



Halstead Community Primary School

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Thursday 1st November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

TERM 2 NEWSLETTER



I know what you are thinking; Term 2 already! How did that happen? The first term whizzed past and I am already hearing songs for Christmas so I am sure that this new term will flash past just as quickly! Here are the latest notices:

Knockholt Fireworks

This Saturday, is the Knockholt firework display from 6-8pm. Full details can be found at www.knockholtcarnival.org.uk/fireworks-2018/ but tickets are available in advance from Hancocks or from the pubs and village shop in Knockholt.

Working Parties

We are inviting you to join us for two working parties this term. The first you will already have had a text about. The purpose of this is to give the grounds a tidy up ahead of the Open Afternoon for prospective pupils for Buds next year. We shall be here from 12 to 2pm on the 10th November.

If you have a child who will be ready to start in Reception next September, please come along to the Open Afternoon; you are not excluded just because you are already a parent! It is taking place on Tuesday 20th November from 1.30pm. We look forward to seeing you. Also, if you know someone who will be looking at schools for September 2019, do let them know the date of our Open Afternoon.

The second is to help us plant a new hedgerow. The Woodland Trust are donating 30 hedgerow plants to the school. They should be arriving in the next week or two but we would like to plant them on December the 8th in the morning. Buds will receive a separate, specific invite to this; you will see why when you get your letter from Mrs Stevens and Mrs Saheed. The new hedgerow will be used to extend the Forest's Cool area so that we can make maximum use of the school grounds.



Harmony; **C**reating & **P**reparing for **S**uccess



Attendance

As you know, this has been a weak area for the school and is the main contributing factor in us not being able to judge ourselves as 'Outstanding' for pupil behaviour and safety. 95% attendance across the school is considered a bare minimum for acceptable levels of attendance.

For Term 1, the attendance for the whole school was **92.5%**. This is not close enough to the 95% we need as a minimum. Once again, I ask for your support with this.

Parking

You are well used to me requesting that you park respectfully of our neighbours. Or, even better, parking away from the school (Village Hall, Pavilion or Church) and walking the last part

In particular, in this newsletter, I should like to stress the importance of NOT parking on the double yellow lines at the crossroads at the top of Otford Lane. This is a dangerous crossing at the best of times but with cars parked illegally, then it becomes a serious, potentially fatal, hazard to the pedestrians. Please do NOT park on them. Thank you,

School Dinners

I just wanted to thank everyone for being so good about sticking to the rules laid down by Principals and making sure that payments are made in advance.

I should also like to let you know about the forthcoming 'end of an era' with Ruth Turner moving on to pastures new shortly. Her last day at Halstead will be Friday 16th November. She has been a permanent fixture serving the school dinners for as long as I have been at the school. She will be greatly missed.

In the light of that news, I should like to welcome the new member of the Principals team who will be taking over in our servery (and who has already begun working alongside Ruth to learn the ropes). Many of you will know her as she is the parent of one of our new Reception children, Julie Keen. We hope she will enjoy working here at Halstead.

PE Days

These remain the same this term as they were in Term 1. Thank you for your support in making sure that, unless your children are in Oak, they come to school in their school uniforms.

Uniform

On the subject of uniform, it became clear to me during the course of Term 1 that my expectations for the presentation of school uniforms, particularly in Key Stage 2, was not known by you, the parents. Therefore, so that it is clear to all, I shall address this now.

Shirts should be tucked in at all times. The exception to this is at playtime when it is only to be expected that shirt tails will untuck themselves. We try to impress on the children to tidy themselves up again when they are lining up to return to class and tend to remind them on a daily basis.

Ties will be pulled up to cover the top button of the shirt and not hide behind the jumper or cardigan. The knot should be a sensible size, ie, not the size of a fist as we frequently see, and the front part of the tie should be longer than the back. Ideally, the front of the tie will be around the waistband of the trousers or skirt but we recognize that this is not possible for all students given the length of our school ties.

Congratulations!

I should like to offer a massive WELL DONE to the staff/Governor/parent triathlon team who once again took on the Hever triathlon in September. This is the second year they have competed and were able to beat their time from 2017. Congratulations to Miss Buxton, Mrs Dunmall and Mr Collier on their achievement!

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has dropped some small change into the jar on the counter at Hancocks! Before the break, Mrs Stevenson brought in £125 from the last count up they did. It really is greatly appreciated by everyone at the school.

Christmas Tree Dressing Celebration

Ahead of the forthcoming dates below, I just wanted to draw your attention to the Christmas Tree dressing celebration on the 4th December. We introduced this last year and it was so lovely that we wanted to share it to as many of you that are free that morning.

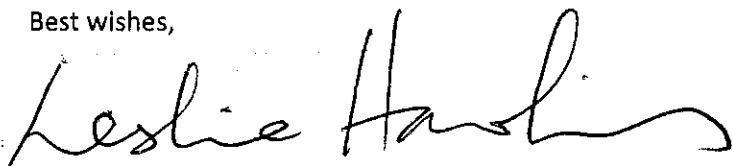
In essence, the celebration is led by the older children. There are songs and carols sung and, at various points during the celebration, the classes will come up to dress the Christmas tree with the decorations they will have made in class. We hope to see lots of you there!

Term dates

Key dates for this coming term are as follows:

- 9.11.18 – Whole school Film Festival
- 10.11.18 – Site tidy work party 12-2pm
- 13.11.18 – Flu vaccination R-Yr5
- 20.11.18 – Open afternoon for prospective parents
- 21.11.18 – Open books
- 4.12.18 – Christmas tree dressing celebration at 9am
- 8.12.18 – Hedgerow planting
- 10.12.18 – Nativity at 2.30pm
- 11.12.18 – Nativity at 3.30pm
- 12.12.18 – Christmas lunch
- 13.12.18 – Pantomime at 10.30am
- 14.12.18 – Christmas jumper day
- 19.12.18 – Carol concert at 9.30am at St. Margaret's Church
- 19.12.18 – Term 2 ends

Best wishes,



Leslie Hawkins