



## HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER 2

Academic Year – 2014 - 2015  
October



Dear Parents and Carers

The rhythm of the year is once again beginning to resume after the summer break. It takes a week or two to resume routines. We have had some busy times, with PTA meetings, Year 6 testing and school visits, 'Meet the Teacher' evening and more. With some school trips having already taken place - Year 3's embarked on their Hartley Village walk last week, Year 6 are in the midst of their 'Bikeability' Safer Cycling courses and Year 2 will be visiting Tyland Barn this Tuesday (7<sup>th</sup> October). We have enclosed a 'Forthcoming Events' section at the end of this newsletter.

After School Clubs commenced last week – we have a range of clubs – bigger than ever! The first Quidditch session was a complete success (Mr Goldsmith is still recovering), and we are running a new netball club this term. We have been able to place approximately 190 children in clubs this term – this wouldn't be possible without the commitment from our staff and a number of parents – thank you. If you are reading this and think you could offer a club, please get in touch.

### **New Reception**

Our new intake of children into Apple and Cherry Tree classes has settled in tremendously well. Last week was their first week of staying in school all day and apart from the odd child dropping off in class (!) they have coped remarkably well and are quickly becoming part of the 'Hartley Family'. Thank you to all our new (and current) parents for their support and cooperation.

### **Charities**

What an astounding start to this school year on our fundraising front! The **Macmillan Coffee Morning** was a huge success. The coffee morning on its own raised over £200, plus the cake stall brought in £55 and our staff raffle collected £110. The feedback from parents was that we should do a coffee morning more often! Thank you so much to parents, pupils and staff who supported the event and for Mrs Skinner for coordinating all the activities.

Our **Harvest Festival** was also well supported with our children bringing in a large number of donations in support of **Darent Valley Lions**. Thank you to everyone who brought in gifts – please visit our website for images of the morning. Barbara Bradley from the Lions was overwhelmed by your generosity. Thank you to Mrs Adams for organising this year's event which centred around the theme of colour – and to the children who participated with readings.

### **School Website**

We do our best to maintain our site and provide updates as frequently as humanly possible. For the snippets of information there is a Principal's Blog which I endeavour to update weekly. We are in the process of reviewing our own policies, those pertinent to our school (rather than the Trust policies, which can be found on the Trust website) and will be posting any revisions shortly.

## Key Stage Test Results 2014

These are on our website. We are celebrating particularly pleasing results in Phonics with 98% of children achieving the threshold. Children in Year 6 made stunning progress from Year 2 to Year 6 and we were pleased with the results they each achieved. Children in Year 2 worked hard and gave of their best, although results were down a little on the year before. Each group of children is different and all have different skills. In Early Years Foundation Stage we were impressed with the progress the children have made in their first year at school particularly when we consider that almost 50% of the year group were not 5 until after Easter.

## Absence

Thank you for keeping us informed if your child is unwell and for helping your child maintain a minimum of 95% attendance, which is the Department for Education's minimum requirement. This year, we would like to achieve 97% attendance – let's hope we have a year without too many tummy upsets and cold viruses which really hit us this time last year. We thank you too for taking on board the rules for holidays in term time. We do issue fines, it is the Trust's policy, but we are aware of how hard people are trying to ensure family holidays are taken in school holiday time. Parents might be interested to know that our telephone system has a visual display so if you are telephoning us to report an absence due to 'sickness' – rather than telling us you are on holiday – we are aware that you are ringing us from beyond the UK!!

## Pets As Learning Support (or P.A.L.S)

Our PALS project has been a huge success and will be continuing into this year. This project is only possible through Mrs Adams and her menagerie of very safe, sociable and well trained animals. Children love reading and socialising with Suzie, Barry or Rex. I was persuaded to stroke the snake last week, by the end of the year I am determined to hold him! The PALS participated in Sports Day last summer term – but it has to be said, the four legged participants were faster than the two legged ones.



