



ISSUE 4, TERM 3, 31 JANUARY 2017

Hartley Primary Academy Newsletter

31 January 2017

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New Year, New News!

Mrs Sarah Goosani, Principal

This term has flown by and we are already through Term 3. The Christmas Fair seems like an age away but the final figure raised can be confirmed as £2,865. Well done to all of you and our community members who participated and gave so generously to achieve this and of a course, a huge thank you to our PTA for organising the event. The PTA discos were also a huge success (£579 made) providing a great lead up to the festive season for the children. Thank you to the Key Stage 1 teachers for helping the children change into their disco outfits and to Mrs Cook who collected most of the payments for the KS1 disco. A real team effort to make sure the event ran safely and smoothly.

The snow was an exciting start to the term but sadly resulted in the postponement of Movie Night – it's back on for this Friday! There have already been a number of events in school this term – Take Pride has run several 'meets' including Athletics for Year 6, Active Stacking for Year 3's and 4's, plus the

team has been in school to coach Dodgeball to our Year 6's and Handball to our Year 5's. The children have been praised for their team spirit and enthusiasm – thank you to Mrs Fewell for coordinating the events and to our parent volunteers who have been able to provide the transportation where we have asked!

Clubs will be restarting this week – please remember that children should be collected from the top playground at **4.15pm**. Each club is a commitment for the children for the whole term and needs to be attended regularly. If children cannot attend it can impact on the success of the club and the range of activities the children can take part in.

Mr Dutton held the first of a series of parent workshops for maths for Year 5 parents last week. This was very successful and the parents who attended, found the session informative – I think some were surprised by how challenging some of the questions set for children were! Further sessions will take place on 8th and 29th March at 3.40pm, please contact the School Office to put your name down (your child is welcome to come along) the sessions will help you to support your child's learning.

Dates to Add to Your Diary

Dance-a-thon for NSPCC –

Thurs 2nd February

NSPCC Sponsor Forms to be Returned by:

Tues 7th February

PTA Meeting – **Thurs 2nd February 7.30pm**

PTA Movie Night – **Fri 3rd February**

Parent Consultation Evenings -
Tues 7th and Thurs 9th February

(Maple Class – Monday 6th /Thurs 9th Feb)

Safer Internet Day – **Tues 7th February**

End of Term - **Thurs 9th February**

INSET Day – School Closed to Children –
Fri 10th February

February Half-Term -
Mon 13th to Fri 17th February

First Day of Term 4 - **Mon 20th February**

Payment 3 for Year 4 Suffolk Trip -
Fri 24th February

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/>

Term Dates 2017-18

Following the publication of the new term dates for 2017-18 I have been made aware of concerns relating to the two week half term next Autumn.

I am very grateful to the parent who took the time to see me and explain some of the potential issues. I would like to reassure parents and carers that I have taken this information seriously and have begun discussions with Play4Ages around the potential provision of a holiday club during one of the weeks in the Autumn half term for families who need additional childcare facilities.

Further information will be provided when available.

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 should be in school for **8.45am** ready to learn as soon as they get into their classrooms. Children who arrive **after 9.00am** must be signed into school by an adult, via the School Office.

ATTENDANCE FIGURE
CURRENTLY AT:

96.08%

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.

At this time of year, we are conscious of bugs and germs going on the rampage – our attendance data would certainly suggest bugs make return visits! We are going to raise hygiene as a subject in our assemblies and impress upon the children that they must wash their hands thoroughly after toilet visits. Please support us and discuss this with your children at home. Thank you.

Collection at the end of day

If someone other than yourself is collecting your child at home time, you must contact the School Office by phone in order to make staff aware of the change in collection. Staff are not allowed to release your child to another adult unless we have received instruction to that effect.

Please support the school in this regard – for reasons of safeguarding we must follow our published protocol – for further information please visit our website – [see Safeguarding in the Parent Section](#).

Administration of Medication

Please can we remind parents and carers that unless a Care Plan is in place for your child (after discussion with our SENCO, Mrs Adams, yourself and the School Nurse) the school office team is unable to administer medication or antibiotics.

