



### **Dear Parents and Carers,**

Firstly I would like to say thank you for the amazing generosity with regard to Christmas gifts and cards, both personally and on behalf of all of the staff.  
Secondly - Happy New Year!

We were so pleased to see the children back last week. Sadly we have a couple of our pupils in plaster, so we wish those children a swift return to health. The children have come back rested and in a very positive frame of mind. We are resuming our 'Thinking Families' this term alongside linking our 'STAIRS' to success with the more focused 'Habits of Mind' – part of our Thinking School toolbox.

Already there is a hint (when it stops raining) that the nights are drawing out day by day – January is such an optimistic time of the year!

### **Year 4 Pupils**

Another visit from Andrew Berry, Science Consultant and manager of Horton Kirby Environmental Centre, with his programme "Rocking Around Britain" on Thursday January 9<sup>th</sup> proved extremely popular once again with children in Year 4. This is a workshop which engages every single child and they could all talk about the different things they had learned.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Silver Birch and Chestnut classes will be visiting the London Planetarium on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February** so please put the date in your diaries – a letter with all the details will be coming out shortly – we will be leaving promptly at 9.00am to ensure we gain maximum time at the venue.

We have published a Diary of Events on our website –

<http://www.hartleyprimaryacademy.org.uk/parents/term-dates.php>

This will be amended as new events are organised. We will be updating this schedule from time to time.

### **Year 2 Pupils**

Can we please ask that all children are taken around to the bottom playground at the beginning of the school day. We are seeing an increasing number of children coming into school via reception. Up until **9.00 am** children should be walked to the bottom playground where they will be collected by their teachers. It can be quite daunting for our younger children to walk down to their classrooms via our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils at this time in the school day and we look to avoid potential congestion where we can. Thank you

### **PTA Movie Night**

We are extremely grateful to our PTA for the amount of effort they put into fundraising for the school and what a fantastic start to the new term! Over 200 children enjoyed the films, the tea and sharing some leisure time with their friends. Thank you for your patience in the long wait to

pick up the children. Making sure that 200 children are united with their appropriate adult all at once is a bit challenging. You were very understanding. You'll be pleased to learn the night made £523 profit for our school!

### **Winter updates...**

I have just checked the 10-day forecast and so far there is no mention of snow. However, we have to be prepared, just in case! Our website will continue to keep parents abreast of school closures. Information about road gritting and other KCC closures can be found at [www.kent.gov.uk/winter](http://www.kent.gov.uk/winter). You can also tune in or visit the sites of KMFM, BBC Radio Kent and Heart FM for updates and closures. We will continue to use Home Connect and parents may like to consider signing up for text message alerts via [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk). Please be aware there is a charge of 20p plus the standard network charge. KCC recommends parents should visit the BBC or [direct.gov.uk](http://direct.gov.uk) websites for home learning resources to support children's learning while the school is closed and although we are no longer a KCC school this seems to be good advice if there is any prolonged closure. Mr Goldsmith has ordered in plenty of oil and last year bought a snow moving machine which helps to clear paths and areas of access.

### **Coats, boots and skirts, hair and nail varnish!**

We are in the middle of winter and children are expected to have coats in school every day. The weather can change dramatically during the day and children need to be protected. For girls, boots may be worn on very cold, wet or snowy days but they must be waterproof and plain, not furry or glitzy. Some of our older girls, who are really shooting up and becoming very tall, appear to have grown out of their skirts which are becoming very short! Whilst we are not going back to Victorian times, we do expect skirts to be close to the knee please.

Nail varnish is great fun – for weekends – but please remove it for school days and finally..... please avoid 'tramlines', 'Mohican' type hair styles and 'skinhead' type shaven hair – save them for the holidays.

### **Clubs**

Clubs begin on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January and letters have been given to the children. Teachers will start compiling their club lists at the start of next week, so we have asked for reply slips to come back by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January** please.

### **Parking**

Following recent incidents of thoughtless and dangerous parking and aggressive driving close to school I have contacted Kent Police. Please report any such incidents to them. We have very patient local residents, but at the end of last term patience was wearing thin when a minority of parents parked across driveways and drove completely inappropriately. Your consideration and care is essential. Our local PCSO, Daniel Garfield has been into school to meet with me to discuss our concerns and a copy of his letter will be sent out with this newsletter.

### **Payments to School**

We understand that a number of schools offer online payment services for school trips, breakfast clubs and so on and we are investigating this as an option for us here. In the meantime, can we please ask that any monies (cash or cheque) are brought to school in a sealed envelope with your child's name, class and reason for payment. As I'm sure you will appreciate, we take in a considerable number of payments on a daily basis and we need to ensure monies are credited to the correct destination!

## Dinner Money

Please can parents ensure payment for the week ahead is paid every **Monday** - either via cheque or cash (in sealed envelopes please). A large proportion of our parents kindly pay in advance – weekly or termly but a small number of parents do not pay in a timely manner and/or pay the incorrect amount. The cost per day is £2.20 – £11.00 for the week. Please can we ask that dinner money is paid promptly – cheques should be made payable to **TCS Independent Ltd.**

You can also pay online via <http://www.eschoolmeals.com/TotalCateringSolutions>.

Payments online must be processed at the latest **by Sunday evening** for payment to count for the following week. We know the website states online payments can be processed until 8.30am Monday morning, but in reality, the payments don't always go through in time if you make a payment on a Monday for the coming week.

## A Request from Rev. J. Fletcher

A number of our children attended the church's Children's Holiday Club last summer and the children created pictures for reproduction onto tea-towels. If you were interested in purchasing the finished articles, the tea-towels are now available! Priced at £4.00 for one or £6.00 for two, you can order via the church centre on Ash Road or contact the office on 01474 703819.

## 'Growth Mindset'

A page of ticks in a book look very pleasing. However, it can mean the work is too easy and a child is not being challenged or learning anything new. We are encouraging children to recognise this and not to be afraid to tackle the next step, attempt something harder and to understand that making mistakes is a reflection of a desire to learn. We are asking children whether or not they have 'Grown their Minds' during a lesson, so don't be surprised if your child begins to talk about their brain being bigger!



## Goodbyes

As I'm sure parents of Beech class are already aware, we are saying farewell to Mrs Morton at the end of Term 3. The Year 2 cohort is benefitting from additional teaching support with Mrs Creed working with both classes; arrangements for Beech Class specifically will be communicated once confirmed.

We are also saying our goodbyes to Mrs Gill in the School Office. She has given six years to Hartley Primary School in her role as Bursar then Finance Manager when we converted to Academy status. As our previous Governors are aware, Mrs Gill has steered us through times of financial challenge and has ensured that the school budget has been well allocated, strictly monitored and at all times used effectively for learning. I think she is a complete financial whizz, we have been so lucky to have had her at Hartley, she will be greatly missed and hard to replace.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Hollingworth', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Hollingworth  
Principal