

Harting Primary School Newsletter



Message from the Head

I hope that you have all had lovely half-term breaks and the children have had an opportunity to have some 'down time' without the usual rush of life. Although we know that sleep is important to children for learning, we know that time to relax enables children to process their thinking too. I was reminded of this by our new County advisor who visited us just over a week ago. He was asking if I thought children of today were given time 'in their heads'.

This has prompted me to consider that we need to be careful as a society not to fill every minute of the day with structure and activity for our children. There is a very real risk that their lives are so full that they have no time to reflect on the things that they have learned and move their own thinking on.

In the busy term ahead, I ask that you not only ensure that your children have plenty of sleep but to have time off to 'potter' or 'chill' so that they can progress their learning.

Best wishes

Fiona Mullett

Sad news

Many of the children in the school will have been taught by Amy Piper, as she has worked here for many years. Since working in the reception class, as part of a job-share, she moved to Downlands class nearly two years ago to work as the class teacher for four days a week and as the Special Needs Coordinator (SENCO) one day. She has loved all her work but wants to develop her SENCO skills further so applied for, and has accepted, her dream post as SENCO at a much larger school. We are really sorry to lose her but know that she is ready to pursue her desire to work with this specific group of children.

Cathy Day, who currently teaches music, as well as Downlands class, will be increasing her days from September. She will continue to work in Downlands for two days a week, along with her usual Wednesday music day. Additionally, she will become the SENCO - she has already led special needs work in a previous school. We have advertised for a teacher, to continue the good practice in Downlands class, and are holding interviews tomorrow.

Sarah-Jane Townend will also be leaving the school at the end of the term. She joined us seven years ago as a newly qualified teacher and has worked both in Beacon and Torberry class. We are also sad that she is leaving but know that for her it's time to move to 'pastures new' and she is ready for additional challenges. She is widening her expertise by becoming a Reception teacher at another local school. Again, although sad, we know that it is time for her to move on.

Having been offered her new position on the final day of the half-term, we have advertised and are planning interviews next week for a new teacher in Beacon class from September. I will keep you posted.

Rother Valley netball match

Although Harting netball team played well, they were narrowly beaten by Midhurst Primary School on Monday this week. They had a couple of really tall players which may have given them the edge. Nevertheless we are proud of the children for their sportsmanship.

Sports Day

As usual, our sports day will be held on the Harting Playing Field next week. We will aim to start at 1 pm with the carousel of team events. This will be followed by races. We would be grateful if sunblock can be applied to children earlier in the day and sunhats brought into school, if it is sunny. This will avoid the need for adults to move to the 'children's side of the race track'. We are grateful to the PTFA for providing the refreshments that afternoon.

The children will walk to the sports ground after eating lunch in school ready for the events.

Our PTFA will be serving ice lollies to the children and a cream tea will be available for parents. A small donation would be welcome for these on the day.

Year 2 and 5

We always try to leave the decision for the year split as late as possible so that the younger children are as mature as they can be. This helps us to make the most balanced choice for each child. The year 1s change so much more than the year 5s over a short time. At this stage, we haven't even completed our assessments or reviewed them so aren't in a position to make any concrete decisions (which are based on a range of factors including children's maturity, skills as well as their emotional and social needs). I know for parents this may seem to take an overly long time but we really do try to consider each child, as a whole, as well as having balanced classes to meet their learning needs. Many schools inform children of their new classes only one to two weeks before the end of term but we have no set date at this point, simply because we need more time for our dialogue. We are aiming to inform families at some stage during the week beginning 27th June.

Second hand uniform

Trea Langford has asked if it would be possible to bring in any unwanted, but good condition, school uniform for her to sell. Last year she set up a stall for new reception parents to make it easier for families to afford. Please bring any items that you may have to the school office.

New staff

Many of the children have already benefited from working with another of our Teaching Assistants - Michaela Lockrose. She joined the staff, to work in KS2, at the beginning of May and brings much school experience with her.

Additionally, Petronela Johnson has transferred roles to work in the kitchen which means that we have employed Charlene Gaunt as a Lunch Supervisor. She knows the school as she was once a pupil here and lives locally.

School Disco

A highlight for the children! To be held in the school hall on Friday 17th June. Tickets available from the school office (£4 for one; £7 for two; or £10 for three). This event is open to Harting School children only.

PTFA Summer Gig

Tickets are selling fast. It will be held on Saturday, 25th June at Elsted Village Hall at 7.30pm. Ticket price of £22 includes cocktail, supper and live music by Super8. Please see Lyndsay Shaxton or Sophie Clements for tickets.

Summer Play Scheme

Although not a school activity, I know that many families find it really helpful if their children attend this scheme. It has been run by volunteers in the village for many years and it will take place in the week beginning Monday 25th July. If you are interested in your child attending part or all of it, Fiona Waters will leave application forms in the school office from early next week.

Key dates for your diary

Summer term 2016

Some of these dates are yet to be confirmed so please keep an eye on the newsletter

Week beginning 13.6.16		
15.6.16	Pm	Sports day at Harting Playing Field
16.6.16	Am	Class photos
17.6.16	Pm	Y6 Leavers' service - Chichester cathedral
	Pm	Y1 FS
	Pm	PTFA - disco
Week beginning 20.6.16		
22.6.16	Pm	Reserve Sports day
24.6.16	Pm	Y1 Forest school
25.6.16	Eve	PTFA - summer dance
Week beginning 27.6.16		
1.7.16		INSET DAY
Week beginning 4.7.16		
4.7.16	Am	Y3 swim
	All day	Bikeability
5.7.16	Am	Y3 swim
	All day	Bikeability
6.7.16	Am	Bikeability
	Am	Y3 swim
7.7.16	Am	Y3 swim
	Eve	KS2 production
8.7.16	Eve	KS2 production
Week beginning 11.7.16		
11.7.16	Am	Y3 swim
12.7.16	Am	Y3 swim
13.7.16	Am	Y3 swim
14.7.16	Am	Y3 swim
Week beginning 18.7.16 (last week of term)		
18.7.16		Y6 Forest School + sleepover
19.7.16		Y6 Forest School
20.7.16		Whole school picnic (tbc)
22.7.16		Last day of term
	11am	Leavers' service (tbc)