



# Hartley Primary Academy Newsletter

## 30 November 2016

ISSUE 3, TERM 2, 30 NOVEMBER 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

## The days might be shorter - but we don't slow down!

**Mrs Sarah Goosani, Principal**

This term we have been very busy fund raising and remembering different causes.

Mrs Adams led a very thought provoking assembly on Remembrance Day and Mrs King faced the cold afternoons outside, selling a wide range of poppies and goods to support the British Legion. We raised £164.31 across the week.

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November we had Children in Need with everyone going a little bit dotty! With your help we've managed to raise an amazing £642 so far. Thank you for all your efforts and kind support – we couldn't do this without parental enthusiasm!

Last week we learnt about Ancient Egyptians in Year 4. The children came to school dressed in a range of different outfits and thoroughly enjoyed the day, Mrs Bransgrove stole the show as an Egyptian Princess!

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the online survey and the parent points of view consultation. We have been going through the responses which are wide ranging. Your feedback covers homework, celebration awards, communication, having open afternoons plus many positive comments about how happy parents are with the school and their child's wellbeing. Most parental responses about what they think is important for the school vision focus on the happiness of children when at school. The happiness of children was also the most common response from staff in their consultation relating to the vision. We will be looking at what actions we can take in response and complete the building of the vision with all your feedback considered.

We are in the process of consulting the children about their views on school and so far, we have had some very interesting results. There has been an overwhelming number of positive comments including "I like all the teachers and TAs. I love all the help I get with my work." and "I feel very safe at this school and welcome." There are some enlightening and clear indications of things we could improve. One area to look at is how

clearly we are communicating to children about how well they have done. As teachers, we think that we do this every day but it is apparent from the children that we may need to be more specific and communicate this more obviously.

We have, unfortunately, had some incidents involving the disappearance of Pokemon Cards from children's trays. We have been unable to get to the bottom of these incidents and it is with regret that I will now have to ban the bringing of Pokemon Cards and children's personal games etc. to school. The children enjoy playing with these during break time but we are unable to guarantee the safety of these items if brought to school.

Please remember in the Principal's Blog we mentioned that we will be expecting children to bring appropriately sized school bags to school after Christmas due to the challenge of keeping them on pegs in the small cloakrooms, the message read:

*I would like to give you notice that after Christmas, we will be reinforcing the uniform policy concerning school bags. In Key Stage 1 there is no need to bring a bag other than a book bag and a packed lunch bag. PE kits are brought to school at the beginning of each term and remain on pegs. In Key Stage 2, children should have a school back-pack which is easy to carry and hang on a peg. The back-pack should be no larger than approximately 45cm x 35cm in dimension.*

*PE kits remain in school so there is really no need for anything bigger.*

Finally, Christmas is coming! We are really looking forward to our School Fair and Christmas activities. All the dates are on the newsletter, please put them in your diary and if you can help at the fair please let the PTA know, they still need help running stalls. Remember the Christmas Fair is such an important event for the children and we need as many people as possible to make this a success for them. Enjoy this festive part of the term!

### Dates to Add to Your Diary

PTA Funky Headwear/Jumper Day –  
**Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

PTA Christmas Fair –  
**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Last Week of Clubs -  
**w/c Mon 5<sup>th</sup> December**

KS1 Christmas Production  
**Tues 6<sup>th</sup> and Wed 7<sup>th</sup> December @ 1.45pm**

Foundation Stage Christmas Production  
**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> December @ 9.30am**

KS2 Christmas Production  
**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> December @ 1.45pm**

Festive Lunch (Packed Lunches – Crackers)  
**Wed 14<sup>th</sup> December**

PTA Christmas Discos (not Reception)  
**Tues 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Last Day of Term - **Wed 21<sup>st</sup> December**

First Day of Term 3 - **Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

PTA Movie Night  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Deadline for Reception Intake September 2017  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

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

<http://hartleyprimaryacademy.org.uk/parents/term-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](#).

The survey for this term is now open – please visit [Term 2, Autumn Term 2016](#). Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

## 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:

96.73%

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 a 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.

## Safeguarding Safety on the Playgrounds

Please can we ask that cyclists and children on scooters dismount once inside the school gates. Drop off and collection times are a very busy time of the



school day and the playgrounds are crowded. To minimise the risk of collisions and injury children must walk their vehicles to the parking bays by Cedar class and opposite the Staff Room. Thank you.

## Access to School

The Access Control System has been in operation since Monday this week – the gates to both entrances are open between **8.00 and 9.15am** and open again from **3.15 and 5.00pm**. Outside of these times, the gates will be automatically controlled and the gates will be locked.

Access to Roundash Pre-School will continue via the walkway leading to the lower field. These gates will also be on the same system so will be locked outside pre-school session times.

## Parents' Consultation Evenings

We are looking into the benefits of implementing an online system for parents to book their own appointments – in time for February's round of meetings – more information to follow!



## Children in Need

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November** was a day to remember! We came into school, bear-like and spotty (not only the children!), ready to raise money!

Thank you for your generosity during the day and after school, buying buns and cookies at the Cake Sale. We have raised £642 for Children in Need so far and we couldn't have done this without your support.

Last Friday (25<sup>th</sup> Nov) we also held a gift stall, under Cedar's canopy – proceeds will also be donated to Children in Need. The children had spent many hours making additional gifts to sell – thank you for providing the raw materials!

Mrs Creed and the School Council worked very hard to make the day a success. We will let you know how much the final total is over the coming days.

