



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER 1



New Academic Year –
September 2013-2014

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back!

We have had a whirlwind start to the new year, but it is always a pleasure to see the children once again. Our pupils look very smart and we are very grateful to parents for supporting our uniform policy. The school is almost full, with only a handful of places across the 14 classes.

Hellos

As well as welcoming 60 new children to Foundation Stage, and a number of children new to the school in other year groups, we also welcome Mr Warren to Year 4 and Mrs Morton to Year 2. Mrs Bransgrove will provide Booster and small class learning across the school and Mrs King has been appointed as a Teaching Assistant.

Academic Standards

We are very proud, once again, of our high levels of achievement at Key Stages 1 and 2. Over the last few years our results have continued to rise. Children in Year 2 have succeeded in maintaining very high standards. With the introduction of level 6 tests at the end of Year 6 we have been pleased with the number of our children who are aspiring to reach this level and succeeding.

Special mention must be made of the accomplishments of our youngest children and their teachers also. During 2012-2013 a new curriculum for the Early Years was introduced. The whole system of planning and assessment was completely revised and the emphasis on outdoor learning was increased. Whilst benchmarking our results is still difficult because there is yet insufficient data available, we are very impressed with the assessment outcomes of our Reception children and this has been reflected, even this early in the year, in their readiness to embrace more formal learning as they begin Year 1.

We do have comparative data for the Sevenoaks schools and we perform very favourably within our local community.

Meet the Teacher

On Wednesday 25th September we hold the first of our meetings with parents. We will begin with the 'Meet the Headteacher' session in order that parents can be introduced to our new teachers and we will share with parents our intent to become accredited as a 'Thinking School'. This first session will be short: from 6.30pm until 6.45pm, at which point parents are welcome to go to their children's classrooms to meet the teachers who will deliver informal presentations about routines, areas of study, expectations and so forth. The classroom sessions will be repeated at 7.10pm. Our PTA Annual General Meeting will follow at 7.45pm in the Hall. We are incredibly lucky to have such a busy and dedicated PTA, which continues to plan a programme of varied events which raise huge amounts of money – all of which goes directly back to the children. We look forward to seeing you at the [PTA Quiz Night this Saturday](#) – it promises to be a fun (and competitive) evening!

Trips and Visits

Our Year 3's visited Lullingstone Villa and Country Park on Tuesday and the rain couldn't dampen their spirits! Combining the Roman experience with making clay pots/houses (in the rain) and enjoying our Kent countryside ensured a great day for everyone involved.

Year 2's look forward to their trip to Tyland Barn on Monday 23rd September and our Year 5's will be researching 'What is a Village' by taking a visit up to New Ash Green on Wednesday 25th September.

Clubs

After-school clubs run by teachers will begin shortly (week commencing 30th September). Every year we ask if there are parents who would like to either run a club or help run a club and we have had very little response. We could offer more clubs if more adults were to get involved. Clubs offer different activities beyond the usual curriculum and usually require a higher pupil to adult ratio. We would particularly welcome parents who have skills in Gardening. We do expect our children to come enthusiastic to our clubs – School Clubs are not a childminding facility.

Externally Run Clubs

French Club runs on Wednesday lunchtimes and Karate Club on Wednesdays after school **(start time of 3.45pm)**. Dance with Miss Hannah runs on a Friday alongside Brazilian Kickers Football - both after school. There is an additional cost involved in these clubs but if your child would like to become involved, please contact the School Office and we can put you in touch with the relevant provider.

Whilst these providers use our facilities they are run entirely separately to our own clubs. The leaders of the Karate and Brazilian Football clubs expect parents to collect their children from the teacher after school and supervise their child in changing and while the club is operating. It would appear this has not been made clear and has caused some problems for parents and I apologise for this.

French Club

Mme. Randall who comes into school on Wednesday lunchtimes is looking to recruit additional 'enfants' for Le Petit Club Francais. If your child would like to attend the club, forms are available from the School Office. You can still enrol your child for September as the first lesson is next week. The first 5 weeks' charge is £26.00 or £50.00 for 10 lessons. Allocations will be on a strictly first come first served basis.

French Club will meet on the following days:

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|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Term 1: | 25/09, 02/10, 09/10, 16/10, 23/10 |
| Term 2: | 13/11, 20/11, 27/11, 04/12, 11/12 |
| Term 3: | 15/01, 22/01, 29/01, 05/02, 12/02 |
| Term 4: | 26/02, 05/03, 12/03, 19/03, 26/03 |
| Term 5: | 23/04, 30/04, 07/05, 14/05, 21/05 |
| Term 6: | 04/06, 11/06, 18/06, 25/06, 02/07 |

Sponsored Sports Kit

We have received expressions of interest from our entrepreneurial parents regarding sponsoring of our sports kits. Just to remind you, we have Netball, Tag Rugby, Girls' Football and Boys' Football kits which would benefit hugely from a revamp and some promotion! If you are interested, please contact the School Office or email office@hartley.kent.sch.uk.

