



ISSUE 2, TERM 1, 21 OCTOBER 2016

Hartley Primary Academy Newsletter

21 October 2016

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Autumn is With Us!

Mrs Sarah Goosani, Principal

Thank you for all your support and hard work in helping your children to achieve well this term and make a flying start to the new academic year.

Children in all our classes have been busy improving their maths skills with the new scheme we are using. Most children have reported that they are enjoying their maths and the new equipment they have been using. I have been impressed by the way some children have grasped new concepts and how they have been working together, talking about their learning.

Children have been enjoying their Outdoor learning challenges which have included map reading, orienteering, photography, art and writing. The children love the outdoors and have produced some very good pieces of work as a result of these opportunities. Wellie racks are now in and ready for use!

Clubs have been well attended and teachers have continued to provide a range of stimulating activities for the children to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Mr Higgs has particularly enjoyed running the Science Club!

We have had several other schools visit us recently to see how well the children do here and they have all commented on the children's outstanding behaviour and attitude toward learning - we are all very proud of them.

Forest schools for our Reception pupils is being supported both by existing and new parents. I had the privilege of working with Apple class for the morning this week; the children learnt so much about the colours and textures of the Forest in Autumn and how to enjoy a mug of hot chocolate during break time!

As we close this half term and move forward to the next, please remember that the days will be colder and the children will all need to bring their fleeces and coats when they return after the break. Please remember to have an older person read with or to your child at home during the break and after school in term 2, this will encourage a love of books and improve their ability to read and write at school.

I hope you all have a wonderful time with your children over the half term break and look forward to seeing you all when we return on the 31st.

Dates to Add to Your Diary

End of Term 1 - **Fri 21st October**
Start of Term 2 – **Mon 31st October**

Deadline for Secondary Applications –
Mon 31st October

Parent Consultation Evenings -
Tues 1st and Thurs 3rd November

PTA Bag2School Collection -
Thurs 3rd November

Reception/Year 6 Height/Weight -
Thurs 17th November

Children in Need 'Spotacular'
Fri 18th November

Year 4 Ancient Egypt Day -
Fri 25th November

PTA Funky Headwear –
Fri 2nd December

PTA Christmas Fair –
Sat 3rd December

For a full list of our key dates for the academic year 2016/17, please visit our website:

<http://hartleyprimaryacademy.org.uk/parents/terms-dates/>

Parent Survey

Thank you to all those parents who took the time to complete our online parent survey for Term 1. We had a total of 58 responses for our first online survey. The results can be viewed on our website. Please click on this link: [Term 1, Autumn Term 2016 Parent Survey Results](#).

As always, please let us know if you have any concerns you wish to raise. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher a Monday afternoon 'Pop-In' can be booked via the School Office.

Attendance

Regular attendance in school is essential; the Department for Education has made the decision that if a child's attendance drops below 90% they will be considered a 'persistent absentee'. Most children's attendance is 95% or above. Punctuality is also important. Every day, between 8:45 and 9:00am, children have either 'early work' or in some cases our Teaching Assistants will be running intervention groups. It is therefore extremely important that children arrive on time at school. Children who arrive **after 9.00am** must be signed into school by an adult, via the School Office.

ATTENDANCE FIGURE
CURRENTLY AT:

97.14%

Should your child be absent from school you must inform us before **9.00am** that morning and then on each day of any subsequent absence unless discussion has taken place about your child's specific illness or condition. Please bring in confirmation of any appointment so office staff can photocopy the details. This will assist us in deciding how to record the absence; whether it is authorised or unauthorised.

Half-Term Site Works

The final phase of the installation of additional security fencing around the school will take place next week. At the Fairby Lane entrance, a new gate will be installed – access will be controlled via the office. An additional CCTV camera will also be fitted at this point of access.