### The Cooke Shield

Mr Dutton, Mrs Fewell and our superb football team – along with their superb parents were treated to a fantastic morning on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September when they played 15 matches – and won all of them. The Hartley team was rewarded by winning the Cooke Shield which will be on display in our Trophy Cabinet as soon as Mrs Fewell has had it engraved. Not only were they unbeaten – but they then played the winners of the 'small school' section (Hartley had played in the 'big school' section) and won again! We will now represent the Gravesham district at County level. What a result! Congratulations to everyone who helped us achieve this success!

## 'Meet the Teacher' – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September

This is such a valuable evening when I can share with you the key focuses for the year ahead and your child's teacher will explain to you in more detail the routines and expectations for the class.

Key points from this year's meeting were:

The new National Curriculum is more demanding, particularly in Maths and English. It is a requirement of the Department for Education that we follow this. Therefore the work will be harder! Obviously we will do our best to make this as accessible as possible for children. There are specific spelling lists for each year group, however we test children's spelling knowledge first in order to decide whether or not they are immediately ready for their year-group list. Children will be given those words from an earlier year group list if they cannot yet spell the words consistently and in context. This will be the same in all schools.

Homework will also be more demanding. Teachers will make every effort to ensure that children are able to access the homework independently and that they understand the task, but should your child find their homework tricky, pop a note in the homework book or please ask your child to talk to their teacher who will be happy to go through it again. The National Curriculum is available on line should parents wish to find out more about it.

### **Parent and Pupil Questionnaire**

In previous years we have issued a questionnaire twice annually. This year we are implementing a rolling programme of questionnaires. At six points in the school calendar we will be issuing questionnaires to a random selection of parents and pupils. We do value your opinion and would encourage you to complete and return the survey. I would also like to stress that if you have any concerns about your child to make contact with us – either by arranging a pop-in on a Monday afternoon or to make contact when dropping off or collecting your child. In the era of social media networking we are disappointed to hear of any concerns second-hand when issues can be managed face to face; comments left on Facebook and Twitter can be extremely upsetting for our team of professionals.

### **School Milk**

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals (this is different from the Universal Free School Meals for Infants – Reception, Years 1 and 2) and you would like your child to have a carton of milk each day – which is an additional entitlement, please let Mrs Cook in the School Office know. 'Cool Milk' is our supplier of milk and should parents wish their child to have milk on a daily basis please collect an order form from the School Office.

### **No room at the Inn.....**

Apologies, but Breakfast Club is absolutely full. We have a waiting list and will contact parents as and when places become available. We are not able to take any 'ad hoc' bookings at the moment – even if your child attends on regular days of the week.

### **Behaviour**

We are lucky at Hartley to have polite, well behaved, responsible children – in most cases. Recently, however we have become aware that a rising number of our youngsters are swearing and using foul language, largely at playtimes. Swearing at school, using offensive terms or insults is completely unacceptable. It does not help that some parents use bad language within earshot of children in close proximity to the school.

A small minority of children are speaking in an inappropriate way to adults in school; their attitude is very casual and can border on rudeness in some cases. Our standards at Hartley are very high and I am sure you do not accept this behaviour at home. We expect politeness and respect from all children towards all adults.

Any form of physical violence will not be tolerated. In school, there is no such thing as 'play fighting'. Hitting, thumping, kicking, poking, prodding, slapping – and so on – are all acts of aggression which cause at least pain, at worst real damage and is distressing to other children.

Please be assured that this is the exception rather than the norm - the majority of our children are well spoken, polite and considerate towards their peers and adults.

I would also like to request parents respect the professional experience and expertise of your child's teacher. Your child at school may be quite different from your child at home – and the chances are you might not hear the full story! Teachers do not 'pick on' children, they do listen to them and they give them a number of warnings. It is very rare for teachers to even raise their voice in school. It is their role, however to ensure a safe, calm and well ordered

environment for learning is maintained behaviour which disturbs that situation will be managed.

