



# Hardwick Community Primary School Newsletter

8th October

Dear Parents and Guardians

Term is now well underway and all our new children are finding their feet! It was lovely to have so many days of warm weather for the start of the year, but it looks as if Autumn is with us now. Can we please ask that children do have coats at school every day from now on, we do go outside in light rain! We'd also like to remind you that if children have had a sickness bug they do need to be off school for 48 hours after the last bout of being sick/having diarrhoea. This is not only to ensure they have made a good recovery, but also to try and stop further contagion for other children, You might find this link helpful.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Yourchildatschool/Pages/Illness.aspx> We've had a few children coming into school after telling us they were sick the evening before, and this is neither fair on them, or anyone else.

We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest celebrations and bargain box sales after school, we raised £264.55 so can twin four toilets already! We now need to decide which country we will link with and support. We also raised a fantastic £316.67 for Camsight and the children were certainly colourful in all their bright clothes and props! Thank you so much for your generosity. You can draw breath now as our next charity fundraiser isn't until the very end of the autumn term and involves Christmas jumpers... the School Councils on both sites will send out more information later next half term.

We will send out another reminder before half term, but Monday 3rd November is a training day and Tuesday 4th is school photos day, so you might like to send them in looking smart!

## School Dinner Charges

Just another reminder that School Dinners have risen in price by 5p this year.

They are now **2.15 per day, £10.75 per week, £79.55 for the half term.**

Don't forget that dinners are now FREE for every child in Reception, Y1 and Y2! We had a great take up last Thursday with 85.% of children having a free dinner. Thank you!

## Reception news

We have had a wonderful start to the year in Reception. The children have settled into new routines really well and are becoming more independent as the weeks progress. We've enjoyed getting to know each other as part of our 'All About Me' topic. As the weather has turned we are fully embracing our Autumn topic. Over the next couple of weeks the children will be busy counting conkers, making autumn crowns and leaf-rubbing. Please feel free to bring in anything related to the topic children would like to share with their class. As the weather gets colder it is important that children have a coat in school every day as we spend lots of time learning outside. To help your child be as independent in school as possible, please encourage them to practice zipping up their coats by themselves. We have also started learning letter sounds and we will be sending phonics books home soon- watch this space! Parent consultations will be in the week before half term so do sign up to book an appointment on the sheets by classroom doors.

## Year 1/2 news

We have had a fabulous start to the term in Year One and Two! The children have come back into school, revived and refreshed after the summer holiday. The staff changes at both sites have gone well, with both Miss Galloway and Mrs Wilson settling in and enjoying getting to know the children. Our Topic 'Dinosaurs' got off to a flying start and has inspired the children to produce some fantastic work! After a very exciting introduction, where the children were amazed to find a nest of dinosaur eggs on the school grounds, we have been learning about different types of dinosaurs, their habits and their diets. We have also been designing and making pre-historic landscapes in DT, as well as writing excellent fact sheets about dinosaurs in Literacy. A major highlight has, of course, been the trips to the National History Museum. The children had a brilliant time exploring, looking at fossils, meeting an enormous T-Rex and travelling through the centre of the Earth on a huge escalator! As always, the children were beautifully well behaved and acted as great ambassadors for the school. It's fair to say the trips were a **ROARING** success!! Looking ahead to later in the term, parent consultations are scheduled to take place in the week beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October, please keep your eye out for sign-up sheets, which should be going up soon. Thanks for all contributions of kitchen and toilet roll tubes for our DT project. These have been put to good use and have been turned into a variety of trees!

Finally, as the weather will inevitably be changing, please make sure the children have a named jumper or cardigan, and a coat in school.

Many Thanks,

The Year 1/2 team

## **Year 3/4 news**

Year 3/4 have had a superb start to the academic year. We kicked off our Romans topic with a trip to Verulamium, which the children found fascinating. Not only did they get to see the ruins of a real Roman hypocaust and amphitheatre but they also got to dress up and shop in the Roman market place. The rest of this half term has seen the children delve into Roman history. As a result they have created mosaics using rotational symmetry, written some excellent diary entries from the viewpoint of Emperor Claudius and a citizen of Pompeii and will soon be writing a news report about Boudicca's revolt. We have been most impressed with the children's enthusiasm for the topic and look forward to our next topic, Magic, after half term. Please remember we will be ending our current topic with a Roman dress up day for the children on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October so dig out an old bed sheet for a toga!

Thank you for your help and support with the new homework format this half term. We have been really pleased with the quality of planning and research the children have handed in and look forward to seeing their final projects.

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming parent consultations. The appointment times for all year 3/4 teachers are as follows:

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 3.40pm- 6.50pm**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 3.40pm- 5.20pm**

A signup sheet will be displayed inside the year 3/4 entrance from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October..

## **Year 5/6 news**

Year 5/6 pupils have really engaged with our topic 'Fighting for Freedom' and many have been inspired to produce wonderful homework pieces. Thank you for your support with homework. The pupils very much enjoyed the visit of 'Quantum Theatre' which presented the events of the Great War in an entertaining yet educational way. We are very much looking forward to our trip to the Horse Guards museum, Cenotaph and memorials and of course the performance of 'War Horse' on November 11<sup>th</sup>, which should be an unforgettable experience for the pupils.

Could you please check your child's diary for dates and for messages and homework notes and encourage them to use their diary actively as a communication tool. Also do remember that you can use the diary for messages to your child's class teacher, rather than writing a letter, and ask your child to show it to you weekly so you can sign it. This way of pupils taking responsibility is an important step towards transition to secondary school, as is remembering their PE kit. They do need to have both indoor and outdoor kit in school in order to take part fully in PE sessions. Also an outdoor coat is needed now the weather has turned colder.

Parent Consultation lists will be on our classroom doors this week and we will look forward to meeting you at your appointment.

Year 5/6 Team

## **Governor News**

The start of a new school year is a busy time for governors as well as for the rest of the school. First, we would like to welcome our new Pupil Governor, Ravi Shama, who was elected by the pupils as their representative to the Governing Body. Ravi will attend meetings to tell us about the important work of the School Council and Ethics Council. He and his team will also gather information from pupils to answer questions from the rest of the Governing Body, which will help with one of our key roles of monitoring school development.

The start of the year also brings a new School Development Plan, written by the Head Teachers with input from staff and governors. This plan outlines development for the year in the key areas of Curriculum, Pupil wellbeing, Premises, Personnel, Management and Leadership. It is always an ambitious plan, and detail of each area of development is then prepared by teaching staff teams. During the year governors monitor the progress of development through talking to the head teachers, teaching and assistant staff, pupils, parents, and the wider community, as well as visits to school for direct observation. At the end of the year, this monitoring will help us evaluate the effectiveness of the new developments, and decide what is needed in the following year. Key areas for monitoring this year will include making sure the new National Curriculum is being taught effectively, including the new requirement for teaching computing, as well as focused areas of development in English, maths and supporting children with Special Educational Needs.

## **HIT 100 display**

To promote the new mathematics curriculum we have decided to create a 'Hit 100' display in both school sites. The aim is for children to understand how different 100s of items can look and through this develop their understanding of estimation.

Both Miss Lawrence and Miss Galloway will be explaining the idea in their assemblies before the end of half term. To take part children will need to come and ask Miss Lawrence (Hardwick site) and Miss Galloway (Blue site) for a re-sealable sandwich bag. They can then take it home and fill it with 100 things. For example 100 grains of rice, 100 pasta shells, 100 coins, 100 paper clips, 100 smarties etc. These will then be used to create our 'Hit 100' display in both schools.