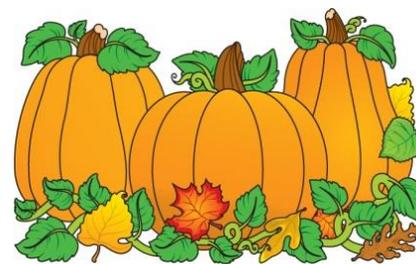
During the school day, both the Fairby Lane and main (junior playground) entrances will be open in the morning between **8.00 and 9.15am** and will be open again from **3.15pm and 5.00pm**. Outside of these times, the gates will be automatically locked and only accessible by school staff with a key fob.

Access to Roundash Pre-School will continue to be via the walkway gate by the lower field. Again, access will be automatically controlled and the gates will be locked outside session times.

As always, the school is extremely grateful to Mr Goldsmith for overseeing all our site projects and for implementing with minimal impact to parents, children and staff.

At no point should parents allow their children to play or swing on the gates.

Please can we take this opportunity to remind parents to wait behind the designated lines on the playgrounds at pick up time. Please also avoid standing by the Quiet Area fence – we are trying to help staff and children identify adults quickly and reduce confusion at a very busy part of the school day.



Harvest Festival

Last week, we had a wonderful Harvest Festival organised by Mrs Adams.



Thank you for all your kind donations; the staff from the Trussell Trust were truly staggered by the amount of foodstuffs brought into school. The hall looked amazing with a stage full of produce and the children performed an informative and entertaining harvest story.

Thank you to Mrs Adams for coordinating the event and transporting all the food to the Gravesend depot.



Talk to Us!

If you have any questions about the school day, events happening in school or just need to clarify a point, please contact the School Office or your child's class teacher. Social media sites are a means of communicating with other parents, but are not always a reliable source of information. We are here to help and can correct misunderstandings immediately – Facebook and the like can quickly turn a molehill into a mountain!

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2016



A huge thank you to all the parents who came into school for our Macmillan Coffee Morning. We beat last year's figure – raising £214 from parents and £145 from the staff raffle!

Thank you to everyone involved – especially Mrs Skinner for organising the whole event and Mrs Walker and Mrs Wenman for helping on the morning in the hall.

Open Mornings for Reception Intake September 2017

No sooner do our little ones start, we are already looking ahead to next year!

Our dates are:

Tuesday 8th November (9.30am/10.45am)
 Wednesday 16th November (times as above)
 Thursday 24th November (times as above)

Please let family and friends know – the School Office will be able to book prospective parents onto tours. We are getting booked up across all 3 dates – please contact us for the latest availability.

The PTA Needs You!

Our Christmas Fair will be on

Saturday 3rd December

CALLING ALL BUDDING SANTAS!

If you would be happy to support our festive celebrations and be our Father Christmas please contact the School Office or email the PTA:
hartleyprimarypta@gmail.com

Turn to the back page for further information about the funds raised over the past year.



PTA Christmas Fair – Saturday 3rd December 2016

Please help! Donations!

Could you or your employer donate prizes for the raffle?

We are having a 'Hook a present stall' and need donations of soft toys.

– Clear out your kids' bedrooms in time for Christmas!

We also welcome donations for the secret present room - so any gifts that you would like to recycle we are happy to take off your hands! Finally, if you have old party bag toys we can use as prizes - these would be gratefully received.

Please take any donations to the School Office.

Volunteers

If you can donate any time on the day please e-mail:

hartleyprimarypta@gmail.com – specifying the times you are free to help.

09:00 – 11:00

11:00 – 12:00

13:00 – 14:00

14:00 – 16:00, clearing up

Year 6 parents may wish for their child to walk home or be met away from the school in order that they gain some independence in preparation from the transition to secondary school.

We do need written parental permission to enable this to happen – thank you.

Year 6 children cannot be responsible for younger siblings. Children in Year 5 and below must be collected from school by an adult.



Our School Council has chosen to embrace the theme of 'Spotacular' for this year's Children in Need Fundraising Appeal.

We will be running a cake stall at the end of the day – all donations, gratefully received!

Details about other fundraising events will be forwarded to you shortly.

