



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER 7 - MARCH



Academic Year – 2013-2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a change in the weather. At last, sunshine, light mornings and evenings – it feels as if we are emerging from a blanket of gloom!

Term 4 has started well; it is always a pleasure to meet with parents on Consultation evenings and our Year 6 Hosts enjoy the opportunity to develop their skills of 'meeting and greeting'. We have had two Governors' visit the school, Mr Brindle has been looking at Writing and Mrs Gall looking at Assessments and progress. Following the incredibly long term-time at the beginning of the year, Terms 3, 4 and 5 seem to just fly by. Our last day of term is **Friday 4th April** and we're back in school on **Tuesday 22nd April** (Monday 21st April is a Bank Holiday).

Pupil Events

HPA Football Team

The school football team played its first match of 2014 against Langafel Primary School on a pitch beginning to dry out, on a glorious sunny evening. Just as glorious was the result, 8 – 5 to Hartley! Well done to all concerned, Mr Dutton and Mrs Fewell also and to parents for their support. Man of the Match went to Will Harle.

World Book Week

We had a fantastic book week with theatre workshops for the whole school (performing A Midsummer Night's Dream). On Friday we all dressed as a favourite book character and hopefully the children are enjoying their sponsored read (forms and money to be back in school by Friday 28th March please). And while we're on the subject of reading...

...Hartley Library

As part of World Book Week, our Key Stage 1 children visited Hartley Library for reading sessions. Our thanks goes to Hartley Library for accommodating our children. Please can we remind parents that the library offers printing services free of charge for our children as part of their service provision to the local community – please utilise the library!

Year 6 Children visited the Sikh Temple in Gravesend as part of their R.E, which focuses on learning about other religions. Narrowly avoiding a double-booking, the **Year 6 netballers** then 'hot-footed' across to Fawkham for an inter-schools netball tournament and won every match! Congratulations to our fantastic squad of players who have brought back a fantastic trophy for our display cabinet. Thanks also to our mums who provided travel on the day and invaluable coaching to the team.

Simon Beamish the new CEO of the Leigh Trust spoke to the children following Mrs Platt's assembly on Wednesday 12th March and was then given a tour by some of our Year 6 children. We would like to thank him for spending time with us in school.

Congratulations to Denis Piralic in Year 6 for coming third in the Tae Kwon Do under 13's World Championships (light heavyweight class). What a fantastic achievement and we hope to see Denis progress even further in the sport.

Dates for the Diary

- Year 1 – Leeds Caste Trip – Tuesday 18th March
- Year 5 – Science Day at Dartford Grammar School for Girls – Friday 21st March
- Year 4 – Class Assembly – Monday 31st March (am)
- Year 6 – WW2 Day – Dressing as Evacuees – Tuesday 1st April

Kent Messenger – My Mum 2014

For parents of children in Years R, 1 and 2 you might be interested in purchasing the Kent Messenger published in the week ending 29th March 2014. Our children have submitted Mother's Day messages which will be printed for your delight!

PTA Easter Bunny Hunt

For Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: **Tuesday 1st April** and for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: **Wednesday 2nd April**. Letters have been sent home providing details and the entry form. Please can entries be back in school (via Class teacher or PTA box in Reception) by March 26th to give the bunny plenty of time to prepare – we cannot accept late entries. Thank you!

February's Parent Consultation Evenings

As always, I would like to thank our staff for their preparation and commitment. Without their dedication to putting in the groundwork for these evenings PCE's wouldn't be as beneficial as I believe they are. Our Year 6 pupils do a fantastic job of receiving parents – my thanks to those parents who 'released' their children for both nights. Teachers have also accommodated a large number of parents who were unable to attend on the evenings. My thanks to them for working additional hours to see these parents - who I'm sure appreciated the extra time made available for them.

Clubs

Please can we remind parents that the last week of clubs will be commencing **Monday 24th March**.

Breakfast Club

Based on our current numbers we are now completely full on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We are now adding any new enquiries for those days to a waiting list. We have very limited availability for Mondays only.

Breakfast Club – Safe Delivery of Children

Some parents are leaving their children at the gate, or worse, outside the gate and allowing children to run unaccompanied across the car park to Breakfast Club. A number of staff, visitors and early morning delivery drivers have had narrow escapes and have been very anxious and distressed.

Parents must walk their children across the car park to Breakfast Club. All parents MUST enter through the pedestrian gate. It is dangerous to duck under the barrier for both children and adults. Do not walk through the little gap alongside the barrier, which is taped across to make it clear that it is not an entry point!

Reception Stage Garden

We are hoping to make improvements to the outdoor learning space. Saturday 26th April is our proposed day for a 'working party' in the garden. If anyone has any spare paving slabs and are happy to donate them to the project, could they get in touch? Please contact Miss Galinis, Mrs Green or Mrs Bainbridge – or ring the school office on 01474 702742. Thank you.

Parking Near to School

We continue to receive complaints from residents about parents either parking on driveways prohibiting entry or access and double parking – parking opposite another parked car thereby blocking roads close to school. Both behaviours demonstrate a lack of consideration for road users, pedestrians and residents alike. We must all appreciate that schools were not built with car access in mind and drive and park with respect. Thank you.

Bringing Bikes and Scooters into School

Scooters are not being locked up whilst in the two designated areas (by Redwood Class and on the top playground). Please be aware that the school will not take responsibility for the loss of any bikes or scooters – if you can lock them please do so.

Mobile Phones/iPads In School

Please can we remind parents the school will not take responsibility for any loss to IT/mobile equipment brought into school.

Challenges Facing Schools from September 2014

There are some major changes within education which are being implemented in September of this year. Currently we are working hard to ensure we can introduce all of these new initiatives smoothly. **Curriculum 2014** will be taught in Years 1,3,4 and 5 from September – but Years 2 and 6 will continue with the existing curriculum and will be tested on this in September 2015. Not only is there a change in content but also in the methods of teaching; we are doing a lot of preparatory work now to be ready for September.

The second crucial change is within **Assessment**; from September there will be no National Curriculum levels. Teachers, parents and children are all very familiar now with how levels help us track progress and target 'next steps' in learning. However the Department for Education has told us that this is the last year when children will be given a level for their end of key stage tests. What will be replacing this system is not clear at this point.

Keeping Parents Informed

In our last newsletter we told you that it was our intention to run another Maths Information Evening. However it is clear that there are such big changes ahead (as mentioned above) in all areas that we will need to organise another meeting for parents which explains how we intend to move forward with these new initiatives. We will arrange meetings in Term 6. At the moment, there are still too many 'unknowns' especially around assessment – and we want to be able to give you as much information as possible.

Free School Meals for Reception and Key Stage 1 is the next initiative. In September it is intended to offer all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 a free school meal. **We will be sending out a survey to parents** in order that we can gauge the response to this initiative. At present we are looking at how we will implement this in the most effective and least disruptive way. Obviously having some idea of prospective numbers is one of the first things we need to find out about.

Diary Dates 2014-15

The school's diary for the next academic year hasn't been published yet – but for guidance as to how the term dates will look 2014-15 (give or take a few days to cover our staff training days) please refer to Kent County Council's website:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/school_education/school_term_and_exam_dates.aspx

Yours sincerely



Mrs Hollingworth
Principal