



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER 7 - MARCH



Academic Year – 2014-2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Term 4 has started well; it is always a pleasure to meet with parents on Consultation evenings and our Year 6 Hosts enjoy the opportunity to develop their skills of 'meeting and greeting'. This term is already galloping away from us. Our last day is **Wednesday 1st April** and we're back in school on **Monday 20th April**.

Pupil Events

HPA Football Team

The school football team played its first match of 2015 against New Ash Green Primary School on a pitch which is beginning to dry out, on a glorious sunny evening. Their second match this year was on Thursday 6th March at home against St John's Primary School, Gravesend. An absolutely fantastic match ensued with a very close finish, 5:4 to the opposition (by 'Golden Goal' rules). However, I have never seen Mr Dutton so proud of the team – not one to show emotions, he was clearly moved by the performance, effort, tenacity, skill and general sportsmanship of the boys. A very well done to the team and thanks to Mr Dutton and Mrs Fewell, joint coaches, Mr Goldsmith, Team Mascot and to parents for their support. Man of the Match went to Adam Grist – well done Adam!

World Book Week

We had a fantastic book week with Dance Workshops for the whole school. The workshops were linked to children's books, Year 5 and 6 'Kensuke's Kingdom', Years 3 and 4 'The Butterfly Lion' and for Key Stage 1 'The Troll'. All the children said they enjoyed the experience and the 'West End in Schools' representative commented on how well our children listened, focused and participated. This was well worth the cost and we would like to say a big thank you to parents for supporting the event and for the PTA for helping, so that costs for families remained low.

Last Friday we all dressed as a favourite book character, which is always a fun day! The school raised £197.12. World Book tokens have been issued and we hope your children enjoy using them!

Year 1 Leeds Castle Trip

Our children visited Leeds Castle earlier this week. I think everyone would agree it was a great day, the weather was kind and our children behaved impeccably. Thank you to Miss Turk and Miss Balrow for organising the trip and a huge thanks to our parents who kindly gave their time to attend and assist on the day.

Red Nose Day

School Council have chosen to raise money this year for Red Nose Day from a Sponsored Walk. This will take place tomorrow (Thursday 12th March) and the children will walk a designated track around the playground – come rain or shine! They will need trainers and a coat in case of cold or wet weather. Any funds raised will go – as you know – to very good causes.



On Red Nose Day itself – Friday 13th March, we are inviting children to come to school in ‘something red’, which does not have to be school uniform – and following the theme of the day, if they wish to make their faces look funny – that will be an additional element of fun! We will not be asking for any further donations for ‘non-uniform’ due fund raising efforts involved with the Sponsored Walk.

Dates for the Diary

- Sponsored Walk – Thursday 12th March (children to be in school uniform)
- PTA Mothers’ Day Gift Stall – Thursday 12th/Friday 13th March after school
- Red Nose Day – Friday 13th March (non-school uniform day)
- Year 5 – Visit to Cyclopark, Gravesend - Monday 23rd March
- Year 4 – Visit to Cyclopark, Gravesend – Tuesday 24th March
- PTA Pamper Evening – Thursday 26th March
- Easter Bunny Hunt – Infants – Monday 30th March
- Easter Bunny Hunt – Juniors – Tuesday 31st March
- Year 6 – WW2 Day – Dressing as Evacuees – Tuesday 31st March
- Year 5 – Greek Day – Dressing as Ancient Greeks – Tuesday 31st March

Kent Messenger – My Mum 2015

For parents of children in Years R, 1 and 2 you might be interested in purchasing the Kent Messenger published this week. Our children have submitted pictures of their mummies which will be printed for your delight! Please refer to their website for further details:

<http://www.kentonline.co.uk/kent/news/are-you-in-one-of-32799/>

PTA Easter Bunny Hunt

For Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: **Monday 30th March** and for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: **Tuesday 31st March**. Letters have been sent home providing details and the entry form. Please can entries be back in school (via Class teacher or PTA box in Reception) by Friday 20th March to give the bunny plenty of time to prepare – we cannot accept late entries. **Please also remember that all children must be accompanied by an adult who will remain responsible for them during the event.**

Thank you!

The PTA needs YOU!

Most parents and carers are with us for at least 7 years – some longer and all parents and carers are members of the PTA. During that time it would be wonderful if you donated some of your time to joining the PTA as part of the Committee. This is not as scary or as time-consuming as you might think. There is a PTA meeting about once per term – no more than 6 times a year. Not all committee members are able to attend all of those meetings and this is quite understandable.

The PTA raises thousands of pounds which they spend on resources for our children. This money is raised through Summer and Christmas Fairs, Discos, Movie Nights, Easter Bunny Hunts, Quiz Nights and Pamper Evenings – to name but a few events. Each event is run by parent volunteers. The trouble is – it is too often the same group of parents because there are not enough people coming forward.

The current committee members have been in situ for some time and have dedicated a huge amount of time and effort into coordinating events and raising funds for the school – perhaps it is now time a different group of parents stepped up to shoulder the organisation and running of the annual events which have become an expectation. If there is no Christmas Fair – parents and children will be disappointed – as they will be if the Discos cease and Movie Night no longer happens – I am concerned this could be a reality.

As part of the PTA, parents volunteer for as much or as little as they are able. There are lots of notes, records and instructions to support anyone taking on an event. This does not mean that everything must stay the same – on the contrary – new ideas are exciting – but it does mean that no-one needs to think that they must organise something entirely 'from scratch'.

