



HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER 8 - APRIL



Academic Year – 2013-2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

The school year from this point just gallops forward. April will vanish before we know it and then May will be upon us – with a shorter 5 week term. The time will fly on our return from Easter!

Pupil Events

Year 4 Assembly which was all about Egyptians was absolutely stunning! Such amazing costumes, fantastic singing, dancing, speaking, reading – and such confidence! I know the parents who visited were incredibly proud of their children, as we were! Year 4 carried on for the rest of the day with the Egyptian theme and enjoyed other linked activities. They worked in class teams to produce a sarcophagus fit for a Pharaoh – which was judged by Mr Beamish from the Leigh Trust who happened to be in school. We were anxious for his wellbeing when the winning class was announced since earlier in the day the children had been reading their very blood-curdling Egyptian curses!

Year 6 World War II day is always a memorable event. The children dressed in character and spent the day being evacuated, singing, dancing and experiencing just for a short time what it was like to be a child in the 1940s. The V.E. party finished this special day, when the wartime cakes were sampled and shared by all. The ingenuity and inventive designs of these never ceases to amaze us! Mr Dutton, Mrs Platt, Mrs Larson and Mrs Wickens worked extremely hard to bring the day to life – the event takes weeks to organise – as you can imagine, much more goes on behind the scenes to ensure the children have a spectacular day.

Our Recorder players did us proud at the Gravesham Festival on Tuesday evening. It is a demanding day, spent rehearsing and then returning in the evening to delight their parents. Playing with so many children from so many schools is a great experience and a great amount of skill, concentration and discipline is required; courage too for those playing our 'own choice' item in front of a very large audience. A huge thanks to Mrs Collings and Mrs Lovett for preparing the pieces, rehearsing with the children and supervising on the day – a mammoth effort by all! (Check the Principal's Blog for a photo of the recorder players with Paul Daniels – who we just happened to run into at the Woodville Halls!)

Letters have gone out to parents for:

- **Godstone Farm trip - Wednesday 23rd April** (Reception children)
- Year 3 classes will be hosting a **Class Assembly** on **Thursday 24th April**
- Year 6 Safety in Action visit on **Tuesday 29th April**
- **Horton Kirby visit** on **Wednesday 30th April** (again, Year 3)

Please also add to your diaries the following date for pupil visits: Year 6 trip to **Duxford War Museum – Thursday 22nd May.**

The letters are also uploaded to our website – in case you need to check on any of the details. Spare copies of the letters giving all the details are available from the School Office, thank you – we do appreciate prompt payment for these trips.

PTA events

As always the PTA continue to work tirelessly to organise events. The Easter Bunny has been successfully hunted with appropriately delicious rewards and now the committee is working on plans for the Summer Fair.

The majority of parents respect the fact that the PTA is a group of volunteers who give hours of their time to organise events to raise money which is given back directly to the children in providing the 'extras' that the school budget cannot manage. However a small number of adults who attend events sometimes forget this and either make unreasonable demands or can be quite rude towards members of the PTA. This is unacceptable – and ungrateful. All parents are invited to be members of the PTA but few actually volunteer. We would like our PTA to remain willing, able (and happy) to work on our behalf.

Residential Journeys

Term 6 is traditionally the time for residential journeys. Our planned visits to Wiltshire and to Holland are progressing smoothly – so far!

For parents we have information evenings for both residential trips:

Wednesday 30th April @ 7pm – for Holland trip

Tuesday 20th May @ 7pm – for Wiltshire trip

Sports Relief

Orienteering was our sport of choice for Sports Relief. Something a little more unusual! The children had an amazing time following clues and exploring the grounds – thank you to Mrs Platt and Mrs Rezky (from the Schools' Funding Programme) who organised the day for us. In excess of £480 was raised. You are always so very generous but this huge total delighted us given recent demands upon your finances. A very big thank you to all of you!

School Meals

For parents who would like to pay for the entire term (Term 5) when we return after Easter, the full amount is £50.60. Please make cheques payable to **TCS Independent Ltd**. Thank you.

School Uniform – Online

We are currently setting up an online service for the purchase of school uniform via Brigade. This service will be available to our parents from around the middle of June – we will send information leaflets out to you closer to the launch date! We hope the service will assist working parents especially who haven't always been able to purchase items from the school office. Our on-site service will continue until our stock is completely run down.

Monitoring Absence

The DfE expected minimum attendance for children is now 95% within a school year. We will be notifying 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.**

Staff Changes

After Easter, Mrs Potter who has worked here for a number of years will be working in a different capacity, assisting Mrs Lambourne and Mrs Adams. Mrs Potter will continue to be based in the school office, but will be our new Pastoral Support Officer, incorporating the support of Looked After Children and Child Protection. We give her our full support in her new role and I'm sure our parents will do the same.

Have a wonderful Easter, hopefully we can expect more lovely weather and we look forward to seeing your children raring to go for Term 5 – refreshed and ready for another busy term!

Yours sincerely

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

Mrs Hollingworth
Principal