School Library

Whilst the internet is an ever-important source of up to date knowledge, there is still a place for the School Library. To help us maintain the library in a neat, tidy and orderly fashion we would welcome some help! If there is a parent or grandparent who might have a couple of hours a week to spare we would be very grateful to hear from you.

Tired Children!

It takes a little while to get back into the daily routines after the long summer break, however, we are aware that there are a number of children who appear to be really tired at school. This can create mood-swings, affect behaviour and certainly affects a child's capacity to learn and ultimately their life chances. Education is important – vital – and children must be in a fit state to participate in learning. Please ensure your child has a regular bedtime and it is a time appropriate for their age. Of course, every child is different but research suggests 10 – 11 hours of sleep for children aged between 7 and 12 (and more for younger children). A number of children tell us they are up late playing on their electronic devices. Perhaps there is a case for rationing use during the week.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed and you are in receipt of benefits such as Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Child Tax Credit or similar, you may be entitled to Free School Meals. It's one less thing to worry about and there is no stigma attached; children are not identified at any point and applications are treated confidentially. Please collect a form from the School Office.

Holidays in School Time

Thank you – there has been a significant reduction in parents requesting to take their children out of school during term time. I cannot emphasise enough how disruptive it is to the child taken out of school but it also causes disruption to the other children in the class – whose learning can be compromised when children return from holidays and need additional help and extra time to catch up. In line with Kent County Council and the Leigh Academies Trust, holidays in school time will not be authorised and any unauthorised absence could result in a fine being imposed upon parents. Failure to pay the fine can ultimately result in imprisonment.

Harvest Assembly

This year our Harvest Assembly will be led by Years 1 and 2 on Friday 4th October. The focus of our collection is yet to be agreed and we will let you know shortly.

Calendar

Mrs Orchard has issued a calendar of events already this term. We try not to deviate from published dates, but unfortunately there are times when this cannot be avoided.

Speed in the Vicinity of Local Roads

In the very busy times at the beginning and end of the school day, 30mph is too fast for the volume of traffic, parked cars and small and vulnerable children who are using the roads near to school. We have been shocked by the speed and the aggression shown by some drivers – who are themselves parents. The increasing number of children in school has had an impact

on the number of vehicles in the area and unless all drivers slow down, give way and keep calm, the possibility of a serious accident is ever more likely.

In the News

Recently there have been some comments made by politicians about school uniform and the associated costs. Hartley Primary Academy has always advised parents that our uniform can be purchased from any high street store or supermarket chain which sell clothing. The uniform bearing our logo cannot be purchased elsewhere but is not compulsory, although many families choose to buy branded uniform from us.

The new National Curriculum is due to be in operation by September 2014. There are similarities and differences however, certain key elements remain unchanged. In English the importance of reading could not be made more clear and should be taking place 'widely and frequently, outside as in well in school, for pleasure and information'. There is clear direction on the importance of children's speaking and listening skills – both essential to their skills in writing, and children are encouraged to rehearse out loud the sentences they intend to write. Learning to recite poetry by heart appears in every stage of the primary programme of study. Spelling continues to be important within the programmes of study and there are very specific expectations for each year group.

In Maths, there is an expectation that children will be able to tell the time (analogue clock) to five-minute intervals and know their 2, 5 and 10 times table by the end of Key Stage 1. By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all multiplication facts up to the 12 times tables. Reading, spellings and multiplication tables are something that children cannot do without adult support. Parents often ask us how they can support their children at home – and these are three essential areas. Spellings and multiplication tables once learned need constant reinforcement and practice. Just because a child has 'learned' a table does not mean that they do not need to continue to practice at home. Also children need to be able to recite their tables in order, forwards, backwards, as division sums, in random order and mixed together with other tables. Quick recall is essential. Children should not need to work their way through a table in order to give an answer, the bonds should be memorised so well that recall is pretty well instant.

Opening Mornings

Please tell friends and family! We are holding 3 morning events on Tuesday 12th, Thursday 21st and Tuesday 26th November, with tours starting at 9.30am and 10.45am. If you know of anyone who would like to take a look around our school in preparation for making Reception applications for September 2014, they can contact the School Office to book themselves on a tour.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Hollingworth
Headteacher