



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

**OUR SCHOOL VALUES: RESPECT - UNDERSTANDING – PEACE – HONESTY – RESPONSIBILITY - TEAMWORK**

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Headteacher: Mrs Rosie Phillips

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents

This half term's value is **Respect**

### **Autumn Term Newsletter No. 2**

We had a fabulous Kith and Kin Science afternoon yesterday, with good weather and good fun! All the children appear to love exploring our fabulous grounds and Common. It was great to see so many smiling faces. Our thanks go once again to Isobel Clark from the Commons Preservation Society for the wonderful session on 'rush lights' which she led. Some of the comments collected from children and adults will soon be on our school website and sum up what a wonderful afternoon we had. We hope even more parents will join us at our next 'Art' Kith and Kin on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### **The Common**

We're so fortunate that our school is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and that we have access to the Common directly opposite our school. The children benefit enormously from this as well as the support we are receiving from the The Commons Preservation Society. I have been very disappointed therefore to see cars parked on the Common, this week at right angles to the road! Also one car drove straight onto the common, turned around on the common and then parked in the lay-by. I can't see any necessity for this, and when the weather turns wet the common will be churned up terribly. We are teaching the children to respect natural habitats and help preserve the wonderful biodiversity found on the Common but this is undermined by these kinds of acts. Driving over the Common is not acceptable, please do not do it.

### **School Site and Car Park**

The school car park is for staff cars only, those who have a disabled badge (using the allocated spaces) or who have been given special permission by Mrs Phillips. Adults and children are expected to be courteous and polite at all times on the school grounds and swearing or bad language is just as unacceptable in the car park as it is in the rest of the school. Equally the car park is **No Smoking** area along with the whole school site, as well as a **dog-free zone**. Unfortunately parents who do not follow this code will be asked not use the car park regardless of their situation.

### **Perform**

KS1 were treated to a workshop by Perform, a different type of drama school who use a unique mix of drama, dance and singing, specially developed and written by them, to bring out every child's true potential. On this occasion our children took to the skies in Phileas Fogg's hot air balloon to discover the wonders of the world.

### **Phonics Workshop**

The Phonics and Spelling Workshop for KS1 parents was well-attended on Tuesday and we hope you all felt it was useful. There are extra copies of the Phonics booklet in the office for any parent who was unable to attend or who didn't manage to take home a copy. It will also be available on the school website from next week. If you have any further queries at all about Phonics or Spellings please speak to your child's teacher.

### **Dining Tables/ Sponsor Money**

I am delighted to report to you that we had a delivery of our first two new tables for lunchtime. They are much easier to handle and sit at and the children thoroughly enjoy choosing which colour seat to sit at! Thank you for all your sponsor money. If you have yet to send it into school, please do so next week so we can put it towards a third table.

### **Bulb Planting Thank you**

This year's bulb planting was once again a great success and I'm sure our grounds are going to be a mass of colour next Spring. Thank you so much to all the parents and grandparents who not only donated bulbs, but came into school with their trowels to help the children with the planting.

### **House Captains and Prefects**

At the beginning of the new school year Y6 House Captains and Prefects are elected. Those students who wish to be considered prepare speeches to present to others.

This year's House Captains are:

- Dinnets - Nicola Foster and Louie Greenwood
- Orchard - Sophie McGowan and Jake Pearce
- Putnams - Sally Bonner and Tommy Whatton

And the Prefects are:

George Bancroft, Harry Cornish, Lottie Dickinson-Lomas, Ella Flood, Sophie Flood, Annabel King, Thomas Phillips, Freya Tubb and Regan Webster.

### **Harvest Service – led by KS2**

Our Harvest Service this year is on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October at 2.15pm. All parents are invited although the Service will be led by KS2. KS1 will be leading the Mothering Service in March 2017.

### **Parent Forum - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 8.30am- 9.30am – Outdoor plans and Challenge for All**

Following positive feedback from previous forums, our first meeting will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October when we hope to have some plans for developing our outdoor space to share with you. There will be an opportunity to hear about the continued success of our Kith and Kin work and we will also be sharing with you one of our new areas of focus from our School Development Plan. This year we will be focussing on the concept of Growth Mindset with a focus on all children being challenged in their learning and not being satisfied with tasks that don't really challenge them. Parent Forums are an opportunity to meet with other parents, governors and staff to discuss some of the bigger issues that affect children's education. I hope to see many of you and share thoughts on these really interesting and important topics.

### **Summer Reading and Scrap Books**

The Summer Scrapbooks are still on display in school and have been wonderful to look at and read. A total of 21 children completed a scrapbook and was duly awarded 20 house points each. Nine children also completed the Summer Reading Challenge and have also been awarded 20 house points. Thank you to all the children who made the effort.

### **Picking Up Arrangements**

Please tell the member of staff on the door in the morning or email/ phone the office if someone else (family, friend or another parent) is picking up your child and does not usually. All KS1 children should now have given in an emergency collection password to the office. If you have yet to complete the form (Y2) please do so asap so it can be added to the list. Children will not be released to anyone (even if known to them) unless this has happened.

### **Story Starts from 8.15am – available now 5 days a week, open to all children - £2 per child payable on the day**

As you may be aware Miss Ottoway and Mrs Ditta offer a Story Start for children from all classes. Children are given the option of coming to school from 8.15am to listen to a story (read by an adult!) and enjoy a drink and a snack (bagels, brioche, fruit etc.) Vocabulary extension has been a key part of this process and the children have enjoyed compiling a list of 'wow words' to use in their writing (and looking up definitions on the ipads). This has been popular and it has been lovely to see the children enjoying their snack so enthusiastically too!

**Homework/ Project Club 3pm/ 3.30pm – 4.30pm - £3 per child**

Just a reminder that this term we are trialling a Homework/ Project Club available for all children until 4.30pm. This is run after school every day in the ICT room by Miss Ottoway. Children will be supported to complete their homework and/ or work on a project of their choice. Please speak to the office for further information.

**School Uniform**

Please ensure that all school jumpers, cardigans and jackets are labelled clearly so that they can easily be reunited with their owners. We still have an incredible amount of unnamed lost property! Please note that nail varnish is not permitted and hair bands should be plain and simple.

**Open Mornings**

The school has two more Open Mornings arranged for prospective parents. These are on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November from 9.15am to 10.15am. Please pass on the dates to any of your friends who might want to visit our school.

**School Photos**

These are now taking place on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like a picture of your child with their younger sibling who is not of school age as yet then please come to the school hall at 9am. If you have any queries, please speak to the school office.

**Dates for your Diary**

The new Dates for your Diary are attached and any new entries will be in red.

Kind regards

Mrs R Phillips  
Headteacher