



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER 8 - APRIL

Academic Year – 2014-2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another term has come and gone, and we now break for Easter! Terms 5 and 6 are extremely busy times in the school but at least summer is (hopefully) just around the corner...We return from the Easter break on Monday 20th April 2015.

Pupil Events

HPA Football Team

We are the joint winners of the Hughes Shield – a Gravesham and District Schools trophy following a long but successful Saturday morning on 13th March. The trophy will be shared with Shears Green Junior School who drew with our team in the final.

Our final match for this term was played on Wednesday 18th March against Wrotham Road School. Mr Dutton selected a slightly different team for this event, in order to give some children who have not yet had lots of opportunity to represent the school. The team won with a resounding 4-1 victory! Well done to both teams, thanks to parents and thanks to Mr Dutton and Mrs Fewell for coaching our fantastic squad.

Visit to the Cyclopark in Gravesend.

On Monday and Tuesday last week our children in Years 4 and 5 were given the opportunity to visit the Cyclopark where they could have a 'taster' at riding mountain bikes and BMX bikes. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we hope that they will now take the opportunity to visit at weekends with their families. Thank you to Mrs Fewell and Mr Goldsmith for their work in organising this and to Mrs Cook for booking the transport. Thank you also to our mums and dads who volunteered on both days and were happy to get on their bikes!

Local Library Service

Our local libraries are something we have, in recent years, taken for granted. KCC are now holding a consultation with regard to the continuing provision of the Library service in Kent. In essence, there is a need to cut costs and KCC are seeking the views of the people of Kent about the possibility of libraries being run by charitable organisations. If you have a view on this it is essential you respond. Libraries support in so many different ways – they are diverse in what they provide – gone are the days when libraries were about just books and scary librarians 'shushing' visitors. I urge you to click onto the link below, read the consultation and make your response. This is open until April 8th so swift action is required for you to make known your views.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/lraconsultation>

Greek Day

Year 5 held their Greek Day this week! We had some very authentic outfits and the Greek food was an added bonus! Lots of activities to support the children's Quest topic were enjoyed including clay mask making and not least a mini Olympics – bringing the topic to life.

World War II day

A second wonderful, lively, fun event took place – on the same day as the Greek Day. Our Year 6 'evacuees' experienced an Air Raid and spent the morning gaining a greater understanding of how the children might have felt when they waved goodbye to their parents in the city to travel to a place of safety in the countryside. In the afternoon they enjoyed a V.E. Day party, complete with 'jitterbugging and jiving' and wartime cakes. Powdered egg never tasted so good! As always the cakes were stunning in their originality. Mr Goldsmith, Mrs Hay and Mrs Masters deputised (Mary Berry, Paul Hollywood and Mel Giedroyc were busy elsewhere!) Awards were given for the best tasting cake and the most creative design.

Petanque comes to Hartley!

Our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children will be visiting Hartley Country Club on Friday afternoons in Terms 5 and 6 to learn the skill of Petanque. Mr Goldsmith has kindly organised the sessions, but we will need parent volunteers to walk to the children around to the club. We will be taking one class at a time; letters will be coming home asking for your consent and for volunteers.

Upcoming Events For Your Diary

Monday 20th April	Term 5 begins
Tuesday 21 st April	Reception Trip to Godstone Farm
Wednesday 22 nd April	Reception Children - Hearing Tests (am)
Friday 24 th April	Silver Birch Class to visit Hartley Country Club for Petanque
Tuesday 28 th April	Year 6 Trip to Sikh Temple, Gravesend
Wednesday 29 th April	Year 3 Trip to Tropical Wings Holland Parents' Information Evening @ 7pm
Thursday 30 th April	Year 6 Trip - Safety in Action (am)
Friday 1 st May	Chestnut Class to visit Hartley Country Club for Petanque
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5 th May	Year 5 CATS. E-Safety Information Evening @ 7pm PTA Meeting @ 7.30pm
Friday 8 th May	Maple Class to visit Hartley Country Club for Petanque
Monday 11 th May	KS2 SATS (including Level 6) Clubs begin this week
Monday 15 th May	Ash Class to visit Hartley Country Club for Petanque
Monday 18 th May	KS1 SATS Pirate Week

Diary Dates for 2015-16

There is a change to the Training Day for Term 1 2015. The date has changed from **Friday 17th November to FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2015. The school will now be closed on this day.** This is to tie up our dates with those of other schools within the Leigh Academies Trust.

Congratulations – but our loss!

Mrs Potter who has had many roles within our school will be leaving us at the end of Term 5. She has been working here at Hartley since October 2006 and in that time has had many roles, as Senior Midday Supervisor, Breakfast Club inaugurator and manager and more recently Attendance and Pastoral Support Officer. Many a parent has quaked at the words 'Don't worry, it's only Mrs Potter at school; I just wanted to check.....' when Mrs Potter is on the case chasing up absences or – worse – holidays in term time! She is going 'onwards and upwards' gaining promotion and working at Northfleet School for Girls with Big Children! We wish her well but the hole she will leave here is enormous.

Baby News!

Mrs Cashmore and baby Freya came to visit us this week – much oohing and aahing in the building! She visited Chestnut class who were suitably impressed.

We have another baby in the offing! Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Bransgrove who are expecting Baby Bransgrove in September. Mrs Bransgrove intends to be with Rowan class until the end of this academic year.



PTA Pamper Evening and Easter Bunny Hunt

The hall was redolent with wonderful, exotic and tantalising scents on Thursday 26th March for the PTA's Pamper Evening. Soothing music permeated the classrooms and filled the hall as therapists weaved their magic and many visitors enjoyed their pampering! Thank you so much to Mrs Nicholls and other wonderful members of the PTA team for providing such a pleasant evening. Then on Monday and Tuesday we had the PTA organising the Annual Easter Bunny Hunt. Fabulous fun and much chocolate enjoyed! Thank you to the PTA for all of their hard work before, during and after the events and for the volunteers who ensured that 'many hands made light work'!

On the downside we still have not had many volunteers to join the PTA and help with the organisation of events. A team to run the Summer Fair is still not in place and without the support of more parents this event is in danger of not taking place. Please get in touch with the PTA by emailing: hartleyprimarypta@gmail.com.

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 classwork. 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.

The Lion King

We have had a terrific response to this which is great! We are looking at booking 3 coaches to take us up to London. Mrs Potter and Mrs Cook are relishing the additional organisation (!) We have reserved the tickets and would ask that the children who have booked to go bring in payment when we get back after Easter. Thank you. We cannot take any additional requests now at this stage as we have given a final total to the theatre – but for those children who sent in the booking/consent form the cost of tickets/travel is £40.00. Please can we ask that payment is brought into school during the first week of Term 5 i.e. by **Friday 24th April**: we will match payments received to booking forms collected and then send payment off to the theatre. Cheques should be made payable to Hartley Primary Academy.

Wishing you a lovely Easter Break!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hollingworth
Principal

