



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER 9 – MAY

Academic Year 2014 - 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Have you heard the Cuckoo yet? There are definitely Cuckoos in the woods at New Ash Green! Bluebells, Wood Anemones, Wood Celandines and even some woodland Orchids are telling us that spring is definitely upon us!

Pupil Events

We have had number of off-site visits: Reception classes have visited Godstone Farm, Year 3 to 'Tropical Wings' and Year 5 have begun work on our project to develop the skills of Petanque at Hartley Country Club. Our Year 3's are next to go along over the next fortnight. Our Year 6 classes went to a 'Safety in Action' session in Tunbridge Wells, paid a visit to the Sikh temple in Gravesend and will shortly be visiting the Duxford Air Museum on Thursday 21st May.

It won't be too long before we pack ourselves up ready for the residential trips to the Netherlands and Suffolk. Having hosted the Information Evening for Holland, can we please ask that parents of Year 4 children make every effort to attend the Suffolk Information Evening on Tuesday 19th May 2015 – we have a lot of information to share with you!

Our Year 5's will also be 'Synchronised Swimming' at the Hartley and Fawkhams Church Fete tomorrow – between 1pm and 2pm. Please support our children – I'm not quite sure what to expect – but needless to say, it will be very entertaining!

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.
- 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.

Reporting to Parents

We will, closer to the time, be giving you more information on how we will be reporting and assessing 'without levels'. This will involve us all in a huge mind-shift! Teachers, Parents and children alike are all very conversant with progress being assessed using measures which have been in place now for over a decade. Suddenly we are required to look at learning and progress in a different way. If you have time, please listen to Tim Oates Chair of the Expert Panel on assessment explaining the thinking behind this change. His speech can be found at:

<http://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/insights/national-curriculum-tim-oates-on-assessment-insights/>

Clubs

Club confirmation slips will be coming home on Monday next week. A reminder that after school clubs will run until week ending Friday 3rd July 2015.

Dates for Your Diary

Please also add to your diaries the following dates:

Monday 11th May	KS2 SATS (including Level 6). Clubs begin this week.
Monday 18th May	KS1 SATS Pirate Week
Tuesday 19th May	Reception - Forest Schools Session 1. Year 4 Residential Trip Parents' Info Evening @ 7pm.
Thursday 21st May	Year 6 Trip to Duxford Air Museum
Friday 22nd May	Year 6 Anti-Crime Workshop. End of Term 5
Monday 25th - Friday 29th May	Term Break - Bank Holiday 25th May
JUNE	
Monday 1st June	Term 6 begins
Tuesday 2nd June	Reception - Forest Schools Session 2
Wednesday 3rd June	Year 5 Parents Info Eve re. Selection @ 7.00pm
Friday 5th June	Class and Team Photographs/Year 6 Contemporary Photographs. Year 3 Swimming Session 1 (pm)
Monday 8th June	Year 6 Residential Trip to Holland (Monday 8th to Friday 12th June)
Thursday 11th June	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting for Parents
Friday 12th June	Year 4 Residential Trip Friday to Sunday. Year 3 Swimming Session 2 (pm)
Monday 15th June	Year 1 (and Y2) Phonics Screening. Nurse Drop-in sessions (am)
Tuesday 16th June	Year 4 K'Nex Challenge
Friday 19th June	Year 3 Swimming Session 3 (pm)
Monday 22nd June	STAFF TRAINING DAY - school not open for children
Tuesday 23rd June	Reception - Forest Schools Session 3. Year 1 Visit to Howlett's Zoo. New Reception Parents' Information Evening @ 7.00pm.
Thursday 25th June	Year 2 Visit to Botany Bay
Friday 26th June	Year 3 Swimming Session 4 (pm). PTA Summer Fete - Starts after school!
Monday 29th June	Reception - Forest Schools Session 4
Tuesday 30th June	Last Week of Clubs. Foundation & KS1 Sports Day am.

JULY	
Wednesday 1st July	Longfield Schools Association Music Festival
Thursday 2nd July	KS2 Sports Day am
Friday 3rd July	Year 3 Swimming Session 5 (pm)
Tuesday 7th July	Transition Morning (inc. Longfield Academy)
Wednesday 8th July	Transition Morning.
Friday 10th July	Reports to Parents. Year 3 Swimming Session 6 (pm)
Monday 13th July	Year 6 Dress Rehearsal. Reception - Forest Schools Session 5.
Tuesday 14th July	Year 4 Trip to Horton Kirby. Year 6 Production Evening (7.00 - 8.00pm)
Wednesday 15th July	Year 6 Production Evening (7.00 - 8.00pm)
Thursday 16th July	Report Discussion Afternoon.
Tuesday 21st July	Reception Visit to the Orchard Theatre to see 'Stick Man' - 1.00pm
Wednesday 22nd 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 23rd July	Last Day of Term 6
Friday 24th July	STAFF TRAINING DAY school closed for children
	Summer Break to Friday 4th September (3rd and 4th will be Staff Training Days - school will be closed to pupils).
Monday 7th September	Term 1 of New Academic Year 2015/16 Begins
Monday 7th - Friday 11th September	Home Visits for New Reception
Monday 14th September	New Reception Classes Start

Packed Lunches

Sandwiches!! 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.

