



Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School Newsletter

May 13th 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians

It's been wonderful to finally get some warm sunny weather at times. Can we please ask you to ensure that on sunny days your children have had a long-lasting sun cream applied and that they also have a hat or cap as neither of our fields have much shade at all.

We'd also like to wish Miss Swann at our Hardwick Campus very many congratulations, (and good weather...) for her wedding this coming weekend. She will be keeping her maiden name, so will be returning next week as Mrs Swann!

Andy Matthews & Ruth French (Co-Headteachers)

SATs

We're sure you've all seen various media reports about the SATs this year. We'd just like to say how very proud we are of our Y6 children who have just determinedly and calmly dealt with everything this week. The papers have certainly been very challenging, but the teachers have prepared them as well as they could, bearing in mind the children are being tested on a new curriculum that they have only had a short amount of time to cover. We still have to maintain very high levels of security around the papers until the end of next week, (which is ironic considering the struggles the govt has had to do this themselves.) However, if you are a Y6 parent we'd like to say a huge thank you for working so hard to support your child at home this year, especially as we have been teaching your children things you never learned, or have long forgotten; algebra and the use of the present perfect tense included! If you are curious and would like to see the papers do pop in with your child after school during the week before half term and they will take you through them. See how many you think you could have answered correctly when you were their age.

The Year 5/6 teachers also want to add their own message to this! "This has been a tough week for year 6 children but they have worked tremendously hard and we are very proud of them all. There has been a lot of controversy surrounding SATs in the press this year and we would like to reassure you that your children have all done their best to try to meet the heightened expectation (especially in the reading paper on Monday). Their positivity, team spirit and resilience are surely an indication of the grounded and supportive individuals they are becoming. We would also like to thank our year 5 children who have enjoyed their own curriculum week and have supported their year 6 friends throughout. "

The children in Y2 will be taking their reading and maths tests in the next couple of weeks. Due to the leaked paper, they don't have to do grammar and spelling too. We always try to make this as much a part of normal classroom practice as possible, but we now have to follow the same high security procedures for these tests as we do for those in Y6 and have less choice about how and when we administer them. We will try our very hardest to make sure your children don't feel pressurised or stressed about these at all. Please don't worry about them. Your child's teacher knows your child really well and the tests only support their judgements. They are there to measure the school, not the children! We try and give them some preparation for the format of the tests but, as in Y6, they are all new this year, so we won't know much until we open the papers next week. Y1 children will have their phonics tests later in June, again they will hardly know these are happening.

We are not against the principle of testing at all as a school, tests are really useful tools that teachers use to assess how well children have grasped key concepts and this helps them in their future planning to meet their needs. However, the current systems of external testing (the now cancelled baseline test in Reception, the phonics test in Y1 and the new tests in Y2 and Y6) do not help us as school teach your children any more effectively or tell us anything we do not already know.

We fervently hope the Government listen to the growing concerns from many sides and review the pace of the rapid changes they have implemented, and the impact these have on those that matter to us all the most— our children.

Guitar lessons at Cambourne

Please could all pupils who are interested in beginning guitar lessons from September at Cambourne contact Mr Cory at jimmypagefans@hotmail.com with their name, parent's name & contactable home & mobile telephone numbers by Friday 20th May. Lessons are £7.50 for 15mins per week, or £15 for 30mins per week. Limited spaces remain available, so all wannabe guitarists should contact Mr Cory as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Vacancies

We do need still need additional cleaners so if you are interested, or know someone who might be, the application pack is on our website, or is available from the school offices.

Please find below an extensive, but not exhaustive, list of school events between now and the end of term for your diaries. We still have a Y1/2 trip date to finalise, Reception intake mornings and probably other events yet to surprise us.

Diary Dates

May

Fri 13th PTA Quiz Night—Cambourne
 Fri 20th Ethics Council dress up day -Hardwick
 23rd – 27th Y6 Bikeability Week
 Half term Monday 30th – Friday 3rd June

June

Weds 8th Class photos
 Thurs 16th Reception to Linton Zoo
 21st –24th Y6 to Hilltop
 Tues 21st Reception Induction evening Cambourne
 Weds 22nd Reception Induction evening Hardwick
 Tues 28th Y3 to West Stow—Cambourne
 Weds 29th Y3 to West Stow—Hardwick

July

Tues 5th Sports Day—Hardwick
 Weds 6th Sports Day - Cambourne
 Thurs 7th Y6 intake days at CVC and Camb VC
 Fri 8th Y6 Athletics Festivals
 School Reports come home
 Sat 9th Carnival
 Weds 13th Summer Music Concert
 Thurs 14th Y2 Camping Night on both campuses
 Fri 15th Class lists home
 Tues 19th Y5/6 Performance 7.00
 Weds 20th Y5/6 Performance 7.00

End of Term Thursday 21st July

School Gates at Hardwick

Hardwick families will have noticed that the school gates are now locked later in the mornings until we open them at 8.45– 8:50. As the school day does not start until 9:00 when the classroom doors open there is no need for any children or families to be here any earlier than 8.55. Y6 children with 8:30 jobs and those in before-school clubs and activities need to come in through the front entrance as usual. We've had a few members of the public using our grounds as a short cut on the way to work, and some others using our picnic benches as a breakfasting stop. We do not want to encourage people we do not know onto the school site when the children are present. We'd very much appreciate your support in this. Older children who walk to school by themselves need to leave home in time to get to school for 9.00, so encourage them to have a longer breakfast!

School Dinners

We'd like to remind you all that payments should be **paid in advance** for school dinners by either cash, cheque (payable to Hardwick Primary School) or online. Dinners are £2.25 per day or £11.25 per week. If you wish to pay online, please can you request details from the school office. If you make payments online, please can you make sure that you have entered the amount in the correct cost centre, i.e. Dinner Money and not Nursery before proceeding to Checkout.

It would also be very helpful if you could remind children if they are a packed lunch or school dinner, daily. This is to avoid errors at registration. Some children do still order a school dinner when they have brought a packed lunch to school!

Term Dates 2016-17

Autumn Term 2016

Training Days: Thursday 1st Sept,
 Friday 2nd Sept

Begins Monday 5th September

Half Term: 24th -28th October

Training day: Monday 31st October

Ends: Tuesday 20th December

Spring Term 2017

Begins: Wednesday 4th January

Half Term: 13th – 17th February

Training Day Monday 20th February

Ends: Friday 31st March

Summer Term 2017

Begins: Tuesday 18th April

May Day: Monday 1st May

Half Term: 29th May— 2nd June

Training Day Monday 5th June

Ends: Friday 21st July