



## HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER 9 – MAY

Academic Year – 2013-2014



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

Here we are looking at half-term! Incredible! Time has flown - but we have been very busy during this time.

### **Pupil Events**

**Year 3** have had a very eventful start to the term! First they visited **Horton** Kirby Environmental Education Centre where they carried out some practical activities relating to their studies of the river Darent. In the same week, they organised, rehearsed and performed their wonderful class assembly. We all learned a huge amount about the Pilgrim Fathers, the early days of their settlement in North America and some of the traditions and culture of the indigenous people they encountered.

### **Hartley Harmonies**

What a fantastic evening we had on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, when we had our second musical concert of the year, Hartley Harmonies! Children were given the opportunity to audition for this event and as a result, along with more traditional ensembles we were treated to some very original performances! Miss Czapiewski, supported by Mrs Collings and Mrs Lovett, Mrs Greenwood and Mrs Marsden, organised and directed the event as well as rehearsing and conducting the school choir, comprising of a huge number of children in Years 3 to 6 who meet each week. In addition to the choir, families enjoyed listening to recorder ensembles, guitar groups, some really original 'Cup and Rap' (you have to see it to appreciate it), keyboard players and of course our Year 4 Ukulele players. A really enjoyable evening!

### **Living Eggs**

Cherry Tree class were the hosts this year for the Living Eggs. Ten out of our eleven eggs were hatched successfully. The children were fascinated watching the hatching process and amazed by the rapid development of the chicks! The female chicks have now joined Mrs Adams and her ever increasing menagerie – sadly she was unable to take the male chicks being mindful of the sanity of her neighbours; they were collected by the project organiser.

### **Escorting Children into School**

Please escort your children into school – children being dropped off at Breakfast Club must be walked across the car-park to the Breakfast Club door and please ensure your child does not walk under the barrier!

### **Meeting Children on the Junior Playground**

Mr Goldsmith has re-painted the 'No-Waiting Zone' on the top playground. We are ringing the changes, the line this year is green rather than red. Please wait behind this line when collecting your child. The children find it much less tricky to see their parents, the teachers find it much safer and parents themselves have expressed how much better it is with this system in place. There are a few parents waiting under the awning and moving into this space, even on days when it is not raining.

### **Safety on the Playgrounds**

Please enforce the rule with your child of dismounting and pushing scooters and bikes. We are often made aware by parents that other parents are allowing their children to ride their scooters on the playgrounds, often causing distress to others. It is parents' responsibility to ensure that children follow this rule – please do not wait until a teacher enforces the rule for you. Furthermore, we are aware that children are being allowed to climb and jump off the little wall on the Infant playground and play in the woods. Parents are responsible for the safety and behaviour of their children when waiting on the playground. The woods are out of bounds beyond the woodland path – this is a learning zone. The top field is likewise a learning zone for sporting activities; the school grounds are not a recreational area.

### **Collecting Children After School**

Please find attached a copy of our procedures for managing the collection of children after school. Please take time to read and digest – we would like all our parents and carers to be aware of our procedures to ensure we are communicating with each other! Thank you.

### **Curriculum 2014 – Parents Information Evening**

We will be holding an information evening for Parents on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm** when we can share with you what has changed and what has remained the same in the new National Curriculum. We will also bring you up to date progress towards with 'Assessing without Levels'. Parents and children are confident in understanding the current system of levelling children's progress – but from September of this year the Department for Education have told us that these levels will no longer be applied. Schools will have the freedom to determine how they record children's progress and attainment. Whilst this sounds straightforward, imagine the scenario where every school in the local area has its own systems! We are working with local schools and Trust Academies to research national initiatives and commercial solutions.

### **Clubs**

We have listened to parents and each year we try to improve the way we organise clubs. Hopefully with a new system of Mrs Lambourne collecting all the slips in, there is one contact point for parents. It does help having one person coordinate but it is time consuming and there is always the potential for mistakes to be made...for this we apologise in advance.

What must be recognised is that this is an "extra" curricular opportunity, run after the school day, by teachers. We thank our staff for the effort they put in to offer such a range of "extra" opportunities for your children, as I am sure you do.

We have filled 177 places in "After School" clubs organised and run by our teachers for the Summer Term; 50% of our children participate in after school clubs (excluding the children in the Choir and recorders, which are run at lunchtime). If you take these into consideration, there are between 65-70 children in Choir and between 20-25 children in recorders, we offer opportunities for 75% of our children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 to attend clubs.

All KS2 children who handed in their slips by the deadline were allocated a place at either their first or second choice of clubs. Unfortunately we had to disappoint a small number of children in KS1 who had wanted "Gardening", "Art (Year 1 and 2) or "Story Club" – all of which were heavily over-subscribed. However, these children have had the opportunity to attend at least one club this academic year and have many years ahead of them in which to experience a range of opportunities offered by the school!

As we have said in the past, if there are any parents who would like to run a club or maybe even support a club so the teacher can take a few more children, it could help prevent the position we sometimes find ourselves in when we have disappointed children who are not allocated places.

We do apologise for the quick "turnaround" between the letter going out and when the slips were required back...the bank holidays do not help. Hopefully we can avoid this scenario in September.

