



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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

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15th April 2016

Dear Parents

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

Summer Term Newsletter No. 1

Welcome back to a long and busy summer term. I hope everyone had a restful Easter break and is ready for exciting times ahead. Gardening Club will start next week, which I know the children are really looking forward to.

Fun Run

On Friday 18th March, Sports Relief kicked off with an assembly during which Years 2 and 5 showcased the dances they had recently performed at a festival. Later that morning, Reception class had their Fun Run, eager to complete as many laps as possible. In the afternoon, the rest of the school took part in a rigorous run around the extensive school grounds, enjoying the challenge of hurdles, crawling under netting, stepping through tyres and other obstacles. It was a bitterly cold afternoon and credit goes to the Year 6 pupils who marshalled the event, encouraging the younger participants. We are grateful to Mrs Gardner and Mrs Ives who helped to organise the event. We are seeing a growing popularity in cross country and now offer two lunchtime running clubs which are well attended. All the children made generous contributions to take part in the Fun Run, raising an impressive amount for Sport Relief.

Honey Pots' Visitors

Year 1 received a visit from the Dogs Learning Trust to open our Carnival of Animals topic. With the help of the Learning Trust dog, Chloe, we explored the similarities and differences that are found between humans and dogs and through role play compared a vet's job with a doctor's job. The evidence was compelling and we have since had visits from Peachy the guinea pig, rabbits, quail, dwarf chickens, snakes, resident fish and a local bat named Rose to help us to group animals by shared characteristics.

Kith and Kin Afternoon - Friday, 22nd April 1.10pm

Our next Kith and Kin afternoon will take place on Friday, 22nd April and our theme this time will be Literacy. All parents are invited to join their children at 1.10pm to take part in an outdoor stimulus for some writing. The children will then carry out some writing related to their activity. Parents are welcome to stay for the writing part too and are invited to write their own piece alongside the children! At 2.30pm there will be an assembly to celebrate the brilliant work that has been done that afternoon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Trout Release

On the last day of Spring Term, Little Peppers had a terrific morning releasing the trout they had carefully nurtured over the last few months into the river Chess. The children set off their trout one by one naming them and wishing them the best on their journey ahead. After emptying everyone's wellies, the children ran around Latimer Park on an Easter egg hunt before returning back to school.

Chicks in Little Peppers

And the cake sale keeps on giving! Not only were we able to use our funds towards our coach trip from Latimer Park but we have purchased our very own egg incubator kit. Our first chicks will be hatching soon and we promise to keep you updated.

Chiltern Foodbank

The school council invited Dave Worrall, Chiltern Foodbank coordinator, to receive a cheque for £348.51 and tell our school a little about how the Foodbank came about and who it can help out. We are so delighted that our school raised this generous sum through the Christmas appeal and the recent pound trail and is a great testament to the charitable nature of our community.

Film Club

We have decided to trial a Friday Film Club this term for the children at Hawridge & Cholesbury C of E School. The first film will be shown on Friday 6th May between 3.30pm and 5.15pm and will be the animation, adventure comedy *Inside Out* rated U. The film is all about a character called Riley. *After young Riley is uprooted from her Midwest life and moved to San Francisco, her emotions - Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness - conflict on how best to navigate a new city, house and school.*

In addition to this being a fun, social experience for the children we would also like to raise some money for our school grounds project. There will be a charge of £3 per child and popcorn and a drink will be available to purchase for a further 50p.

Further information with instructions on how to book a place will be issued shortly and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. I am very grateful to the staff who have agreed to be cinema ushers for the event!

A second date for the Film Club is planned for Friday, 10th June.

Plant Sale – Tuesday 24th May

We are planning to hold our first school plant sale this term on Tuesday 24th May. All classes are involved with planting seeds at the moment so that we have plenty of stock to sell! We would also be grateful for any donations of spare plants which you or your friends/ family members may have so please bare us in mind as your get sowing for summer – flowers, vegetables, salad, herbs etc. all very much appreciated. This will be a great opportunity for our children to experience handling money, being real shopkeepers as well as learning lots from growing and nurturing the plants. The proceeds for the plant sale will be used for future growing / school grounds work.

School Grounds Tidy-up Working Parties – pond and bulb planted areas

Monday 25th April from 1.30pm, children helping from 2.30pm

It is so lovely to see the bulbs, which were planted in the autumn, brightening up our school grounds. They have made such a difference and the children are clearly enjoying looking at them and talking about them. Now that the weather is improving (hopefully) the children and staff are keen to use our fabulous outdoor area at every opportunity. Our school pond is a great asset and in order to allow the children full use of this, I was wondering if a working party of parents/ family members would be willing to spend an afternoon clearing the area around the pond of brambles etc.

It would also be great to spend a bit of time weeding and generally tidying up some key areas around the school, particularly where the bulbs have been planted.

The suggested date is Monday 25th April and an hour without the children will allow for the adults to get to grips with what needs to be done and for the children to get on with their work. At 2.30pm the children will come out and give the adults a hand.

Refreshments will be provided to help keep adults fuelled up!

Angle Grinder

If there are any parents who have an angle grinder and a bit of time to help, we would like to remove some metal posts in our covered area in order to allow for storage sheds for some of our PE equipment. We would love to hear from you!

KS2 Story Start – start the week with a story and a snack. – starting Monday 25th April

This half term I will be offering a Story Start time on a Monday morning at 8.10am for children in Key Stage 2. This will be an opportunity for children to come to school early and listen to a novel being read whilst enjoying a snack and a drink of milk or water. (brioche or similar) The children will be able to choose from a range of Michael Morpurgo books and so younger Key Stage 2 children in particular should be aware that the texts chosen will be reasonably challenging both in terms of vocabulary and content. For this reasons priority will be given to Years 4, 5, and 6 initially. A donation of £1 for this would be appreciated and can be brought a long on the day. As the book will be read over a number of weeks it is important that children commit to the whole half term. Please email the office to secure a place. Families will be emailed on Friday 22nd April to confirm that their child can attend on the Monday.

Reader's Tea Party and Home Reading

I was delighted that over 45 children consistently exceeded the number of times they are required to read last half term. The children had a lovely tea party complete with party poppers and sparklers on a cake baked by me! The children were very kind in their feedback both in terms of its appearance (a book) and its taste!

I am hoping to have even more children at my next tea party. It is a much longer half term so will of course be a bigger challenge! All teachers are continuing to monitor children's home reading and children who do not read the expected number of times will be asked to stay in for a short while on a Monday lunch time to catch up. Please note that we are not expecting children to read whole books necessarily, any reading counts as long as it has been recorded in their record book. For Key Stage 1 children should read five times over the week and for Key Stage 2 this should be 3 times.

Dates for your Diary

Dates for your diary will be sent out on Monday. New or amended entries will be marked in red.

Kind regards

Mrs R Phillips
Headteacher