We are at a significant crossroads where unless more parents – who enjoy coming to events and whose children enjoy experiencing events – come forward **there will be no more PTA happenings**. Please get in touch via the School Office or the PTA Post Box in the entrance hall – a note in a child's bag, an email to the PTA (hartleyprimarypta@gmail.com) or to Mrs Orchard (office@hartleyprimary.org.uk) – in order that your children will continue to benefit from the resources which PTA fundraising provides.

February's Parent Consultation Evenings

As always, I would like to thank our staff for their preparation and commitment. Without their dedication to putting in the groundwork for these evenings PCE's wouldn't be as beneficial as I believe they are. Our Year 6 pupils do a fantastic job of receiving parents – my thanks to those parents who 'released' their children for both nights. Teachers have also accommodated a large number of parents who were unable to attend on either evening. My thanks to them for working additional hours to see these parents - who I'm sure appreciated the extra time made available for them. We publish Parents' Consultation Evening dates well in advance and we ask that parents put these on their calendars and try to ensure that they are able to attend. It is unfair to ask teachers to continue to give up their time to fit in extra appointments unless there has been, perhaps an emergency which has meant an alternative is a necessity.

Clubs

Please can we remind parents that the last week of clubs will be **Monday 23rd March 2015**.

Class Assemblies

We do listen to our parents – we hear you....but it seems that you cannot always hear your children in Class Assemblies. I know you take time off work for these events but when we have the whole school watching the assembly parents are such a long way away from the performers that you cannot always hear. Some assemblies require the children to be on the floor, rather than the stage where the microphones have a good chance of picking up their tiny voices – which may mean you struggle to catch what they are saying. We have invited the whole school in the past because siblings enjoy watching – but having considered your views we have made the decision that Class Assemblies will be performed to parents only from now on. That way you will be closer to the children and will have a better chance of hearing and seeing the action!

Breakfast Club

Based on our current numbers we are now completely full on every day of the week. We are now adding any new enquiries to a waiting list.

Breakfast Club – Safe Delivery of Children

Some parents are leaving their children at the gate, or worse, outside the gate and allowing children to run unaccompanied across the car park to Breakfast Club. A number of staff, visitors and early morning delivery drivers have been distressed at the possibility of a 'near miss'. It is essential children walk across the car park with their parents – and in the case of very little ones, preferably holding their hands.

In addition... All parents **MUST** enter through the pedestrian gate. It is incredibly dangerous to duck under the barrier for both children and adults. Do not walk through the little gap alongside the barrier, which is taped across to make it clear that it is not an entry point!

Food Allergies

A number of our children have various allergies and it is the responsibility of the school to maintain its medical records for each child. Should details change please let the School Office know so data can be updated. Thank you. Some of our children have nut allergies – and even minor contact with a child who has touched nuts (a peanut butter sandwich for example) will produce an immediate reaction. Please can we kindly ask that parents refrain from sending children into school with packed lunches containing nuts if at all possible?

We have also asked our fantastic midday supervisors to be vigilant and they always encourage our children to wash their hands once they have eaten. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parking Near to School

We continue to receive complaints from residents about parents either parking on driveways - prohibiting entry or access and double parking – parking opposite another parked car thereby blocking roads close to school. Both behaviours demonstrate a lack of consideration for road users, pedestrians and residents alike. We must all appreciate that schools were not built with car access in mind and drive and park with respect. Thank you.

Bringing Bikes and Scooters into School

Bikes and scooters are being left unsecured whilst in the two designated areas (by Redwood Class and on the top playground). Please be aware that the school will not take responsibility for the loss of any bikes or scooters – if you can lock them please do so. The area on the top playground is particularly vulnerable. We have been very lucky so far not to have had any thefts. Please don't make it easy for an opportunist thief to have an easy target.

Mobile Phones/iPads In School

Please can we remind parents the school cannot take responsibility for any loss to IT/mobile equipment which should not – in any case - be brought into school.

Out of School Successes

We regularly hear about children's successes beyond school, horse riding, Tai-Kwando, Judo, Karate, music, swimming, cycling, motor-cross, gymnastics, trampolining, tennis – to name but a few! We particularly enjoy hearing about the more unusual sporting successes and interests in which children participate.

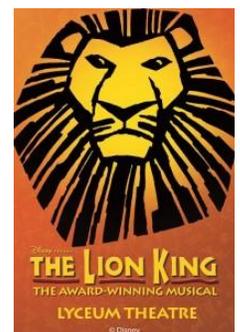
Keeping Parents Informed

SEN: Mrs Adams intends to have an information event to let parents know about the new Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. A date will be published shortly.

ICT: Mr Goldsmith (Number Two – The Younger!) who has been appointed as Coordinator for ICT, will be holding an event on Internet Safety on Tuesday 5th May at 7pm. Details will be coming home soon.

Looking Ahead.....

We are planning to book an extra-curricular trip to London to see an afternoon performance of 'The Lion King' at the Lyceum Theatre in London – hopefully sometime in October 2015. This will be open to any children in Key Stage 2 from September. We anticipate the tickets and the transport will cost around £35.00, which, although a hefty amount of money is considerably cheaper than a family outing to the theatre. In order to proceed



we need to gauge interest in this proposal therefore if you would like your child to be involved please could you return the slip below by **Friday 20th March**.

Term Dates 2015-16

The Term Dates for 2015-16 are available via our website:

<http://www.hartleyprimaryacademy.org.uk/parents/term-dates.php>

Yours sincerely



Mrs Hollingworth
Principal

Expression of Interest: The Lion King

Yes, I would like my child _____ in _____ Class
to attend a performance of The Lion King in October 2015.

Name of Parent _____

Date: _____