School Meals

For parents who would like to pay for the entire term (Term 6) when we return after the May half-term break, the full amount is £83.60. Please make cheques payable to **TCS Independent Ltd.** Thank you.

Breakfast Club

At present we cannot accommodate any further requests for places as 'one-offs' – we have limited capacity based on child to staff ratios. If you would like your child to join in September 2015 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.

E-Safety Information Evening

Mr (H) Goldsmith (ably supported by the HIIT - Hartley Internet Intelligence Team of expert children), delivered a most informative talk to 30 parents on Tuesday this week. He had been shocked – and not a little alarmed – to learn what children are accessing online and the potential danger they are unwittingly putting themselves in.

The slides from this event will be published on our website. Parents who did attend expressed their appreciation that concerns had been shared with them and perhaps awareness raised.

We pose some questions for you to consider:

- Are you aware of the apps which may be running on your child's device in the background constantly collecting location and other personal data?
- Have you checked that the apps your child is using do not have – or do not intend to introduce a chatroom facility?
- Does your child know more than you about the apps they are using?
- Are you aware of the language your child may be using in chatroom/communications and the time of the day and particularly at night they are messaging?

A very short verbal survey amongst our children suggests they might be more vulnerable than we think. The internet is an amazing tool and an integral part of our lives, but it is evolving incredibly quickly; children are the experts – but there remains huge potential for exploitation, grooming and bullying if as adults we 'let them get on with it' and do not monitor what they are using and accessing.

PTA Events

The next Big Event is the Summer Fair. Please keep the afternoon of **Friday 26th 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 parents' information evening for the September Reception intake (Tuesday 23rd June) and they generously provide water for our Sports Days. The PTA's current 'big project' is fund raising to replace the trim trail on the lower playground.

PTA Succession Planning

Whilst we have always had a very successful PTA who raise thousands of pounds each year, ploughed back directly into projects supporting children in the school, we are in danger of seeing the PTA ceasing to exist from September. We urgently need parents who are willing to step into the role of Chair and Secretary. The current holders of these positions, who have held these roles for some time, are more than happy to support newly appointed officers. They also wish to make it clear that the roles are not overly onerous or time-consuming; there is a wealth of documentation to support events and procedures, with notes, templates and previous planning all available. Hartley Primary Academy is full to capacity; there are hundreds of parents within our community. Please consider volunteering to enable the PTA to continue.

Our children – your children - tell us how much they enjoy the Discos, the Movie Nights, the Summer and Christmas Fairs, the Christmas Card designs and the Mothers' and Fathers' Day stalls, water for Sports Days and Theatre group visits. **Without a PTA these events will no longer take place with effect from September.** Please contact us via the PTA box or leave a message in the School Office if you are willing to step up.

School Uniform

This is always a tricky time, when children are growing and with the holidays approaching 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 – and are made clear in our prospectus.

Monitoring Absence/School Holiday Dates

You are aware that Mrs Potter is leaving us at the end of Term 5. We have been working very hard behind the scenes to replace her and we were lucky to have a very strong field of candidates from which we shortlisted, with interviews taking place last week. Amongst those was our own Mrs King who battled with the best and succeeded in being appointed to this pivotal role within our school. She will step smoothly into Mrs Potter's shoes and will continue to follow up absence and support parents in the way Mrs Potter has for so many years.

The Department for Education has an expected minimum attendance for children, 95% within a school year. We are required by the DfE to inform parents if children's attendance drops below 90%. Very often parents are not aware of how absence can mount up. We are grateful to parents for keeping us informed when children are unwell. **Please be aware that holidays arranged in school time are not allowed and that fines are being applied.**

The school calendar for next year is attached. Please ensure your holidays fall into the school holiday dates. There will be 2 Training Days before the children come back - on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September 2015. Children will be in school from **Monday 7th September**. Please be aware that the Training Day originally booked for Friday 27th November 2015 has now been confirmed as Friday 23rd October 2015 – bringing our day in line with other schools within the Leigh Academies Trust.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Hollingworth
Principal