



Dear Parents and Carers

I am sorry, term 6 has just whizzed by – here we are with only a handful of days to go – lots to share with you though!

Off Site Visits

We have had a busy few weeks, Howletts Zoo, Houses of Parliament, The Netherlands, Wiltshire, Lullingstone Country Park, Tropical Wings – to name but some and Horton Kirby and Botany Bay are still ahead of us!

Sports Days

We have reverted back to having 2 Sports Days, one for Years R, 1 and 2 and the other for Years 3,4 5,& 6. Thanks as always to Mrs Fewell and Mrs Platt for their amazing organisation and for the PTA who provide water for the children.

Choral Festival

This week we will be participating in the Longfield Schools' Choral Festival held at Longfield Academy along with other local Primary schools. Children at Longfield also join in and we enjoy seeing some 'old' faces.

Year 6 Events

We begin the 'final countdown' for Year 6! Last Sports Day, School Production (15th and 16th July) and their Leavers' Assembly (21st July).

Reception Classes 2014 and In-Year Admissions

We are completely full for Reception in September this year – in fact, we have a waiting list. Over 170 applications were received for 60 places. We are full in most other year groups across the school.

Improvements to Premises

Over the holidays there will be considerable amounts of work taking place. We are having some decoration refreshed in Cherry and Apple classes, some bespoke cupboards for storage in Silver Birch and Redwood class and..... our sad, creaking and wheezing boilers are being replaced. We have our Business Manager at the Trust to thank for securing a DfE funding bid. Most of the cost is covered by this grant and we will continue to pay for the remainder for the next few years. We will be heated by gas rather than oil from September.

Access to School – Drop off/Collection Times

We are all aware that the school is located in a residential area, but we would ask parents to be more considerate to others – please do not park across residents' driveways, please do not park your vehicle mounted on pavements (thus requiring pushchair users to go into the road) and please keep access clear to our front entrance. **We also have Play4Ages minibuses arriving in school at our busiest period. For safety reasons, the minibuses must come into the school car park. Please do not park in a manner which will prohibit their access.** We are seeing an increasing number of residents/members of the public alike who are complaining to the school office staff about inconsiderate and very often, dangerous driving and parking. A small number of inconsiderate parents are creating issues for visitors and our staff.

Summer Uniform

Please respect our school uniform policy particularly with regard to shoes. Sling-backed, high heels and 'flip-flop' type shoes are not practical for school. From time to time parents have unexpected, short-term problems with children's footwear or uniform and in such circumstances, we request you send a note in or speak to the teacher. We appreciate that so close to the summer holidays, when children's feet will no doubt grow – that you may not wish to purchase expensive leather shoes until

closer to September. We suggest for the short number of weeks left that in such circumstances black canvas plimsolls might be worn. These are easy to obtain from nearby shops and can be as inexpensive as £5.00 a pair. **Trainers are NOT allowed at any point in the year.** Girls may choose to wear summer dresses at this time of the year. Either red-check or red and white stripe dresses are allowed. Boys' shorts should be plain black or grey.

Uniform Orders for New Academic Year

We are moving into the digital age! The School Office has issued details of how to order online with Brigade and further emails have been issued. Please be aware that orders in time for September must be with Brigade by **1st August 2014** (website: www.brigadeuniformdirect.uk.com)

PTA Events

What a superb Summer Fair! We were blessed with dry weather once again – although this year it was 'touch and go'! We were able to enjoy a range of activities both old and new. £4200 net profit was raised – thank you. This will, after expenses, provide a real boost to the PTA accounts. The PTA recently provided funding for the canopy over Redwood, Cedar and Silver Birch classrooms. Even when it is really hot, those rooms are now shaded and more comfortable plus the canopy provides a shaded area for children to use at lunchtime, if they wish and we can make the most of opportunities to work outside.

The Father's Day Gift Sale was very popular and I am sure all Dads enjoyed their gifts. The PTA is a very busy team, providing refreshments at the recent Information Evening for New Parents and a 'coffee morning' for reception parents on the Transition Days. Our PTA is incredibly committed and hardworking. Should you wish to be involved in events – as little or as much involvement as you wish – they will be very glad to hear from you. You can get in touch via the PTA Postbox in the entrance hall.



Collecting children from Brazilian Football

The rule about No Dogs on the School Site is being overlooked (dare I say flouted?) on Friday when parents come to collect from Brazilian Football. The children are using the school field every breaktime at this point in the year and we cannot have dogs on the field – or indeed ANYWHERE on the site.