### **Trust Membership – Academy Conversion One Year On**

This has been an interesting year – not without its challenges and change – even willing change – can be difficult to manage. Merging our autonomous systems and procedures into an existing organisation has been hard work. We are beginning to see the light and processes are easing into place. These changes have affected the school office team in the main and have not impacted on the children to any great extent. You may be interested to know that St Alban's Infant School will be joining the Trust in September, with the intention of amalgamating York Road Junior School and the Infant School into a through Primary school in Dartford. This is great news for us; we are pleased to see the Trust expanding its Primary partners.

The changes have required a lot of our time and attention, it would be easy to lose sight of the exciting projects and learning opportunities being part of the Trust has brought:

- Dance Project – Year 2 – hosted by Milestone
- Food Technology Project - Year 4 - hosted by Milestone
- Milestone students joining our children for social activities
- Science projects with Longfield Academy
- Year 4 Drama Presentation – managed via the Leigh Academy
- Science Day with Abbot Pharmaceuticals – link with the Careers Coordinator at the Leigh Academy.
- Year 6/Year 7 teacher visits
- Constantly improving transition arrangements and activities
- Cross-Trust Training
- Joint monitoring and observation of teaching and learning with Senior Leaders across the Trust
- Financial support for additional Booster classes
- Financial support for revision activities
- AND..... a successful bid for funding to replace our creaking old boilers with a completely new plant.

So – a year on – things are looking very promising! We have been welcomed by our Trust colleagues despite being in the minority with the Secondary schools thus far being the greater number. We are listened to, consulted and where we are able to inform and contribute our expertise has been acknowledged.

## Dates for Your Diary

Please also add to your diaries the following dates:

### TERM 5

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Year 4 Parents Information Evening re. Wiltshire Trip @ 7pm  
Year 2 Pirate Day  
Year 6 Trip – Duxford  
**End of Term 5**

### **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June

### **Term 6 begins**

Year 2/3 Transition Evening @ 7pm  
Non-school uniform day (bottles/sweets for tombola)  
PTA Summer Fair  
Year 5 Trip – Silver Birch Class Trip to Houses of Parliament  
Year 5 Parents Information Evening  
Year 6 Contemporary Photos (1.30pm)  
Whole School: Class and Sports Team Photos (9.00am)  
Year 6 Residential Trip to Holland  
Year 5 Trip – Chestnut Class Trip to Houses of Parliament  
Year 3 Trip – Tropical Wings  
Year 5 Greek Day and Assembly  
New Reception Parents Information Evening @ 7pm  
Year 1 Trip – Wingham Wildlife Park  
Year 4 Residential Trip to Wiltshire

### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July

### **Staff Training Day – School Closed to Children**

Last Week of Clubs  
Foundation Stage and KS1 Sports Day (am only)  
KS2 Sports Day (am only)  
Longfield Music Festival – rehearsals during the day/eve. performance  
Year 4 Trip – Horton Kirby Environmental Educational Centre  
Transition Mornings  
Year 6 Production Evening (7-8pm)  
Year 2 Trip – Botany Bay  
Year 6 Production Evening (7-8pm)  
Year 6 Leavers' Service at Fawkham Church  
PTA School Discos (FS/KS1: 5-6pm, KS2 6.15-7.15pm, Y6 7.15-8.15pm)

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July  
Wed 9<sup>th</sup>/Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> July  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July  
**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

### **Last Day of Term**

Staff Training Day – School Closed to Children

## PTA Events

Next Big Event is the Summer Fair. Please keep **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June** free to come and join us. I know the PTA will welcome any offers to help with extreme enthusiasm! If you can spare just one hour to help set up or run a stall this will really make a difference and we are always very grateful to those parents who help us clear up after a long but highly enjoyable and successful day. The PTA will also be providing refreshments for the parents' information evening for the September Reception intake and they generously provide water for our Sports Days.

### **School Meals**

For parents who would like to pay for the entire term (Term 6) when we return after the May half-term break, the full amount is £81.40. Please make cheques payable to **TCS Independent Ltd**. Thank you. From September the Department for Education have made the decision to provide a free school meal for Year R, Year 1 and Year 2. We will be sending out a questionnaire to gauge how many parents will choose to take up this offer and whether or not they will also choose school meals for older siblings. Sadly these are not funded!

### **School Uniform**

This is always a tricky time, when children are growing and with the holidays approaching parents are reluctant to buy new uniform before September – but school uniform is still expected to be worn. Where shoes are concerned, trainers are not acceptable substitutes for school shoes. However black plimsolls are a compromise – weather permitting. Children are expected to have the correct PE kit in school also: Plain black shorts - without logos or decoration, house-colour T-shirt (either with the school logo or plain) and black plimsolls or trainers for older children. Large and 'glitzy' hairbands, earrings and nail varnish should be kept for the holidays and weekends.

### **Monitoring Absence/School holiday dates.**

The DfE's 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.**

The school calendar for next year is attached. Please ensure your holidays fall into the school holiday dates. There will be a Training Day on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014. Children will be in school from **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September**. Please be aware that the Training Day for June 2015 is yet to be confirmed. We intend to maintain the same pattern of terms and holidays for the academic year 2014 -2015, however we will consider whether or not changing this is advantageous for the following year and we will give you plenty of notice.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Hollingworth  
**Principal**