



# Hardwick & Cambourne Community Primary School Newsletter

3rd November 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Sorry it's been a while since the last newsletter. As you can imagine it's been an extraordinarily busy few weeks for all of us in the school, as we restructure many things to accommodate Ruth leaving the school. Ruth herself would like to pass on her thanks for all the messages of goodwill, cards and kind words she's received since she left. I'd like to thank everyone who has offered their kind words and support for me over the past few weeks too, it's very much appreciated. We are starting to get to a point now where we are on top of many of the things for which Ruth was heavily involved, and hopefully you've not felt that your children's education has been disrupted in any way during this time. I'm aware that for a few things it may have taken a little longer for you to get a response from the school during this time, and I appreciate your patience and understanding in this regard. As for school life, we've continued to admit many new children, and your children have continued to be wonderful in welcoming them so well into the life of the school. The year has started with all your children settling well into their new classes, and starting the year with enthusiasm and hard work. We are now starting to look forward to an enjoyable Christmas season, with some great school plays being planned and whole school events.

Andy Matthews

## **Nursery news**

Nursery have had a great start to the year, and all the new children feel like they've been here for ages! New friendships have been forged and the whole cohort has settled down together nicely. We've been busy with many shorter topics, including Autumn, Farming, Superheroes and of course Bonfire Night. The children have created some gorgeous art work, with colourful sparklers, roaring rockets and beautiful chalk firework pictures. If you're off out to a display over the weekend, we'd love to hear all about it!

## **Reception news**

Well done to all Reception children for a brilliant first half term at school. The children have impressed us by getting used to new routines so quickly and for showing so much enthusiasm about their learning. We have a very busy half term to look forward to. For our next topic we will be zooming into space linking lots of different learning opportunities. We will be continuing to develop our knowledge of segmenting and blending for reading and writing as well as thinking about 2D shape and the language of addition. We are also looking forward to our trip to Audley End to meet Santa later on in the term, as well as the Christmas play! Thank you to all who attended the phonics mornings on both sites. Keep checking It's Learning to see what we have been learning about on a regular basis. Thank you for your ongoing support. The Reception Team.

## **Year 1/2 news**

Last half term Year 1/2 had a wonderful time with their castles topic. We had a fantastic trip to Warwick castle where we rampaged over ramparts, were awed by eagles and trembled at the almighty trebuchet. Their enthusiasm over this half term was wonderful to see; as was their incredible efforts with home learning. This half term our new topic is Fire. We will be learning about the Great Fire of London in 1666 as well as exploring firework poetry and investigating Light and Dark in science. We are also preparing our Christmas play extravaganza, this year called 'The Good Shepherd'. We would like to thank you for your wonderful support, especially with the children's reading, maths and spelling home learning this half term.

## **Year 3/4 news**

It has been a great start to the year, with our Caribbean topic proving very popular. Our Caribbean sharing afternoon showcased our Cupid Shuffle dance, and the children also enjoyed sharing their art, flag-making and story-telling skills. We have finished the topic with a special DT day where all the children have tasted Caribbean food, and cooked a spicy curry.

After a well-deserved half-term break, the children are now beginning a new topic looking at Ancient Egyptians; everyone always loves this theme. A highlight of this will be the Egyptian dressing up day in a few weeks' time. A huge thank you for all your support with home learning so far this term; we have all been incredibly impressed with the tremendous effort.

## **Year 5/6 news**

We have enjoyed a smooth and purposeful start to the school year. The children are beginning to settle well into the routines of Y5/6, their individual classes and the expectations of homework for upper key stage 2.

Our topic, A Passage to India, is well underway and the children have enjoyed activities to mark the Hindu festival of Diwali. Children had the opportunity to do one or two of the following selection: making Diwali tea light holders, learning an Indian dance, making Diwali cards, designing paisley and henna mehendi patterns, listening and responding to Indian music. It was lovely to meet so many of you at the 'Meet the teacher' meetings and, more recently at Parents' Evenings. Thank you for your continuing support, especially the help you give to your child concerning their homework. We are all looking forward to our school trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor next week and a busy half term leading up to Christmas.

### **Gardening club at Hardwick**

The Year 5/6 gardening club would like to thank Alan Everitt for his vision and hard work in developing our school picnic and nature area. The children all love working with him and are learning a lot about plants and how to encourage more wildlife into our school grounds - we already have a family of frogs! We feel very lucky that Alan volunteers his time - and equipment! - each week and we are also very proud of the commitment shown by all members of this club. We would also like to thank Mrs Kearsy and Mrs Harding for supplying us with some lovely plants, strawberries and cuttings for our indoor courtyards that are also undergoing a revamp and are looking much better after their recent pruning. If you would ever be interested in helping with this project, or if you can supply us with any bulbs (tulips, daffodils or snowdrops in the first phase) or wildflowers then please see Miss Haji and/or our Its Learning gardening page which will be up and sharing our progress from next term.

### **Wildlife area at Cambourne**

As many of you know the wildlife area and pond have now had a good year to bed in with natural and local plant and wildlife. From this point on, we will need to start to manage the space, trim access routes, bushes and trees, plant and cultivate new areas to attract wildlife and allow for a greater variety of plant life. To this end it would be great to have a few adult volunteers (such as Alan Everitt above) to work with the school to start to develop this area over the next year or so. If you would be interested in getting involved in one capacity or another then please email the school office to register your interest and tell us how you would like to be involved. This could range from donating seeds and plants, to providing your time and expertise to help us in developing this space.

### **Get the enhanced E-Newsletter**

If you would like the e-newsletter emailed to you instead of a paper copy, and don't usually get one please email **hardwickprimary@hotmail.co.uk** We will send this newsletter out via email in the next couple of days. If you usually receive one, and haven't got it by Monday, can you let us know please!

### **Twitter**

We now have a large number of you following the school on Twitter and we are starting to use this as a very quick and immediate means of informing you of school events. If you've not already joined please start following @HardwickHead

### **New lunch menu**

We have a new lunch menu for this half term. A paper copy should have come out to you. If children don't bring the menu home, it can be viewed at <https://www.cambridgeshireccs.co.uk/page/school-meals/primary-school-meals/menus> by clicking on the Winter Menu.

### **Dinner Money**

The cost of school dinners for next half term is as follows:

Daily Weekly Half Term

**£2.30 £11.50 £82.80**

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### **Diary Dates for the remainder of this term**

Year 5/6 (Hardwick) trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor Tuesday 7th November

Year 5/6 (Cambourne) trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor Wednesday 8th November

PTA Step into Christmas event Saturday 2nd December (1-4pm) at the Cambourne Campus

Year 1/2 Christmas Production (Cambourne) Tues 12th December (2pm)

Year 1/2 Christmas Production (Hardwick) Tues 12th December (6pm)

Year 1/2 Christmas Production (Hardwick) Wed 13th December (2pm)

Year 1/2 Christmas Production (Cambourne) Wed 13th December (6pm)

Reception Christmas Production (Hardwick) Fri 15th December (10.30am)

Reception Christmas Production (Cambourne) Fri 15th December (2pm)

End of term Tuesday 19th December

### **Cleaning Vacancy**

We still have a vacancy for a cleaner at our Cambourne site. The application pack is on our school website, or do pop into the school office if you would like one, or know someone who might be interested. Hours can be flexible!

### **Head lice**

Finally, as we approach winter, we'll make our regular plea to all of you to check your children for head lice and if you find any, get them treated. We've had a few occasions when they've been seen on children's heads recently.