### Scooter Etiquette



We remind parents that it is your responsibility at the beginning and end of the day to ensure your child dismounts from their scooter and walks with it across the playgrounds.

### The dreaded Head Lice.....

Head Lice do not fly or jump. They crawl from one head to another. If long hair is tied back it is harder for them to crawl and travel to their next destination!

Hi! I'm  
back!



### Boiler Bulletin

In my last newsletter, I informed you of the replacement of oil-fired boilers with new gas-fired boilers. The end is nearly in sight and we hope to have fully functioning, totally operational boilers ready to go in the next few days. Apart from maintenance work in the staff car-park, we are not anticipating (and have not been told) of any further disruption/works on approach to the school. Thank you for cooperating with us whilst the work was progressing. Without Mr Goldsmith on site, round-the-clock managing the installation I think we would still be at the planning stage!

### Individual Pupil Photographs

A reminder! Braiswick Photographic will be in school on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October**. Letters have gone home – if you have a pre-school child and would like a family photograph with siblings here, please complete the consent form at the bottom of the letter and return it to the School Office. You do not need to reply to the letter if you would just like siblings to sit for a photo – this will be managed by us anyway!

### And Finally...

#### Open Mornings for Reception Intake September 2015

No sooner do our little ones start, we are already looking ahead to the next year! Our dates are:

Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	(9.30am and 10.45am)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	(9.30am and 10.45am)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	(9.30am and 10.45am)

Please let family and friends know – the School Office will be able to book prospective parents onto tours.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Hollingworth  
**Principal**

## Forthcoming Events:

Tuesday 7th October	Year 2 out at Tyland Barn
	UTC Official Opening. FS Tapestry Drop-Ins for Parents 3.30pm.
Wednesday 8th October	Crown Woods Stationers' Academy Official Opening
Thursday 9th October	Individual Pupil Photographs
Wednesday 15th October	Bikeability Group 5 & 6
Thursday 16th October	Bikeability Group 7 & 8. <b>Year 5 Lego Challenge</b>
17th October	Bikeability Group 5
Monday 20th October	Bikeability Group 6
Tuesday 21st October	Bikeability Group 7. <b>Freshwater Theatre visit - Egyptian Day for Year 4. PTA Meeting @ 7.30pm</b>
Wednesday 22nd October	Bikeability Group 8. Year 6 Individual Parent Interviews.
<b>Thursday 23rd October</b>	FS Tapestry Drop-Ins for Parents 3.30pm. <b>Last Day of Term 1.</b>
<b>Friday 24th October</b>	<b>STAFF TRAINING DAY - School closed for children.</b>
<b>Monday 27th October -</b>	<b>Term Break</b>
<b>Friday 31st October</b>	
Friday 31st October	Year 6 Secondary Common Application Form Deadline
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
<b>Monday 3rd November</b>	<b>Term 2 begins. No Clubs this week due to Parents' Evenings (Except externally run clubs)</b>
Tuesday 4th November	Parents' Consultation Evening 5.00 - 8.00pm
Thursday 6th November	Parents' Consultation Evening 3.40 - 6.30pm
Tuesday 11th November	New Reception September 2015 Parent Meeting and Tour 9:30am and 10.45am
Wednesday 12th November	Quantum Theatre (WW1) for KS2 at 2.00pm.
Monday 17th November	Year 5 Visit to London Planetarium
Tuesday 18th November	<b>School Nurse - Drop in morning</b>
Wednesday 19th November	New Reception September 2015 Parent Meeting and Tour 9:30am and 10.45am
Thursday 20th November	Governor meeting at school - Choir to perform at 7.45am.
Tuesday 25th November	<b>Bags to Schools collection</b>
Thursday 27th November	New Reception September 2015 Parent Meeting and Tour 9.30am and 10.45am
Friday 28th November	Funky Head Wear
Saturday 29th November	PTA Christmas Fair