



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER 8

Academic Year – 2015/2016
April

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is my first newsletter to you as Principal of Hartley Primary Academy!

As we head into the May Day Bank Holiday weekend (please – no children on Monday!) I am able to share our most recent news with you, as well as school notices and events coming up over the next few weeks.

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Pupil Events

In our first week back after Easter, our Reception classes enjoyed a 3 day visit from Take Pride's Balanceability team – the weather stayed kind to us and the children were able to develop their cycling skills in a safe (and level) environment.

Our older children took part in a Hockey tournament and although we didn't progress to the final stages of the competition, our pupils enjoyed the morning. This week we are taking a team of children to play in a Tag Rugby competition at Gravesend Rugby Club – again, organised by Take Pride. Mrs Fewell organises these events and I thank her for devoting so much of her time (outside of school) to managing the logistics. We couldn't partake in these events without the invaluable assistance from parents taking their children to and from the venues. Thank you.

We were fortunate enough to have a visit from Phil Edwards from Wield Technology, sharing his sustainable transport ideas and achievements. The children were very excited about the electric motor bike designed by Phil which can reach speeds of up to 200 miles per hour in just 3 seconds! Wield Technology are aiming to be the fastest in the world! The children loved talking to Phil and many demonstrated their engineering potential with their creative thinking and questioning!

Apple and Cherry classes have visited Godstone Farm this week and apart from a few snow showers (how strange our weather has been) had a lovely day. Miss Galinis said all the children were extremely well behaved. Thank you to our parents who kindly volunteered to help on the day.

Forthcoming events include Year 4's Roman Day on Thursday 5th May (including an assembly to Year 4 parents) and the Year 3 visit to 'Tropical Wings' on Tuesday 17th May.

Our Year 3's will be performing a dance at the Hartley and Fawkham Church Fete on Saturday 21st May. Please come and support them at the fete – they will be performing between 12:45 – 13:45 – songs from the musical Bugsy Malone...

Staffing

After half term we will be welcoming back Mrs Bransgrove and Mrs Smith following their maternity leave. Both teachers will be in school before half term to re-introduce themselves to the children and staff.

Whilst we are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Smitherman at the end of the year, we are delighted to announce that we will be welcoming Miss Gould to the Hartley team in September.

Class Photos/Year 6 Contemporary Photos

This has been arranged for **Friday 6th May**. Owing to other activities in school across Term 5 and 6 this is earlier than normal in the school year. Please ensure your child has the correct school uniform on for the day, and for Year 6 children, sports team photos will also be taken on the day. The football team will be photographed – please ensure your child has the correct kit in school.

Notices:

1. Safeguarding – Unauthorised Access

Please can we remind parents that access to the school to meet with class teachers must be pre-arranged with the School Office – **all** parents must be signed in at reception, display their visitor pass and be escorted down to classrooms by members of staff.

2. Safeguarding – Mobile Phones in School

Mobile phones are not allowed in school. With the majority of mobiles now being smartphones this has become a safeguarding issue for all schools. Please can we ask that phones are not brought into school - any phone found by a member of staff will be given to the School Office until the end of the school day. We cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage if the phones are brought into school without our knowledge.

3. Parent and Child Safety – Playground Behaviour

Please observe the following rules on the playground in the mornings and after school in order to avoid accidents:

- Children must not ride bikes or scooters on the playground – at any time of day.
- Playing games, such as ball games or 'It' is unsafe when the playgrounds are busy with parents and small children. These should be restricted to school break-times. Please supervise your children – **they must not be on the playground whilst a PE lesson is taking place.**
- Both fields are used for sports and are not recreation areas; they should not be used at the end of the day.
- Please remember that children should not be running through the woods at **any** time.

4. Parent and Child Safety – Parking Around School

Our PCSO visited the school recently and asked us to remind parents not to park on the pavements around the school and not to park on the zig-zag lines at the Chantry Avenue access point. We are located in a built up area and receive complaints from residents on a regular basis concerning access to their driveways. Please respect their wishes and comply with the rules of the Highway Code. Thank you.

