



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER 7

Academic Year – 2015-2016
March

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another term has come and gone, and we now break for Easter! And what a bizarre few weeks we have had since we came back in February. So much has happened!

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Hellos...

Mrs Goosani – Hartley Primary Academy's new Principal will begin her new role at the beginning of Term 5. She has been in contact with us all here since her appointment in order to ensure that the transition is seamless. She has visited as many classrooms as possible so that the children will already know her face before the first day back. She will do a splendid job – and I know the children and the adults in school will enjoy working with her. What a fantastic time she will have with such wonderful children, parents and staff who make Hartley the very special school that it is!

Mrs Cashmore has rejoined us following the end of her maternity leave and will be taking over from Mr Goldsmith, teaching Silver Birch from the beginning of Term 5. It is lovely to see her back!

And more Goodbyes...

Two more of our staff will be leaving us this academic year. In chronological order: at the end of Term 4, Mr Goldsmith, currently teaching Silver Birch will be joining Royal Park Primary School in Sidcup to take up the position as specialist teacher of P.E.. For him this is his dream job and we congratulate him on being successful in his application. He has brought tremendous energy and fun to the school, led computing this year, accompanied the school journey to the Netherlands last year, introduced us to Quidditch and supported Mrs Fewell and Mr Dutton with the school football team. He will be sorely missed.

Another retirement

Mrs Smitherman who is the embodiment of wisdom, high standards, expertise, display flair, teaching advice and is the general go-to Oracle, will be beginning well-earned retirement at the end of the academic year after 25 (yes 25 years) of teaching at Hartley Primary School. She has known so many generations of children and had such a powerful impact on their learning and their futures. She has been a tower of strength as a member of our extended leadership team, particularly with teachers new to the school and to the profession.

She is calm, with a wonderful sense of humour, personally modest, has high expectations, achieves fantastic outcomes for children but always has time for those both young and older who seek her advice. Recently the bright, lively, informative displays around the school were praised by visitors – this is down to Mrs Smitherman's influence in supporting and advising staff as to the best way to display the children's work.

I apologise if this sounds like a leaving speech – but it is my last chance to pay homage to the legacy Mrs Smitherman will leave to our school. Again - she will be sorely missed.

Pupil Events

HPA Football Team

Following on from our success on March 10th – having won at home against Painters' Ash, the team took part in a Gravesham tournament last weekend and reclaimed the Hughes Trophy. By all accounts the team thrashed all the opposition and didn't let in a single goal! Fantastic playing from the whole team! Thank you to Mrs Fewell and Mr Dutton, Team Coaches and to parents for their support on a very cold Saturday morning.

Other Sports Events

Over the last few weeks the school has entered a number of events organised through 'Take Pride' (our chosen Sports Provider for this year). With help from parents being able to transport children to various venues, we have taken part in netball, gymnastics, dodgeball and volleyslide competitions. Thank you to Mrs Fewell, Miss Shorter, Mr Dutton and Mr Goldsmith for coordinating and supervising the children at these events – with additional thanks to Mrs Gall for her expertise and assistance at several of these competitions.

Book Week

Children and adults alike had a wonderful time dressing up for Book Week! Willy Wonka and Mary Poppins were responsible for the prizes – but it was a difficult choice. Thank you for your support and your imagination in designing such a variety of costumes. During the week 'West End in Schools' concentrated on dance/drama activities linked to this year's themed books, 'Gangsta Granny' by David Walliams and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. Your generosity for children less fortunate than ours was fantastic – £226.35 was raised for 'Book Aid International'.

Science Day

At the beginning of this term we hosted a 'Science Day' where children went into different groups with different teachers and enjoyed exploding, mixing, burning, sampling and investigating physical and chemical phenomena. There were lots of 'Great!', 'Why?', 'How?', 'What if..?' questions and 'Oohs and Aaahs' a-plenty! Our Chair of Governors, Mr Clewes, who was visiting that day was very impressed with the 'awe and wonder' the day generated. The day wouldn't have been a success without the preparation and planning from all our teachers – so thank you to everyone involved.

Class Assemblies

Unfortunately the Year 2 assembly had to be postponed because of the visit from Ofsted but it will be rescheduled early in Term 5. We have enjoyed Reception's – who shared with us the story of 'The Hungry Caterpillar' with pictures, riddles, models, retelling, paintings and at the end a Caterpillar song which they persuaded their parents to join in with. Delightful! How confident our youngest children are and how well they performed for their parents.

Greek Day

Year 5 held their Greek Day this week. Myths and Monsters, togas, laurel wreaths, feta cheese, olives and pita bread were the order of the day following a very lively and informative assembly for parents.

The Great Fire of London

Having been 'extinguished' by illness in the theatre company on the originally scheduled day, the Great Fire of London was rekindled on Thursday last week, inspiring Year 2 children with simulated activities and artefacts.

'Dino Man'

A first for Hartley – a hall filled with (almost) life-sized dinosaurs, brought to life by Dino-Man and Dino-Woman! The baby stegosaurus was rescued from the marauding Tyrannosaurus Rex by the children and later, in their role as palaeontologists in the classroom the children dug for fossils and made their own. We learnt about how a diplodocus mashed food inside its tummy by swallowing stones as they couldn't chew. We got to touch all manner of bones and also touched coprolite (dinosaur poo!!!). A fabulous day was had by all!

