritting and other KCC closures (www.kent.gov.uk/winter). You can also tune in or visit the sites of KMFM, BBC Radio Kent and Heart FM for updates and closures. We will continue to use our email system as we did last year and many parents felt this worked well. If you have not yet signed up for email alerts and you would like to, please let the School Office have your email address. KCC suggests parents might like to sign up for text message alerts on www.kentclosures.co.uk. Please be aware there is a charge of 20p plus the standard network charge. KCC also recommends parents should visit the BBC or direct.gov.uk websites for home learning resources to support children's learning while the school is closed!

Total Catering – School Meals Winter Menu

We are lucky to have a very accommodating cook who takes pride in the children (and teachers) enjoying school meals. She has tried the first few weeks of the Winter Menu and, in response to what the children enjoy most, she has discussed with Total Catering the possibility of some changes. They have agreed, as have I. The same nutritional standards are in place, but rather than having a shocking amount of waste where children are not eating some of the menu choices, Cook will provide choices which children prefer and we will inform you of the changes via email.

Christmas Events

Please put these dates in your diaries!

- Year 6, service of 9 Lessons and Carols at Milestone Academy on Tuesday 1st December at 10.00am (sadly we cannot accommodate parents – but please be aware that the children will be walking up to Milestone).
- Foundation Stage – performance to parents on Wednesday 9th December at 9.30am.
- Year 1 and Year 2 – performance to parents on Tuesday 8th December and Wednesday 9th December at 2.00pm.

A more detailed listing of events for the next few months can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Hollingworth
Principal

Forthcoming Events

Friday 27th November	Funky Head Wear - bottles/sweets for the Tombola
Saturday 28th November	PTA Christmas Fair (11.00 - 2.00pm)
Monday 30th November	Year 5 Visit to London Planetarium. Last week of After School Clubs (including Extension Club)
DECEMBER	
Thursday 1st Decembr	9.00 - 12.30 Year 6 Carol Service @ Milestone
Monday 7th December	Key Stage 1 Dress Rehearsal - 9.30am. Last Boom Academy session for the term
Tuesday 8th December	F5 Dress Rehearsal 9.30am. KS1 Christmas Production Performance to Parents (2.00pm)
Wednesday 9th December	Foundation Stage Christmas Performance to Parents (9.30am), KS1 Christmas Production Performance to Parents (2.00pm)
Thursday 10th December	Y2 Christingle Service (Rev. Fletcher)
Monday 14th December	Year 3 and 4 Dress Rehearsal 1.45pm
Tuesday 15th December	Year 3 and 4 Performances to Parents: 1.45 & 7.00pm
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Lunch for school dinners children only. Christmas Lunchbox for all other children.
Thursday 17th December	Film Afternoon. PTA Christmas Disco (no Reception children this time)
Friday 18th December	School Carol Service (led by Y5 - school only). School Pantomime.
Friday 18th December	End of Term 2
Monday 21st December -	Term Break
Friday 1st January	
JANUARY	
Monday 4th January	Term 3 begins.
Friday 8th January	PTA Movie Night - straight after school
Thursday 21st January	PTA Meeting 7.30pm
Monday 25th January	Clubs start this week.
Tuesday 26th January	Height/Weight tests for Reception and Year 6
FEBRUARY	
Friday 5th February	Year 3 Class Assembly
Tuesday 9th February	SAFER INTERNET DAY
Thursday 11th February	End of Term 3
Friday 12th February	INSET DAY - school closed for children
Monday 15th February -	Term Break
Friday 19th February	
Monday 22nd February	Term 4 begins. No Clubs (Except externally run clubs)
Tuesday 23rd February	Parents' Consultation Evening 5.00 - 8.00pm
Thursday 25th February	Parents' Consultation Evening 3.40 - 6.30pm