



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER 2

Academic Year – 2015 - 2016
October



Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a very busy few weeks since my last newsletter! Early in the term we held our first PTA Movie Night of the year - along with a very inconvenient power cut! The children dealt with the ensuing wait brilliantly – our thanks to the PTA and teaching staff who were immediately 'on the case' and went into SWAT team mode swooping down corridors – mere blurs travelling at the speed of light – power was quickly switched back from the Fairby Lane generator to mains supply. What a shame the contractors hadn't thought to mention it. Luckily, power was quickly restored and films continued with only a small interval. Thank you for your patience on the evening – the interruption caused a small delay to pick up times.

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Latest News

'Meet the Teacher'

This was a very well attended evening, preceded by a short meeting in the hall where Mrs Lambourne updated parents with the latest news (so far) on recording and reporting progress and assessment. This is a year of change and there will be a further meeting later in the academic year. Key points to emphasise: the new curriculum is harder, homework will reflect

this and the way we express progress now relates to National Standards for year groups, not levels.

PTA news

On the same evening we traditionally hold the PTA AGM – making the most of parents already being in school. We were delighted to see so many new and willing members. Our thanks go to the retiring Chair, Mrs Michelle Cooke and retiring Secretary, Ms Klar for their dedication and commitment to their roles. Mrs Paula Seagers has agreed to remain in her post as Treasurer. We are delighted to announce a new Chair, Mrs Mills and joint new Secretaries, Mrs Smith and Mrs Rush. Ms Klar will be continuing in her role as Digital Services Manager.

We have had our first meeting under the new leadership and our next big event will be the **Christmas Fair on Saturday 28th November**. Please be aware that this year this event clashes with the Church Christmas Fair, so we have altered our times to try to accommodate people wishing to support both events. This year we will be opening our fair at 11.00am and the fair will close at 2.00pm.

School Visits

Our governors have been into school recently - Mrs Gall has visited to discuss assessment and outcomes of Key Stage National tests with Mrs Lambourne and Mr Clewes (now Chair of the Longfield Board) visited with a recently appointed governor, Mrs Lorraine Harker.

Year 6 pupils, having now recovered from Selection Tests have enjoyed 'Bikeability' sessions around Hartley, with just the last few groups out and about this week – you might have encountered them! School photos have been taken and Reception had their photos 'First Class' snapshots taken by the Kent Messenger. We have had the Lego Challenge in Year 5, Year 2 has visited Tyland Barn, Year 1 enjoyed a performance of 'The Jungle Book' in school and Year 3's visited St Mary's Church in Fawkham (our thanks to Rev. Fletcher for hosting the morning). Before the end of this term, Year 4 children will experience Egyptian Day – little Cleopatras and Pharaohs will take part in workshops during the day – learning about artefacts and archaeology.

Can I take this opportunity to thank parents who make themselves available to help out on school trips – we appreciate your willingness to give your time to the children. We continue to follow the KCC policy whereby parents who accompany trips will not be supervising groups which include their own children.

Please remember that on a school trip the usual rules regarding no bottles or cans apply - also that we ask parents NOT to include nut products in sandwiches or packed lunches. Not only are children mixing across the year group beyond their class but often other schools or parents with children might be eating in close proximity.

Visit to 'The Lion King'

With military precision and organisation, 140 children left school at 11:30 on Wednesday 15th October on three luxurious coaches. We arrived at the Lyceum Theatre in good time – along with many hundreds of other children! The look on the children's faces when the performance began was amazing – definite awe and wonder! We were successfully reunited with our coaches after a fantastic experience. Mrs Cook is the hero of the hour with meticulous preparation beforehand, including the preparation of the children's homeward bound snacks in individual bags, tied lightly so that children could undo them easily! I hope the children keep the memories of the trip for years to come.

Key Stage Test Results – 2015

Although there is information on our website, we would like to celebrate our excellent results for the end of year assessments for Foundation Stage, Year 2 and Year 6. These are some of our best outcomes for the last five years. Congratulations to the children, parents for supporting their learning and their teachers – not just the Year 6 team who work incredibly hard, but for all of the teachers in previous years who have had an impact on our children's learning.

Clubs

After School Clubs have now started (although they will not be running due to Parent Consultation Evenings this week). We have a range of clubs – bigger than ever! We have a new Art Club for our budding Year 6 artists and new for our Year 3 and 4 children – Gymnastics Club. We have been able to place approximately 160 children in clubs this term – this wouldn't be possible without the commitment from our staff. If you are reading this and think you could offer a club, please get in touch.

Charities

What an astounding start to this school year on our fundraising front! The **Macmillan Coffee Morning** was a great success. The coffee morning on its own raised £182.00 and our staff raffle collected £132. 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 the **Trussell Trust Food Bank**. Thank you to everyone who brought in gifts and foodstuffs. We have also been running 'Phones for Food' in support of **ITV's Tackle Hunger Together** campaign. In conjunction with **Magic Breakfast** – a charity which aims to fund breakfasts for children across the UK, the campaign will recycle old mobile phones and convert the funds into provisions for school breakfast clubs across the UK. Please continue to support this initiative by bringing unwanted mobile phones into school. Thank you to Mrs Adams for organising this year's event – when Mrs Adams delivered the donations last weekend, the recipients were truly astounded by our parents' generosity.

We have attached a 'Forthcoming Events' section at the end of this newsletter - we do our best to maintain our website 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.

Information Notices - Attendance

Attendance Policy

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.