## Road Safety

We have hosted 3 events this term, raising pupil awareness about road safety. Joanna Dowle from Kent County Council's Road Safety team has visited the school to present to Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and this week 'Teddy takes a Tumble' with our younger pupils. Jackie West and Paul Sharrad in their capacity as Community Wardens provided an informative and thought-provoking assembly - also as part of **Road Safety Week 2016**. Thank you to all our visitors who took the time to speak with our children about such an important issue.



## Parking Around School

Please can we remind parents and carers to drive safely and park considerately when dropping off and collecting children. We have taken a number of calls from residents recently and would ask that vehicles do not encroach on residents' driveways or block points of access. We advise anyone who sees illegal parking or dangerous driving to report the matter using the police non-emergency 101 number.



## Year 6 – Bikeability Sessions in December

### Course Dates:

Course 1 – Tues 6<sup>th</sup>/Wed 7<sup>th</sup> December

Course 2 – Thurs 8<sup>th</sup>/Fri 9<sup>th</sup> December

Course 3 – Mon 12<sup>th</sup>/Tues 13<sup>th</sup> December

Course 4 – Wed 14<sup>th</sup>/Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> December

Please refer to the letters sent home to check which course your child is attending.

## Open Mornings for Reception Intake September 2017

We have hosted open mornings for over 80 families this year. These events would not be as successful as they are without the whole team effort which goes into organising them. Miss Galinis, Mrs Green and Mrs Bainbridge did a fantastic job opening each tour with a presentation and then hosting Q and A sessions in the classrooms. The tours were coordinated and led by Mrs Goosani, Mrs Adams, Mrs Lambourne and Mrs Orchard – plus we had confident, polite and enthusiastic Year 6s to accompany each tour and meet and chat to parents. Their happy, smiling faces and willingness to talk about school life made the tours a delight to be a part of. Year 6 parents – they were such a credit to the school, thank you. Last but not least – our PTA mummies came in to provide refreshments before each tour began. Mrs Seagers, Mrs Cooke, Mrs Clack, Mrs Powell, Ms Elliis-Klar: THANK YOU!

## Olive Dining

**The children are very positive about the new school meals service provided by Olive Dining.** If you would like your child to take up school meals in January 2017, please inform the School Office.

For those parents who are currently signed up to the provision and whose children are in Year 3 and upwards, these are the termly amounts payable for the remainder of the academic year:

Term 3: £57.20  
Term 4: £66.00  
Term 5: £61.60  
Term 6: £74.80

(If your child is on a school trip on any given day, the credit will be transferred; please bear this in mind when looking at these termly rates, thank you.)

If you are in receipt of income support and if you think you qualify for Free School Meals – we urge you to apply for this either via the KCC website, or **we can do it for you, in confidence**. This will ensure that your child will continue to receive Free School Meals in the Juniors and in Secondary school if your circumstances remain the same. It also ensures that the extra funding for educational resources is included in the DfE's calculation for our funding in January. Please get in touch with Mrs Orchard in the School Office  
[office@hartleyprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@hartleyprimary.org.uk)

## 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](http://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.

## Eco Warriors Unite!

As a school, we are applying for Eco-School status. Children from each class have been elected and awarded their 'badges of honour' in assembly time. Energy conservation, recycling, reducing litter and healthy living are just 4 of the elements we need to be targeting. Mr Higgs and his squad will be very active in coming weeks!



### 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/>

Updated Diary of Events – From January 2017

Now available to read on our website:

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

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR MIDDAY SUPERVISORS FOR JANUARY 2017!**

**IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE TEAM, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

**[WWW.HARTLEYPRIMARYACADEMY.ORG.UK/CONTACT-US.PHP/](http://WWW.HARTLEYPRIMARYACADEMY.ORG.UK/CONTACT-US.PHP/)**

**AND CLICK ON VACANCIES TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, THANK YOU.**

The closing date is **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

Hours of work – Monday to Friday , 12:00 to 13:30

Hourly rate £7.27

Interviews will take place week commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December

## Festive Jumper or Headwear Day

Come to school in your school uniform  
with any Christmassy jumper or  
headwear of your choice

**Friday 2nd December 2016**



*Please bring a donation  
of a bottle and sweets  
to be used at the  
Christmas Fair Tombola  
the following day*

*The PTA will be waiting  
in the top playground to  
take any  
glass bottles  
Thanks!*

## Hartley Primary Academy Christmas Fair!

**Saturday 3rd December**  
**12-3pm**

Craft Stalls	Tombolas
Food and Drink	Visit Santa
Secret Gift Room	Games
Children's Craft Room	and more!

**Come and join us!**  
ROUND ASH WAY, HARTLEY, DA3 8BT

## Primary Christmas Menu 2016

Traditional Roasted Turkey  
served with all the Festive Trimmings

Or

Roasted Vegetable Parcel  
with a Tangy Tomato Sauce (v)

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Roast Potatoes  
Garden Peas & Carrots

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Festive Ice Cream

Or

Fresh Fruit Salad



For those children who  
currently enjoy the  
school meals provided  
by Olive Dining, the  
Christmas lunch will  
be served on  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>  
December.**

Regrettably, we are not  
able to accommodate a  
packed lunch swap just  
for one day.  
Packed Lunch children  
are encouraged to  
bring in Christmas  
crackers on this day to  
get in the festive mood!  
(Crackers for school meal  
children will be supplied for that  
day)

