



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER 10 – JULY

Academic Year 2014 - 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

Since we came back at the beginning of term, time has passed in a whirl. What appeared to be a long term looming ahead has suddenly begun to pass as if we are in a time-machine. So much has happened already in the last few weeks. Please read on!

Off Site Visits

We have had a busy few weeks: a visit to Howletts Zoo, excursions to The Netherlands and Suffolk, the annual trip to Botany Bay, investigations at the Science Fair, Dartford Girls' Grammar School and Year 3 swimming to name but a few events.

Mrs Adams chose a different venue for the Year 4 residential visit, this year taking the children to Finborough Hall. It was a fantastic venue and the children had a wonderful time. Your children are amazing! We always receive praise from members of the public and supervisors in various venues for the behaviour of Hartley young people.

Sports Days

These took place on 30th June for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 and on 2nd July for the Junior children. Thanks to Mrs Fewell and Miss Shorter for their amazing organisation and for the PTA who provide water for the children. I know Mrs Fewell was feeling the pressure of the 'sports-day baton' which was handed over to her last term by Mrs Platt – but everything went smoothly – as it always does! Water for the children is provided by the PTA – paid for by funds raised at such events as the Summer Fair. Thanks also to our Year 6 children – who worked very hard on Tuesday morning, helping and organising our smaller children so they could really enjoy the morning.

Choral Festival and Choir Events

This week we took part in the Longfield Schools' Choral Festival held at Longfield Academy along with other local Primary schools. Children at Longfield also joined in and we enjoy seeing some 'old' faces during the day. Hartley Singers have been kept busy with this event, the PTA summer fete and a further concert on the evening of Wednesday 8th July. Please can those children who are taking part ensure they bring back their consent forms – we've had very few returns so far.

Reception Classes 2015 and In-Year Admissions

We are completely full for Reception in September this year – in fact, we have a waiting list. Over 170 applications were received for 60 places. We are full in most other year groups across the school.

Improvements to Premises

Whilst there is always room for improvement, this year we have no major projects planned. Perhaps Mr Goldsmith will be able to enjoy the summer holiday a bit more than usual. There have been minor ongoing projects taking place, such as the new path between the main building and the lower playground and water heaters for the lower corridor toilets. However, there is the possibility of a roof repair – not yet confirmed so our fingers are crossed!

Budget cuts

All schools are experiencing cuts in their budgets – we are aware that Education is not unique in this; many public services are having to cut costs. Hartley Primary is not particularly well funded – we receive little in the way of top-up or additional funding and we are trying to make savings wherever possible.

Mrs Adams is struggling to meet the expectations of some parents who are only seeking the best for their children – but we do not receive funding for individual support for children, except in very rare situations. Her Teaching Assistants are a highly-skilled team who work tirelessly for children but their expertise and support has to be used across a whole class or a group. We cannot provide 1:1 support for extended periods. So far we have maintained our staffing levels however if cuts continue to be made we cannot rule out this possibility.

Small things like the cone cups we use and boxes of tissues mount up over the year and we will have to stick to our allocated budget for these. When the money runs out, so will the cups and tissues, so please could you ensure that if your child has hay fever or a cold you provide them with their own pack of tissues. Similarly, children can fill up their water-bottles from the coolers – a cone cup is not an essential.

Summer Uniform

Please respect our school uniform policy particularly with regard to shoes. Sling-backed, high heels and 'flip-flop' type shoes are not practical for school. From time to time parents have unexpected, short-term problems with children's footwear or uniform and in such circumstances, we request you send a note in or speak to the teacher. We appreciate that so close to the summer holidays, when children's feet will no doubt grow – that you may not wish to purchase expensive leather shoes until closer to September. We suggest for the short number of weeks left that in such circumstances black canvas plimsolls might be worn. These are easy to obtain from nearby shops and can be as inexpensive as £5.00 a pair. **Trainers are NOT allowed at any point in the year.** Girls may choose to wear summer dresses at this time of the year. Either red-check or red and white stripe dresses are allowed. Boys' shorts should be plain black or grey.

Academic Results

More specific information in the next newsletter, but so far, we are very optimistic about the results which the children have received. This year we have been subject to an in-school moderation. These take place on a cyclical basis and not because we have done anything wrong! It does mean that this year a greater quantity of children's work has been scrutinised and teachers' judgements have been agreed. We can say that this year the children in Year 6 have surpassed previous results in Writing! Congratulations to all of them – they have worked incredibly hard – and recognition must also go to their teachers! We will have more information about Year 2, Year R and the Year 1 Phonics screening later in the term.