5. Clubs

The letter outlining the clubs for Term 5 and 6 has gone out to children this week. Confirmation slips will be coming home by Friday 6th May. Clubs start week commencing Monday 9th May and will run until week commencing Monday 27th June 2016.

6. School Dinners/Packed Lunches

TCS has asked us to remind parents that dinner money must be paid promptly – either online for the week ahead or by dropping the money into the School Office. A number of families are being chased on a regular basis for payments which in turn means a greater demand on our administration. If we do not receive payment in a timely manner we may need to discuss moving your child to packed lunches.

And to remind you about sarnie content!! Our Midday Supervisors have spotted an increase in chocolate spread sandwiches and peanut butter sandwiches. As we are a 'Healthy School' we are required to adhere to guidelines about healthy eating. We appreciate that children have a preference for particular sandwiches but politely ask that parents avoid these fillings. In addition, some of our younger children have nut allergies (in some cases severe) and could suffer a reaction if they come into contact with these foodstuffs. Thank you.

7. Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club provision continues to be extremely popular and we are running at maximum capacity. If you would like your child to join in September 2016 we have a waiting list in operation. Please get in touch with the School Office if you would like to put your child's name down.

Please escort your child to the Breakfast Club door and hold your child's hand – staff have noticed that pupils (and pre-schoolers) are running across the car-park and we have the children's safety upmost in our mind. Thank you.

8. School Uniform

At this time in the year, the children are outside at break-time and lunchtime and are more likely to shed outer layers when they are playing. Please check your child's coat/fleece to ensure it is clearly named. The Midday Supervisors are scooping up around 10 to 20 coats after lunchtime and then attempt to reunite with them with owners – it can be a very difficult exercise!

This is always a tricky time, when children are growing and with the holidays approaching I understand parents are reluctant to buy new uniform before September – but school uniform is still expected to be worn. Where shoes are concerned, trainers are not acceptable substitutes for school shoes. However black plimsolls are a compromise – weather permitting. Children are expected to have the correct PE kit in school also: Plain black shorts - without logos or decoration, house-colour T-shirt (either with the school logo or plain) and black plimsolls or trainers for older children. Large and 'glitzy' hairbands, earrings, nail varnish and more extreme hairstyles, including shaven heads should be kept for the holidays and weekends. These expectations are not unique to Hartley – there are the same expectations within the local schools and certainly all of the schools within the Trust.

9. Administration of Medication

If your child has been unwell and requires a course of antibiotics/calpol when they return to school, please can parents make arrangements to come into school to administer medication. On some occasions, parents will say their child can administer their own medication – but this puts the responsibility of reminding the child to take the medication onto the School Office.

We are not allowed to administer medicine unless there is an agreed Health Plan which has been drawn up in conjunction with the School Nurse.

The School Office currently holds medication for asthma, allergies and ongoing conditions for **83** children in school. This amounts to just over **20%** of the children in school. Please can we ask for your understanding concerning the administration of medication and the additional responsibilities this puts on our office staff. Thank you.

PTA Events

The next Big Event is the Summer Fair. Please keep the afternoon of **Saturday 18th June** free to come and join us. I know the PTA will welcome any offers to help with extreme enthusiasm! If you can spare just one hour to help set up or run a stall this will really make a difference and we are always very grateful to those parents who help us clear up after a long but highly enjoyable and successful day. If you live on Ash Road and you are willing to have a Cliftons' estate agent board in your garden advertising our Summer Fair, please let us know.

The PTA will also be providing refreshments for the New Parents' Information Evening for the September Reception intake (**Wednesday 15th June**) and they generously provide water for our Sports Days. The PTA's current 'big project', to replace the trim trail on the lower playground will be completed this term.

Monitoring Absence

Very often parents are not aware of how absence can mount up and we are grateful to parents for keeping us informed when children are unwell. Please report your child's reason for absence on the first day - we would appreciate it if we receive the call on our Absence Line by 10.00am.

The Department for Education has an expected minimum attendance for children: 95% within a school year. Under current guidelines we are required by the DfE to inform parents if attendance drops **below 95%** and so will be sending letters home if appropriate.

Please be aware that holidays arranged in school time are not allowed and fines are being applied.

