



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER 11 – JULY

Academic Year 2014 - 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

Here we are at the end of what seems like an inordinately long Term 6. The children have done incredibly well; they have continued to engage with their learning right to the very end, despite being tired and a bit frayed round the edges!

Secondary Admissions

The children from Year 6 are going to 12 different Secondary Schools. The majority of the children, 29 (49%) are going to Longfield Academy. One child (1.7%) is going to the Leigh Academy, 22 children (37%) are moving on to Grammar Schools and one is moving to the independent sector (1.7%). The remaining 7 (11.9%) children are going to attend alternative local secondary schools in the area.

Results

This year's results at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception classes), Year 2 and Year 6, are improved on last year and they are the best we have achieved in recent years. Congratulations to the children who have listened to their teachers, worked incredibly hard and pushed themselves to achieve their personal best.

New National Curriculum

From September 2015 all year groups, now including Years 2 and 6 (but excluding Reception) will be following the new National Curriculum. This is more demanding – with a much greater focus on learning times tables, spellings, grammar and punctuation and applying this knowledge to master skills within other subjects. Children cannot learn their spellings and their tables alone. They need your help at home to listen, to support and to test what they have managed to memorise. Children also need you to hear them read at home. Although we have many willing volunteers who hear individual children read, there are not enough hours in the school day for teachers or teaching assistants to hear each child read individually.



Kent Libraries Reading Challenge

Our local libraries are all supporting this year's Reading Challenge. On their website (<http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/summer-reading-challenge>) there are booklists, suggestions and all sorts of activities to encourage children to read. Please do encourage your child to read as much as possible over the summer holidays; a 6 week gap in reading is a significant one and we play 'catch-up' with the children for a number of weeks.

PTA

The PTA are tireless in their work; not everything they do is 'headline' material, for example, they provide refreshments for the Reception Parents' Evening and then again, twice, for the transition days. Water is provided each year for Sports Day courtesy of the PTA. The 'Washed and Ready to Wear' rail is maintained and our PTA have kindly donated their time to sorting through all the Lost Property and trying, where possible to reunite clothing with their owner.

Finally for this year, the end of term Discos are organised and run by members of the PTA and they do a fantastic job in supervising the children and keeping them replenished with much needed refreshments.

Please note – we are continuing with the entry system which we employed at Christmas. Please take coats away with you at drop off, to make the system run smoother.

5 – 6pm Foundation Stage/KS1 (Years 1 & 2) = Entry via the Main Entrance
6.15 – 7.15pm KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) = Entry for Years 3 & 4 – Entry via Redwood classroom
7.15 – 8.15pm Year 6 Only = Entry for Year 6 – Entry via Cedar classroom

All children will be reunited with their parents in the hall – and must exit via the back of the hall. Thank you.

Visits

Last week, our Year 4 children visited Horton Kirby Field Study Centre to do some field-work, investigating first-hand the River Darent – a lovely day and a great time had by all. Our Reception classes will be visiting The Orchard theatre on Tuesday this week to see a performance of 'The Stick Man'.

Year 6 children have been in and out of school on their Transition visits to their secondary schools. They are now ready to move on to their new destinations – but not without a final official farewell at St Mary's Church, Fawkham on Wednesday morning (start time – 9.30am). Owing to restrictions on parking spaces, if parents can car share it would be much appreciated.

Breakfast Club – Places for September

For those parents who asked for their children to be placed on the waiting list, we will be contacting families individually before the end of term to confirm if their requests can be accommodated (the exercise to establish our current 'regulars' from our adhoc has been a lengthy one!) From September we will not be able to accommodate any children as 'one-offs' – due to the number of children we will have in Breakfast Club (in excess of 80 children on any given day).

School Uniform

Please can we ask that uniform is named in **black pen** on your child's return to school in September. We have been overwhelmed this summer by the number of unclaimed sweatshirts, fleeces and cardigans and have no means to return them without identification. Please check after every wash to ensure names are still clearly marked on labels. Thank you.

School Meals

Continuing from last year, all children in Years R, 1 and 2 are entitled to Free School Meals. However, parents with children currently in Year 2 will need to take the decision about whether to carry on with School Meals when their children move into Year 3 and the funding stops.

IMPORTANT: Families who would have been eligible for Free School Meals under the 'old' system should still apply. Additional funding is made available to schools based on the numbers of children eligible for Free School Meals and this helps us provide intervention groups and additional adult support. I cannot emphasise how important this is – if you are in any doubt about your eligibility, which is based on income, please contact the School Office in confidence. They will be happy to support and advise – and are able to make a claim on your behalf.

Calendar for 2015/16

With the new term being such as a busy one, please see below for an overview of the dates and events booked in so far.

September Dates	
Thursday 3 rd September	STAFF TRAINING DAY - School closed for children
Friday 4 th September	STAFF TRAINING DAY - School closed for children
Monday 7 th September	Term 1 begins – welcome back!
Monday 7 th – Friday 11 th September	Foundation Stage Teachers Home Visits
Thursday 10 th September	Year 6 Grammar School Selection Tests
Monday 14 th September	Foundation Stage pupils first day
Monday 14 th September	Boom Academy starts after school
Tuesday 15 th September	PTA Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Wednesday 16 th September	Year 6 Extension Club begins
Friday 18 th September	PTA Movie Night
Monday 21 st September	Phonics Meeting for Foundation Stage parents (2.00pm)
Wednesday 23 rd September	Essential Assessment Information Evening 6.00pm – 6.30pm (led by Mrs Lambourne, in the school hall). Followed by: 'Meet the Teacher' (6.30pm - 7.10pm/7.10pm-8.00pm)/ PTA AGM 8.00pm - 8.45pm
Monday 28 th September	Foundation Stage are full time from this week
October Dates	
Wednesday 7 th October	First Year 6 group starts Bikeability
Thursday 22 nd October	Term 1 Ends
Friday 23 rd October	STAFF TRAINING DAY - School closed for children
November Dates	
Monday 2 nd November	Term 2 Begins
Friday 27 th November	Christmas Hat Day – bring a bottle or sweets
Saturday 28 th November	PTA Christmas Fair
December Dates	
Monday 7 th December	Boom Academy's last session
Thursday 17 th December	PTA Christmas Discos (Years 1 – 6 only)
Friday 18 th December	Term 2 Ends

Last Day of Term

Our last day this week is **Thursday 23rd July** - school will be open to pupils on **Monday 7th September 2015**. We will issue a full diary of events to parents as early as we can in the new academic year.

I wish you a happy and safe summer break and look forward to seeing the children refreshed and ready to go in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Hollingworth
Principal