Complaint from a Hartley Resident

I have received a complaint – not about parking on this occasion and certainly not about one of our children – but about an adult. It is alleged that one of our parents barged past a family walking to another school and made an impolite remark in passing. Unfortunately in our red uniforms we are immediately identifiable and it is all too easy for us to get a 'bad name' in the area.

Uniform Orders for New Academic Year

Please be aware that orders in time for September must be with Brigade by **1st August 2015** (website: www.brigade.uk.com). Thank you.

And still on uniform and appearance.....

We ask that parents respect our code of appearance when children return to school in September. Summer holidays are the perfect time for children to experiment with different hairstyles, nail varnish and fashion accessories. Please allow time for 'extreme' hairstyles with colours, Mohican-type styles, tramlines and other patterns shaved into hair, to grow out before returning to school.

Macmillan Coffee Morning



This will take place on Friday 25th September and once again, Mrs Skinner has offered to organise this. More details will follow when we start back in the new academic year, but Mrs Skinner asks that you put this in your diary! Last year, lots of parents

WE ARE
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

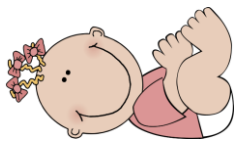


joined us for coffee and a catch up. Many contributed either cakes, gifts for a Macmillan raffle or both! I know that Mrs Skinner has been approaching some of last year's volunteers. Please let the School Office have your name if you will be happy to support this year's event. Thank you.

PTA Events

The summer fair took place on a Friday this year. The provision of a greater number of inflatables was definitely a hit! The School Choir and Miss Hannah May's dancers and singers were charming and the usual 'favourite' stalls provided entertainment. Thank you to Mrs Fewell and Mr Dutton for the House Football tournament which as always was competitive but fun.

I hope you enjoyed the Father's Day stalls – always a delight when they are opened by Dads watched by eager eyes on the Sunday morning.



Baby News!

Mrs Bransgrove and Mrs Smith will be taking temporary leave of us in September. They are both expecting new members of their families and we wish them the very best of luck!

Goodbyes

We say Goodbye to Mrs Fowler at the end of this term. She is going to work at a school nearer to her home. She has brought music to life at Hartley – augmenting the wonderful work done by Mrs Collings in class and in Recorder Club. We have loved having Mrs Fowler for the last 3 years. Her enthusiasm for everything - from Christmas to concerts is inspirational. She will be greatly missed – but we wish her every success in her new role.

We say Goodbye also to Mrs Cunningham – who has been here for 17 years! She started here as a volunteer parent, studied for TA qualifications and then her Degree in 2009. Having worked in almost every year group in her time here, Mrs Cunningham is seeking a new challenge and we wish her luck.

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 under the 'old' system 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.

Breakfast Club

We are now fully booked on most days and have put in place a waiting list for September 2015. In addition, can we please ask that we have prior notice of changes to regular schedules.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Hollingworth
Principal

Please see below for Forthcoming Events...

FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Tuesday 7 th and Wednesday 8 th July	Transition Mornings (Children spend the morning with their new teachers)
Wednesday 8 th July @ 7pm	'Mad About Music' Concert – School Hall
Friday 10 th July	Year 3 Swimming – last session Petanque at Hartley Country Club – Silver Birch Reports Issued to Parents
Monday 13 th July	Reception – Forest Schools – Session 5 Year 6 Production – Dress Rehearsal to school
Tuesday 14 th July	Reception – Forest Schools – Session 6 Year 4 Visit to Horton Kirby – River Day Year 6 End of Term Production (children in school for 6.15pm, performance starts at 7.00pm)
Wednesday 15 th July	Year 6 End of Term Production (children in school for 6.15pm, performance starts at 7.00pm)
Thursday 16 th July	Report discussions, if required Hannah May Dance Club (change to normal day)
Friday 17 th July	Petanque at Hartley Country Club – Redwood
Monday 20 th July	Year 6 Sex and Relationships Education Programme (letter coming home)
Tuesday 21 st July	Apple and Cherry Class Visit to The Orchard Theatre
Wednesday 22 nd July	Year 6 Leavers' Service at St Mary's Church, Fawkham End of Term Discos
Thursday 23rd July	LAST DAY OF TERM FOR CHILDREN
Term 1: 2015-16	
Thursday 4 th and Friday 5 th September	Training Days – School Closed to Pupils
Monday 7th September	First Day of School in the New Academic Year