School Holiday Dates

The school calendar for next year (2016/17) has already been circulated to parents and is also up on our website. Please ensure your holidays fall into the school holiday dates. We break up on Thursday 21st July 2016 – with Friday being an INSET day for staff. There will be 1 Training Day before the children come back - on Monday 5th September 2016. Children will be in school from **Tuesday 6th September 2016**.

Dates for Your Diary - Please also add to your diaries the following dates:

MAY	
Tuesday 3 rd May	Reception – Forest Schools Session 1
Wednesday 4 th May	Take Pride – Futsal (Year 3 and 4 – by invitation)
Thursday 5 th May	Year 4 Roman Day
Friday 6 th May	Class and Team Photographs/Year 6 Contemporary Photographs
Monday 9 th May	KS2 SATS Week. Clubs begin this week.
Tuesday 10 th May	Reception – Forest Schools Session 2
Monday 16 th May	KS1 SATS Pirate Week
Tuesday 17 th May	Reception – Forest Schools Session 3. Year 3 Trip to Tropical Wings.
Wednesday 18 th May	Take Pride - Infant Agility (Year 1 – by invitation)
Thursday 19 th May	Take Pride – Sports Hall Athletics (Year 1 – by invitation). Year 4 Residential Trip Parents' Info Evening @ 7pm.
Saturday 21 st May	Hartley and Fawkhams Church Fete (12.00 – 4.00pm)
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th May	Year 6 Holland Residential Trip
Tuesday 24 th May	Reception – Forest Schools Session 4
Friday 27th May	End of Term 5. (No Hannah May).
Monday 30th – Friday 3rd June	Term Break - Bank Holiday 30th May
JUNE	
Monday 6th June	Term 6 begins
Tuesday 7 th June	Reception - Forest Schools Session 5.
Wednesday 8 th June	Year 5 Secondary Selection Parent Information Evening
Friday 10 th June	Year 3 Swimming Session 1 (pm)
Monday 13 th June	Year 1 (and Y2) Phonics Screening.
Tuesday 14 th June	Year 4 K'Nex Challenge. Reception – Forest Schools Session 6.
Wednesday 15 th June	New Parents Information Evening – Reception 2016 @ 7.00pm
Thursday 16 th June	Year 4 Wide Horizons Centre, Horton Kirby
Friday 17 th June	Year 3 Swimming Session 2 (pm)
Saturday 18 th June	PTA Summer Fair
Friday 24 th June	Year 3 Swimming Session 3 (pm)
Monday 27 th June	Last Week of Clubs
Tuesday 28 th June	Year 1 Trip to Buckingham Palace
Thursday 30 th June	Foundation & KS1 Sports Day (am)
JULY	
Friday 1 st July	KS2 Sports Day (am). Year 3 Swimming Session 4 (pm)

July continued	
Tuesday 5 th July	Transition Morning. Longfield Music Festival (Rehearsals am, with an evening performance).
Thursday 7 th July	Transition Morning
Friday 8 th July	Year 3 Swimming Session 5 (pm). Year 6 Safety in Action. Reports to Parents.
Monday 11 th July	Year 6 Dress Rehearsal. Year 2 Trip to Botany Bay.
Tuesday 12 th July	Year 6 Production Evening (7.00 – 8.00pm)
Wednesday 13 th July	Year 6 Production Evening (7.00 - 8.00pm)
Thursday 14 th July	Report Discussion Afternoon.
Friday 15 th July	Year 3 Swimming Session 6 (pm)
Wednesday 20 th July	Year 6 Leavers Service at Fawkham Church
	PTA School Disco - Foundation/KS1: 5.00-6.00pm, KS2: 6.15-7.15pm Yr6: 7.15-8.15pm
Thursday 21st July	Last Day of Term 6
Friday 22nd July	STAFF TRAINING DAY school closed for children
	Summer Break to Friday 2nd September (Monday 5th September will be a Staff Training Day - school will be closed to pupils).
September	
Tuesday 6th September	Term 1 of New Academic Year 2016/17 Begins (Arrangements for New Reception children will be sent out shortly.)

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Goosani
Principal