We hold minimal supplies of Calpol in the case of an emergency. Should your child require a course of antibiotics please make arrangements to come into school at the required time of the day.

If your child is asthmatic or has a food allergy that we are not aware of, please tell the class teacher and/or the School Office. If an asthma pump is needed in school, we will ask you to complete the necessary medical forms.

NSPCC - Speak Out. Stay Safe



Last week, the children had an assembly presented by the NSPCC, focusing on speaking out and staying safe. The children will be raising money through a Dance-a-thon – which will be held on Thursday this week, during the school day.

Sponsor forms have been sent home – the class with the most returned forms will receive a certificate. All the children will receive badges to acknowledge their fundraising efforts. We are grateful to you, grandparents and friends for supporting this very important cause.

Road Safety

Before Christmas, you may be aware that there was an incident where one of our ex-pupils was hit by a car whilst walking home. The accident occurred along Ash Road in Hartley.

The child suffered minor injuries and the family were understandably deeply affected by the incident.

We have been monitoring how the children are leaving the premises if walking home alone and would like to encourage parents and carers to remind children about road safety and awareness when walking home at night.

We had road safety talks in school last term, but please can we continue to raise your awareness at this time of year when the evenings are still dark.

Parent Consultation Evenings

These will be held on Tuesday 7th February and Thursday 9th February (apart from Maple Class parents who may be booked on the separate evening of Monday 6th February).

If you are unable to make your scheduled appointment, please let us know. Regrettably, we will be unable to rebook in Term 4, unless a medical emergency has prevented you from attending your appointment. Pop-ins with class teachers remain available on Mondays after school.

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.

School Closure in the event of bad weather...

Following on from the recent snow, can we please remind parents and carers of all children to alert the School Office to any changes to personal contact details. The texting to parents worked well from our point of view – so long as we know of changes to mobile numbers!

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 as we did earlier this month.



*** Recently, children have brought mobile phones into school without their parents' knowledge, not handed them into the School Office and then uploaded pupil images to Snapchat.**

This is a serious safeguarding and privacy concern. Please check to ensure your child does not bring their phone into school. Year 6 children must hand their phones into the School Office.

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/>



Solutions for the Planet Science Day

On Monday 9th January, twenty Year six children (from Hartley Primary Academy) visited Longfield Academy with Mr Higgs. There we learnt about different environmental problems and how we can solve them. During this event, we were given the chance to enter the Solutions for the Planet competition.

After they introduced themselves, the hosts from 'Solutions for the Planet' asked us to discuss problems that needed solutions. Topics mentioned were: floods, pollution, coal and oil shortages, littering and many more. Enthusiastically, the hosts told us about the three non-renewable energies - coal, oil and gas – and commented about various different cycles (like energy reproduction).

Our next activity was to put flash cards (that explained different processes) in order so that they showed a cycle. Examples of these are: river water to tap water and coal to energy; we did this job in groups of 5. Each group then had to explain their cycle to a teacher or supporting adult.

In our groups, we had to put together a paper jigsaw and glued it onto an A3 sheet of paper. Using large marker pens, we annotated our posters with facts about: what the picture was showing; how we could solve this problem and any questions we had about it. The jigsaws showed things like someone filling up a car (pollution) and blocked drains.

We then (silently) had to individually complete a sheet about what we wanted to achieve with our projects. In our groups, we had to decide on a problem that we wanted to solve and what 'invention' would help to solve it.

Next, we – in our groups – had to create an A2 poster about an invention that could solve the sustainability problem we had chosen. We were given the remainder of the day to work on and improve our ideas. Some groups included: promotion, merchandise, drawings and more.

Overall, this was an informative and enjoyable day. We learnt a lot about the importance of sustainability and keeping our planet healthy for the present and future generations.

Article Written by Sophie and Ellen, Year 6 Pupils

Hartley Primary Academy is supporting Safer Internet Day 2017

We are joining the global Safer Internet Day campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, Safer Internet Day will take place on **Tuesday 7th February 2017** with the theme 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'. Celebrated in over 100 countries, Safer Internet Day will see our school join hundreds of organisations right across the UK and globally to 'be the change' and help create a better internet.

Find out more and get involved at www.saferinternetday.org.uk.