Thameside Association Recorder Festival

On Wednesday 16th March, Mrs Collings, supported by Mrs Hay and Mrs Hollingworth took 30 children from Years 3 – 6 to the Woodville Halls in Gravesend to rehearse for the Annual Recorder Festival. Now, one recorder on its own can sound a bit squeaky – but the massed recorder orchestra which assembles to perform for parents once a year is a completely different sound - mellow and melodious. The advanced recorder players performed an unaccompanied piece – which reflects their level of skill and expertise. Mrs Collings rehearses with the recorder players first thing in the morning and in her lunch times and I am very grateful to her for everything she does for so many of our musical youngsters.

Sport Relief

Mrs Creed – and again, Mrs Fewell did an amazing job organising School Council and classes in a whole-school event – running a mile. We used the lower playground (13 laps) and the lower field (8 laps). All the children had a go and they were brilliant! Most of the adults joined in (*even the really old ones!*) – and a lot of fun was had by all – we are hoping to match the money raised last year – a reminder that sponsor money will be collected in school until **Wednesday 13th April**. Thank you.



One of our Year 5 children, Daisy Broome takes a personal challenge and tries to swim each year a greater distance when she participates in the British Long Distance Swimming Association Postal swim. This year she swam 2482 metres in one hour and raised £225.75 for Macmillan Cancer Care, her chosen charity - she is to be congratulated for this wonderful personal achievement.



Visit of Councillor Jeremy Kite MBE

The School Council were delighted to welcome Councillor Jeremy Kite, leader of Dartford Borough Council – and a Director of Leigh Academies Trust to their meeting on Friday 11th March.

Each child had their photograph taken wearing his MBE medal!

The children had prepared questions which he duly answered and his responses gave the children inspiration about how people can change the lives of others for the better.

Mrs Lambourne and Mrs Adams

Both Mrs Lambourne and Mrs Adams have been missing this term –having had medical treatment (for different things) but both are recovering well. Mrs Lambourne is back with us this week and Mrs Adams has been keeping in touch, popping in and out with the help of her trusty Mobility Scooter!

The PTA has been busy again!

Thank you to the PTA for a great quiz night which was really enjoyed by all those who took part. Mr Seagers was the 'Demon Quizmaster' who had everyone guessing. Following this, the PTA ran the Mothers' Day Stall – which was very well received and I am sure that there were many mummies who had a delightful morning opening their gifts. This week we have seen the Easter Bunny Hunt – a classic annual event which the children love. One youngster was heard to say – as he went home clutching his egg, that 'it was the best day of his life'!

Questionnaire Responses

Thank you to parents who have sent us their responses to the questionnaire. If you have not yet been asked – you will be before the end of the year. A number of responses raise concerns over homework and the fact that the work in class seems harder. Homework – we try to tailor to differing needs but we cannot fine-tune this to the same extent that we do class work. The new curriculum is more demanding. Children are expected to learn spellings, tables and increase their reading at home. It would benefit your child if you continue to maintain some work over Easter so that we are not playing 'catch-up' when we return to school. Thank you.

Upcoming Events for Your Diary

Monday 11th April	Term 5 begins
Tuesday 12 th – Thursday 14 th April	Reception classes – 'Balanceability'
Thursday 14 th April	PTA meeting @ 7.30pm
Saturday 16 th April	Year 6 Appeals Deadline
Monday 18 th April	National Offer Day – Reception Places (emailed after 4pm)
Tuesday 19 th April	Year 6 Netherlands Information Evening 7.00pm
Tuesday 26 th April	Apple and Cherry visit Godstone Farm
Friday 29 th April	Year 4 Class Assembly
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3 rd May	Reception – Forest Schools Session 1. Clubs start.
Friday 6 th May	Class photos and Year 6 contemporary photos
Monday 9 th May	KS2 SATS
Tuesday 10 th May	Reception – Forest Schools Session 2.
Monday 16 th May	KS1 Pirate Week
Tuesday 17 th May	Reception – Forest Schools Session 3. Year 3 out – Tropical Wings visit
Monday 23rd – Friday 27th May	Year 6 residential trip
Tuesday 24 th May	Reception – Forest Schools Session 4.
Friday 27th May	End of Term 5

Goodbye

I wish to avoid being overly sentimental at this point, although it would be easy! How to say Thank You and Goodbye after 10 glorious years at Hartley?

Thank you for allowing me to share in the lives of your children – and in your lives also. It has been a great pleasure and an even greater privilege. The journey has been full of ups and downs, roughs and smooths, but never dull. You have been with us throughout this. Hartley Primary is the greatest team on earth and every single person is important. We have had a wonderful endorsement from Ofsted – the Outstanding rating is one of which we are proud – but that 'we' includes everyone – yourselves, your wonderful children, our Governors, the Leadership and colleagues with the Leigh Academies Trust and the truly amazing adults who enjoy coming to work every day to engage in learning with our young people. How lucky am I to have shared so much with so many of you?

The journey continues, Hartley is organic, growing and changing and it will continue to thrive; I will carry a piece of Hartley in my heart forever – after all, my children came here too!

Your children...they will be successful, caring, responsible citizens of the world; I wish them – and you all – health - which is beyond price – and happiness.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Lorraine Hollingworth



Have a wonderful Easter Break!