



Hartlip Endowed Church of England Primary (Voluntary Aided)

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year!

*I hope that you were able to enjoy a happy and relaxing summer break. It is lovely to see everyone back today. Not always easy coming back and adjusting to a routine, but I can guarantee by playtime the children are all settled and by Friday they will be exhausted...and so will the staff!*

*I look forward to seeing you all at the Meet the Teacher meetings this week when we can share new and reviewed routines, policies and procedures and remind ourselves about what we are all about as we begin another exciting year.*

*Don't forget, we are here to work together with your child at the centre of everything that we do. Please know that our door is always open and together we make it better. Here's to a great year!*

## What's been happening over the summer?

Where do we start?

School never sleeps even when we are on holiday. I am grateful to the staff who have worked so very hard for the benefit of our school community and for all that has been achieved.

You may be aware that we have had a classroom change around. Our Robins Class is now a combined Reception/Foundation and Year 1 class. Robins is now based in the old Blackbirds classroom and has been completely revamped to be ready for its new class of children.

The previous Robins classroom is now Blackbirds Class and has a single Year 2 class cohort in it. This classroom has had a new floor fitted and again has been totally revamped to receive its new children.

Peacocks and Eagles remain in the same location.

Upstairs, which is a staff only domain, has undergone a huge transformation this summer. New office space has been accommodated in what was a resources room. This will now house Miss McCabe and Mrs Warncken when undertaking their concentrated strategic management roles as well as a teacher on PPA or requiring a focussed place of work before or after school.

The staff room has said goodbye to its sofas which were originally donated to the school when the staff was a third of its current size. It has been painted and has chairs to seat our staff for meetings and break times.

The landing now houses all of our teaching resources and staff information. It currently has our library in boxes too until this can be relocated to a new building...watch this space!

The school has been deeply cleaned and floors polished. Curriculums have been re planned and resources renewed. We are ready, but have many plans to still move forward at a pace. We are the school that never sleeps!

## Staff

We are delighted to welcome to our team: Ms Nicola Bray who is our new Breakfast Club Supervisor. Miss Fleur White is our new After School Leader.

There are no other staff changes.

## What's happening this week?

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

**Tuesday:** Kent Test meeting: 2.45pm

**Wednesday:** Blackbirds: 2.45pm (Mrs Ivatt)

**Thursday:** Peacocks: 2.45pm (Mrs Rogers)

**Friday:** Eagles: 2.45pm (Mrs Hunt)

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September:** Robins: 2.45pm (Mrs Barrett)



These meetings are an ideal opportunity for you to get to know your child's class teacher, hear about new and reviewed policies and procedures and find out about class routines and expectations. The meetings will take place in the hall to facilitate space for children and parents to meet together. They will be led by myself and class teacher. At this meeting we will distribute to each family a copy of the presentation shared, together with the term's planning and a pack of documents that require your action. It is entitled New School Year Action Pack. We ask that the various forms are returned to school as part of your membership by Friday 14 September. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

## 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 **8.15am**. 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.

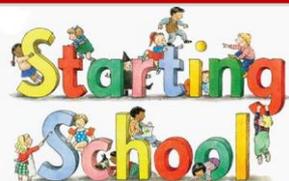
I will be pleased to meet with parents and children involved on Tuesday to go through the finer details

**Kent Test**  
For Children Starting  
Secondary School  
in September 2018



**Celebration Worship:** This week ONLY (due to Kent Test) will be in church. We will celebrate the Birthdays of those who celebrated during the holidays, as well as those celebrating this week, with the exception of those children taking their Kent Test. The class teachers will lead this worship. Due to the large numbers of Birthdays, there will be no internal or external achievements celebrated this week. Moving forward, you will continue to receive invitations to our Celebration Worship the nearest to your child's Birthday. This celebration takes place at 9am on a Thursday in our school hall.

## And coming next week...



On Monday, our new little Robins start school. This week, Mrs Barrett and Mrs Luckhurst will be busy visiting our new children and their families in their homes. 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.

## Coming up this year...

We do pride ourselves on constantly moving the school forward for the better. This happens by not only reviewing everything that we do, what went well and what could be better, but also by listening to your feedback. As a result of this, we will be introducing the following:

### Coffee and Conversation



You are aware that everyone is welcome to join us for Worship in Church on a Friday morning at 9am. Following this, in the newly ordered church, we will facilitate coffee and conversation. This is an opportunity for you to have a cuppa and chat to other members of the school community. In addition, there will be a suggestions box kept over in church where we welcome positive feedback, constructive criticism and suggestions of how to improve. The box will be opened on a Friday and the contents discussed. We will share the outcomes weekly on dojo and our school news board.

## Policies & Procedures

We have reviewed and introduced a number of policies. These include:

- Behaviour and Rewards
- Home learning Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Parent, Carer and Visitor Code of Conduct Policy
- School Plan

The **school diary** is attached for your convenience and in its formulation, we have again noted feedback that you share with us. We do for example now provide transport to school trips (namely the forest) whenever possible and we have also adjusted Christmas and end of term arrangements to endeavour to accommodate and be respectful to all members of our school community. We won't get it 'right' by everyone and every family, but we do strive to ensure that we get it 'right' with the children central to every decision made.

## 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 morning 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

Mrs. T. Jerome

Headteacher