The Department for Education consider a child with less than 90% attendance to be a **'persistent absentee'**. 10% absence equates to one day off a fortnight. We try to teach in a very precise way for each child and there are a range of interventions, sets and groups which are in place to support children at every level of attainment. Absence affects the outcomes of these interventions and really does have a significant impact on children's learning. A sound basic education is essential for children who will become the adults of the future. Employment will become increasingly competitive, with not only academic skills but social skills being really important. Children need to be in school during term time unless they are really poorly.

Our Attendance Policy states "A student is deemed to be a PA (Persistent Absentee) if their attendance falls below 85% and at risk if attendance falls below 90%. Students who fall into either of these categories, will be monitored by the Academy attendance teams and the Trust Attendance Officer, and a possible referral to the Local Authority Education Welfare Officer will take place should attendance remain poor after Academy interventions.

In line with Education Regulations 2006, the Academy may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are very exceptional circumstances. Applications for Leave of Absence must be made in writing to the Academy. A letter of acceptance or refusal will be made by the Academy. If absence is not authorised and the leave of absence of at least 10 sessions (5 days) is taken, a referral will be made to the Education Welfare Office who may issue a Penalty Notice for £120 (or £60 if paid within 21 days) to each parent for each child taken out of the Academy."

First Day of Absence

Our Attendance Officer, Mrs King is required to contact parents on a child's first day of absence. Please, if you can, leave a message on the Absence Line – providing your name, your child's name and class and the reason for the absence. We pick up these messages each morning – we will follow up and contact parents of children who are not in school and would ask that parents cooperate by providing us with information about their child's absence as soon as possible.

Punctuality

Punctuality is also important. We begin teaching children from 08:45 even though the registers are not closed until 09:00. Children who are regularly late (and parents, you know who you are....) are missing up to one hour and fifteen minutes of learning a week, which equates to 20 hours over a 16 week term – almost a whole week lost! This is often a time when really important interventions are taking place. Please ensure children are in school as close to 08:45 as possible.

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.

Other News -

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, Ella, Barry, Monty or Rex. I was persuaded to stroke Monty the python 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.

Parent and Pupil Questionnaire

Last year we issued a questionnaire over six points in the school calendar and will continue with this system of recording your feedback again this year. 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.

Behaviour - 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 or bike 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!

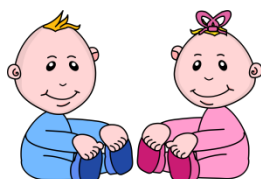
Hi, I'm back again in Term 1 & 2



Uniform

Hairstyles, Hairbands and Nail Varnish

Youngsters love to experiment with nails and hair but in line with our policy we remind you that for both boys and girls less conventional styles, shaved hair (see right) and decorative headbands are not allowed. Nail varnish is great for weekends but please ensure it is removed for weekdays.



Baby News!

We can report with delight that Mrs Bransgrove gave birth to Charlie in September and Mrs Smith gave birth to Orla in October. Congratulations to both families.

And Finally...

Open Mornings for Reception Intake September 2016

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

Tuesday 10 th November 2015	(9.30am and 10.45am)
Thursday 19 th November 2015	(9.30am and 10.45am)
Wednesday 25 th November 2015	(9.30am and 10.45am)

Please let family and friends know – the School Office will be able to book prospective parents onto tours. We are getting booked up for the tours across all our dates, but please contact the School Office for the latest availability.

Reminders!

A Reminder: Friday 23rd October is an INSET Day – First day back is Monday 2nd November.

Year 6 Parents – please visit www.kent.gov.uk/ola – the deadline for secondary applications is midnight on 2nd November!

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Hollingworth
Principal

Forthcoming Events:

Monday 19 th October	No Clubs this week due to Parents' Evenings (Except externally run clubs). Year 2 Tyland Barn Trip. Bikeability Group 7 & 8. Year 3 visit to St Mary's Church, Fawkham.
Tuesday 20 th October	Bikeability Group 5. Parents' Consultation Evening 5.00 – 8.00pm
Wednesday 21 st October	Bikeability Group 6. Freshwater Theatre visit – Egyptian Day for Year 4.
Thursday 22 nd October	Bikeability 7 & 8. Parents' Consultation Evening 3.40 – 6.30pm
Friday 23rd October	STAFF TRAINING DAY – School closed for children.
Monday 26th October -	Term Break
Friday 30th October	
NOVEMBER	
Monday 2nd November	Term 2 Begins. Year 6 Secondary Common Application Form Deadline – Midnight.
Monday 3rd November	Term 2 begins.
Thursday 5 th November	Tapestry drop-in session (3) for parents – 3.30pm
Tuesday 10 th November	New Reception September 2015 Parent Meeting and Tour 9.30am and 10.45am
Thursday 19 th November	New Reception September 2015 Parent Meeting and Tour 9.30am and 10.45am
Wednesday 25 th November	New Reception September 2015 Parent Meeting and Tour 9.30am and 10.45am
Friday 27 th November	Funky Head Wear or Decorate A Jumper!
Saturday 28 th November	PTA Christmas Fair
Monday 30 th November	Last Week of Clubs. Year 5 Visit to London Planetarium
Tuesday 8 th and Wednesday 9 th December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas production in the afternoon.
Wednesday 9 th December	09.30am Foundation Stage Christmas production.
Tuesday 15 th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas production – afternoon and evening.
Thursday 17 th December	End of Term Discos (Years 1 – 6 only)
Friday 18th December	Last day of Term 2