



Hartlip Endowed Church of England Primary (Voluntary Aided)

Tuesday 5th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year!

I hope that you were able to enjoy a happy and relaxing summer break. As we return to school, we are aware that some have had a great summer and for some it has not been without its challenges, sadness and loss for staff, children and parents alike. A reminder that we are all human and life weaves its rich pattern in term time and holidays. We reminded each other of this in our first worship together of the new academic year. We listened to the song: Jesus hands are kind hands and reflected on the words, particularly the second verse. At the start of the new academic year, we have made this our prayer.

Take my hands, Lord Jesus,
let them work for you;
Make them strong and gentle,
kind in all I do;
Let me watch you, Jesus,
till I'm gentle too,
Till my hands are kind hands,
quick to work for you.



What's been happening over the summer?

Where do we start?

Whilst school officially closes to the children in August, it remains a hive of activity addressing different projects to enhance the school experience on the children's return. This summer has been no exception.

Jane Raggett has been in school painting the Rainbow Room and also the key stage 2 toilets. Ask the children about both...she has done an amazing job! Pictures here and above

Mr Gore our caretaker has not stopped and I am sure that you have seen the newly refreshed outside paintwork around school as well as noted how clean and tidy the grounds are.

Mrs Hales our cleaner has deep cleaned the school and with the help of other contractors, all floors have been polished.

And our wonderful PTFA added a Hartlip DIY SOS weekend. Their achievements were numerous: repair to the field steps, ongoing work to the play equipment, gardening and general tidying. Huge thanks to them. What a team we have! THANK YOU EVERYONE



Staff

We are delighted to welcome to our team: Mrs Sarah Martin who will be working in Robins Class, supporting Elodie who will be joining us next week.

You will be aware that we are looking to employ a Play Leader to oversee the provision at lunchtimes. We listen very closely to the feedback from all stakeholders. There has been much interest expressed in this role and we hope that the successfully appointed candidate will be an asset to our team and improve lunchtimes at Hartlip School.

We are seeking also to appoint an office admin apprentice. We will keep you posted. Everything that we do of course looks to better the provision for the children in our school.

What's happening this week?

We are pleased to host our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. They are as follows:

Tuesday: Eagles: 3pm

Wednesday: Peacocks: 3pm

Thursday: Blackbirds: 3pm (Mrs Ridge)

Monday 11th September: Blackbirds: 3pm (Mrs Byatt)



These are an ideal opportunity for you to get to know your child's class teacher, hear about the class routines and expectations. Every child will receive a copy of the PowerPoint/information shared at this meeting, together with the term's planning. Look forward to seeing you there.

Thursday...



It's a big day for some of our year 6 children who will be taking their Kent Test. We acknowledge that this is a stressful time, particularly for their parents.

To put the children at ease, we will be serving a cooked breakfast in school from 8am. Just arrive for a relaxed time with friends. **Please do advise of any dietary requirements.**

The tests will be administered in the hall, overseen by Miss McCabe and an outside invigilator, Mr Kraft from Newington school. I shall be offsite at Newington. Mrs Hunt will teach Y5 and the children not taking the test in the usual way. There will be refreshment throughout. We try to keep things as relaxed as possible for your child and whilst appreciating that this is a difficult time, encourage you to do the same.

And coming next week...

We are delighted to launch our breakfast club. Letters have already come home with all the details. Whilst this is a completely flexible service, it is **vital** that you book your child in on the **FRIDAY BEFORE** the forthcoming week. This ensures that staffing ratios are correct and enough food is purchased. We look forward to the launch of this exciting new venture and hope that it is something that is of service to you.



And on Monday, our new little Robins start school. This week, Mrs Barrett, Mrs Luckhurst and Mrs Martin have been busy visiting our new children and their families in their homes. They can't wait to get started! A real outdoor bunch this year it would seem! We look forward to welcoming all the children and their families to our school community and hope that they will be very happy with us for the next seven years.

And also in this newsletter...

A number of formalities please that require your urgent attention:

- **Diary Dates:** *The diary as we know it has been attached for this academic year. We appreciate that family life is busy and the more that we can advise you of in advance, the more helpful that is. We will not be publicising this on our website.*
- **Home school agreement:** *You will notice in this a few changes to include a dojo etiquette.*
- **Health form:** *to advise us of the needs of your child*
- **Data collection form:** *Please check both sides and sign on the reverse!*
- **ParentMail information**
- **Uniform information and order forms:** *We take a pride in how our children look and the school that they belong to and represent. We are always looking at the most convenient and affordable ways to source uniform. Whilst we are happy that uniform is purchased from your store of choice, we do ask that a **compulsory** item of uniform is the school logo sweatshirt/cardigan and the coloured PE shirt to represent tree team. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Do also remember that uniform can be purchased second hand from the PTFA*

Please may I request that all information is returned by **FRIDAY** of this week. This helps us to keep our records straight and be in an informed position at the start of the first full week of the new academic year. Many thanks

And finally...

I end as I started, wishing everyone a Happy New Year! The year is bound to bring its happiness, sadness, high times and low times. It's life! Please do remember that we are here for you to support you at all times. Come and talk to us. When you have concerns or complaint, please make appointments to share these so that we can give our full attention to the matter. This should be with the class teacher in the first instance. Please be respectful that dojo is not the appropriate place for this and avoid doing so also with the teacher on gate duty. We are there for the safety of your children and the school community and diverting our attention from this task compromises this vital task. There are bound to be teething problems and if these do not display themselves at the start of the year, it is likely that they will arise at a wobble at some later stage. Don't panic. Again that is life. Please do **trust** us to address issues as and when they arise in the best interests of your child. The children are at the heart of everything that we do and stand for. They are why we do this job.

We look forward to making this year a happy and fulfilling one for each and every child in our care and the community that we serve.

Yours sincerely

T. Jerome

Mrs. T. Jerome