Thank You's

On the subject of thanks, I am very grateful to staff for accompanying residential school journeys this term. I am also grateful for their support of the Summer Fair and for their attendance and input to all of the information evenings for parents when they have been working throughout the holidays and at weekends to complete reports. It is a busy time. The team in the School Office has been incredibly busy as always!

Goodbyes

We have a number of changes this year with a number of people leaving us.

The wonderful Mrs Platt has been at Hartley for twenty years – she has had a number of different positions and year groups in that time – and two more children as well! She has made the decision to move back to Wales to be nearer to her own family – a decision not taken lightly and we are incredibly saddened by her decision. I have known Mrs Platt for every one of those years and I will find it terribly difficult to see her go. She is a consummate professional, an excellent, outstanding teacher and a Senior Leader who just sees what needs doing and does it. Despite supposedly working only three days a week, she has often worked all five and then at weekends as well. Many generations of children will have had the pleasure of being taught by Mrs Platt.

Next in line in terms of length of service is Mrs Ashworth. She will be leaving us this year to join Mrs Clark at Merton Court Preparatory School. Mrs Ashworth has been with us for seven years and she has been loved by children and their parents for every one of those! The school was awarded with its Green Flag Silver Status as a result of Mrs Ashworth's dedication with regard to our accreditation as an 'Eco-School'. She has been Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 leader for a number of years. I know how many children look back at their years in one of our Infant classes with great affection and their learning was supported by absolutely secure grounding.

Mrs Marsden – now in her fourth year at Hartley is, like Mrs Platt, re-locating to be nearer her family in Norfolk. Nothing has ever been too much trouble for Mrs Marsden. She has supported every school production with her own equipment and time by recording and creating DVDs for us to re-live the memories. Her amazing good nature and capacity for providing the 'additional extras' and her in-depth knowledge of IT will be very much missed.

Mrs Meehan has been with us for almost three years now and will be leaving us also at the end of this year. She has given us all a good shake up – almost in the style of Mary Poppins! Mrs Meehan has been our 'Thinking Schools' champion and has got us off to a flying start with this important initiative. As yet, Mrs Meehan is deciding upon her next step but we wish her well for the future.

Mr Warren is dusting off his explorer boots to travel again, and our very own Indiana Jones is back on his travels. We wish him well, hope he keeps in touch and perhaps comes back into school to share his adventures!

Finally, Mrs Lovett who has been one of our talented TAs for almost fifteen years is also relocating – to a delightful village close to Whitstable. Outside the classroom, Mrs Lovett has dedicated much of her own time to supporting our pupils in developing their musical skills – attending musical festivals, choir celebrations and school productions. Whitstable Junior School is very lucky to have her!

We are fully staffed for September – Mrs Smith is returning from Maternity Leave and we have a number of new staff joining us. Schools are organic – they change and they grow and change is exciting and offers new opportunities. But, it will be a very sad day on 23rd July when we bid farewell to our colleagues. I am sure you will join with us in wishing them every success and thanking them for everything they have done.

School Meals

From September all children in Years R, 1 and 2 are entitled to Free School Meals. We will have to measure the impact of this on our current lunchtime arrangements and there may need to be some minor changes as Term 1 progresses.

IMPORTANT: Families who would have been eligible for Free School Meals under the 'old' system should still apply. Additional funding is made available to schools based on the numbers of children eligible for Free School Meals and this helps us provide intervention groups and additional adult support.

Breakfast Club

We are now fully booked on most days and have put in place a waiting list for September 2014. In addition, can we please ask that we have prior notice of changes to regular schedules. We are also concerned by the number of children who come unescorted across the car-park to Breakfast Club. Parents must bring their children to the door. Invoices for the period Monday 2nd June and Tuesday 22nd July will be issued by week ending Friday 11th July. Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Hollingworth
Principal

Please see attached for Forthcoming Events...

FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Monday 7 th July	Foundation Stage Class Assembly (9.10am)
Tuesday 8 th July	Year 4 Horton Kirby Trip
Wed 9 th /Thurs 10 th July	Transition Mornings (Children spend the morning with their new teachers)
Friday 11 th July	Reports Issued to Parents
Friday 11 th July	Last Session for Brazilian Kickers/Hannah May
Tues 15 th /Wed 16 th July	Year 6 Production to Parents
Wednesday 16 th July	Year 2 Visit to Botany Bay Year 1 Class Assembly
Friday 18 th July	Report discussions, if required
Monday 21 st July	Year 6 Leavers' Service at Fawkham Church
Monday 21 st July	End of Term Discos
Tuesday 22nd July	LAST DAY OF TERM FOR CHILDREN
Term 1: 2014-15	
Wednesday 3 rd Sept	Training Day – School Closed to Pupils
Thursday 4th Sept	First Day of School in the New Academic Year