So, over the half-term break, it's time to get the costumes ready for SPOTS! Anything and everything that is spotty can be worn on **Friday 18th November** and let's raise some Spotacular amounts for the charity we support every year.



Pupil Data Collection Sheets -

At this time of year, we ask parents to check the key data the school holds for every child on our SIMS database.

It is important that the school holds current contact details for you and other named contacts for your child. At the Parent Consultation Evenings in November you will be given your child's data collection sheet to check over, sign and return on the evening.

The Department of Education now requires the school to collect data on **every** child's country of birth. Please ensure you include this information on the sheet – thank you.

We have been experiencing issues with sending out emails to parents recently. The situation has improved, but if you don't think you are receiving emails, or that you have recently changed your email address, please visit the School Office to check and/or amend your contact details. Thank you.

School Closure in the event of bad weather...

The winter approaches as does the risk of snow and ice. We would endeavour to keep the school open, but in the event of school closure, confirmation will be published on www.kent.gov.uk/winter (parents can also register with KCC for SMS/email alerts). The school will email/text parents to keep you up to date with developments.

School Office Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 4.30pm, Fridays 8.30am – 4.00pm.

To report a child's absence please ring 01474 702742, selecting Option 1.

For general enquiries you can email office@hartleyprimary.org.uk

For Attendance/ Breakfast Club enquiries you can email attendance@hartleyprimary.org.uk

Parent Guides:

A help guide for the benefits that struggling parents can access:

<http://parentinfo.org/article/tips-for-parents-who-are-struggling-to-make-ends-meet>

Helping parents to understand and think about the impact of posting pictures of their children online:

<http://parentinfo.org/article/should-you-share-pictures-of-your-children-online>

Online Safety – find out about the latest guidance on keeping your child safe online:

<http://hartleyprimaryacademy.org.uk/parents/e-safety/parent-info/>

Trick or Treating?

Visit the school website to download posters you can display in your home in preparation for Halloween festivities.

<http://hartleyprimaryacademy.org.uk/2016/10/17/as-halloween-approaches/>



Our PTA

The PTA at Hartley Primary Academy raises a huge amount of money for the school each year and without their fantastic efforts we wouldn't be able to allocate funds to projects around the school. Over the years, our PTA has supported the school in buying iPads, educational resources, annual software subscriptions, interactive whiteboards, playground equipment and library resources.

Each year our PTA rises to the challenge of raising funds by coordinating movie nights, school discos, theatre trips and quiz nights, as well as the running the Summer and Christmas Fairs.

The PTA also supports the school, its parents and children by running the Ready to Wear Rail on a regular basis and providing refreshments and actively supporting the school during the Open Morning 'season' and on the New Parents Evening which the school hosts annually. Without the PTA's dedication and commitment, we really could not put on the events we do and raise the money much needed for initiatives around the school.

Fundraising for 2015/16

The figure for last year totaled **£12,379.99 net**. The summer and Christmas fairs raised almost £7,800 between them, Movie Night raised £1,139 and the end of term school discos brought in around £1,400. Our popular Easter Egg Hunt raised an amazing £406 (having wiped out the UK's supply of eggs – thank you Mrs Seagers!) and the Frozen Fridays, supplying ice-creams on our very hot afternoons raised £450. Combining the other initiatives promoted through the year (Design a Christmas Card, Music Quiz, Bags2School, Mothers' Day Stall, Theatre Club and Ready to Wear Rail) the PTA contributed funds of a further £1,200.

Last year, the PTA was able to give back to the school in the following ways: Installation of a brand new trim trail, purchase of school benches, booking of the Christmas Panto Bus and the West End in Schools (which encourages the children during a 2-day workshop to release their star potential!)

Sadly, we say goodbye to Ms Ellis-Klar, Mrs Fisher and Mrs Rush who have stepped down this term and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work whilst sitting on the PTA.

Focus for 2016/17

Outdoor Learning Initiative – to contribute to the purchase of resources and equipment enhancing the school's outdoor learning environment.



Want to get involved?

Email: hartleyprimarypta@gmail.com

