



Halstead Community Primary School

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Monday 30th April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

APRIL NEWSLETTER

What a start to the new term with every type of weather (bar the white stuff) being thrown at us. I've never known the field so waterlogged! The children have been hard at work – not just making sure they are test-ready – and there are already successes to report. Here are the notices:

Testing

Let's just start with it and get it out of the way. Term 5 is the key assessment term and we would ask that you help us with this by trying, where possible, to keep your children in school as much as possible. (More on attendance later...)

The only statutory assessment is the Year 6 SATs which take place during the week beginning 14th May. The tests take place first thing in the morning so punctuality is especially important this week. Their results will have an influence on their streaming in Year 7 and form the basis upon which Ofsted judge the school. If a Year 6 child is sick during SATs week, it is possible to apply for timetable variations so do not feel that you have to send them in if they are being sick! We cannot make variations for other reasons.

Year 5 will also undergo their assessments during SATs week. Saplings will have the majority of their assessments completed during the four-day week following the Bank Holiday and Oak will take most of theirs in the final week of term.

Congratulations

On a more celebratory note, during the first week of this term, Jim, Nicole, Ted and Beau represented the school in a golfing tournament at Knole Golf Course. They took part in a range of activities before two competitions; they won both! In addition, one member from each team was awarded six free golfing lessons. Well done to Beau for being chosen from our team! There should also be a special mention to Jim who took a knock to the nose during the warm up and suffered a twenty minute nosebleed. He wouldn't let a little thing like that stop him from competing though and carried on once it had stopped.

Last week I took ten of the Saplings class to the Infant Agility tournament at Radnor House. They performed really well at each of the stations with some highlights being 42 speed bounces in 20 seconds from Dolly and Alex balancing on her right leg, on a 5cm bar, for 89 seconds! As the

rotations ended at ten past three, all sheets were handed in for points to be totalled up for each of the 18 teams. The team came tenth overall (and first in the bowling round!).

Attendance

Once again, our attendance figures have been flagged up by the Local Authority as some of the worst and the School Liaison Officer (SLO) is coming back in to school again to find out what else we, as a school, can do to increase our attendance figures. If you are one of the families with less than 95% attendance, at the very least, you can expect a warning letter. If you have already received one of these, you may be invited to attend a meeting with me and the SLO. Further actions may also be considered and you will be informed of these if this is felt to be the correct approach by the Local Authority.

PE

The PE lessons are going well this term. I just want to remind everyone that there is a correct PE uniform that we expect all children to wear. Details can be found on the website or in our prospectus but, in particular, I should like to point out that trainers or plimsolls should be predominantly black or white.

Forest School Help

Mrs Stevens has already had her first two sessions of training in order to qualify as a Forest School leader. In Term 6, she will begin sessions here at Halstead but will need a minimum of 3 regular helpers for the sessions to happen. The sessions will take place every Monday afternoon regardless of the weather (adaptations will, of course, be made for conditions such as today). If you are able to help Mrs Stevens out so that we can provide this wonderful opportunity for our children, please speak to her or let the Office know.

Thank you

During the Easter holidays, Amy Stevenson decided she would like to organise a raffle to raise funds for the school. Those of you that went into Hancocks during the break may have seen, or even participated in, it. Thanks to her efforts, school received £37.66 as a result. Thank you, Amy!

Parking

I know this was in the March newsletter but things have got worse rather than better. For example, Nursery have asked if they can shut the gates after staff have arrived at school as they are finding an ever increasing amount of parents using the staff car park, both for parking and turning. I have agreed to their request as this abuse of the staff car park creates a hazard for the Nursery children and their parents.

I am also trying to arrange a meeting with the District Council to discuss what options there are for you as parents. I already know that to begin with, they will ask me how many of the parents are using the car parks at the Village Hall, Pavilion and even the Church and walking from there. Please consider these options. I know myself, from my walks with Maple mostly, that it is not a long walk to the school from any of these car parks.

Governor Coffee Morning

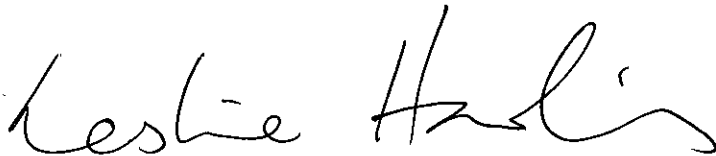
The next Governor coffee morning will take place in the last week of term on Wednesday 23rd May. Where in the school it will take place will be confirmed nearer the time.

Term dates

Here are a reminder of some dates for Term 5. You will, of course, be informed of new ones should they arise.

01.05.18	Year 6 – Safety in Action
08-11.05.18	KS1 SATs week
14-18.05.18	KS2 SATs week
23.05.18	Governor coffee morning
25.05.18	Celebration assembly
25.05.18	End of term 5

Best wishes,



Leslie Hawkins