



Hardwick & Cambourne Community Primary School Newsletter

27th February 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I'm very pleased to formally announce the appointment of our new deputy headteacher, who will be starting with us from after the Easter break. Her name is Cate Thompson, and she is relocating here from her current deputy headship in Newark, Nottinghamshire. We are delighted that she is joining the team, as she has not only previously been a longstanding deputy, but for short periods, has also been a co-head and acting head. I'm sure you will all welcome her when she starts, and she will try to make herself as available as she can be to meet people during her first few weeks and months. She will be taking up a teaching role as a job share with Mrs Elliott in Year 5/6 at Cambourne; who's class have had an unavoidably tough year with changing teachers. This should create a fabulous final term for them, and they do all genuinely deserve that.

This appointment should mean that we will be returning to a much more stable and settled staffing team for next year. Thank you all again for all your support and understanding whilst the school has been moving through this transitional period. We hope that your children haven't felt that their educational experience has been effected by it. We have all worked hard to minimise the impact of all this on what the children experience. We have also appointed a new role for the school, that of a Pastoral Support Co-ordinator. This role is to support children and families with a range of pastoral issues. Her name is Rachael Tomlin, and some of you will have already received communication from her, if she is working with your children. There is more on this in the attached 'inclusion news'.

The weather has been cold this week, and we are hoping to remain open throughout this wintery blast. Friday does look uncertain though, so please keep yourselves aware of school closures by checking the Cambridgeshire school closures webpage, listening to local radio, checking our school webpage and checking for tweets from the school.
Andy Matthews

Nursery news

Nursery are having a great Spring term so far! Many exciting topics such as Explorers, Chinese New Year and Knights and Princesses have really engaged the children fired up their imaginations. The Chinese New Year was a particular hit, and a big thanks to Mrs Ong for coming in and working with the children. We also started our 'Stay and Play' and 'Shared Read' sessions, with the former proving popular last half term- thanks again to all the parents who were able to join us, we hope you enjoyed it as much as the kids! We hope to see more of you for our Shared Read, 14th and 15th March.

Reception news

Reception had a busy half term as we travelled the world exploring and learning about new countries. We started 2018 in the freezing Polar Regions. We used non-fiction books to find out information and we used our phonics to write facts about animals that live in these cold climates. We experimented with water colours in art and enjoyed a visit from the British Antarctic Survey. We then travelled to the hot, humid Rainforests continuing with our fact finding and fact writing. In maths we have been focussing on doubling, subtraction and teen numbers. This half term launches with a celebration of Chinese New Year before we begin our new topic of 'people who help us.' As part of this topic we look forward to welcoming our mums into Reception on Friday 9th March for the afternoon as we celebrate everything they do for us. We do hope you can join us.

Year 1/2 news

Get your passports ready, this half term Year 1 and 2 are learning all about Mexico. In English, we are learning all about the climate, geographical features and tourist attractions of Mexico to help us write a persuasive travel brochure. In geography, we will be learning where in the world Mexico is and compare it to our own country and the villages of Cambourne and Hardwick. We will also be learning how to cook Mexican cuisine, weave 'ojo de dios', write using the Mayan alphabet and even make and decorate our own Mexican clay pots.

Year 3/4 news

Rehearsals for Mary Poppins are now in full swing on both Campuses. The children are thoroughly enjoying learning the classic songs along with a few modern day surprises. Who would have thought that it was possible to manage to get Cyndi Lauper into the classic tale! Thank you to all of you who have already worked so hard to help your child learn their lines. We have been impressed with their energy, enthusiasm and commitment so far. Ticket letters have now gone home so please ensure that you get these back to us as soon as possible.

In addition to our Mary Poppins topic, we have also been busy creating rainforest shelters as part of a DT day. The children had to work in small groups to design a shelter that would withstand a flood. The children thoroughly enjoyed using saws and glue guns in these practical sessions. We have taken lots of photographs which you will be able to enjoy in your child's Best Book.

Year 5/6 news

Year 5/6 have been working hard this term and are now fully immersed in our topic of Ancient Greeks. We have discovered heroes, monsters and gods through our English lessons on myths. Describing our own mythical monsters and now writing our own mythical stories. We now know what everyday life would have been like in ancient Greece and will be finding out how their civilisation still influences us today.

The year 5/6 classes on the Cambourne site are trialling the use of the google drive as a platform for learning. We have successfully collaborated on projects across the classes, shared our work with each other for commenting and editing and some of us have even submitted our homework in this way.

Some of our year 6 children have taken on the role of play leaders and are leading games and activities at playtimes and lunchtimes including: giant jenga, shuffle board, connect four and tin can alley.

Some Hardwick Year 6 children are really looking forward to visiting Cambourne Village College on Friday to meet Andy Griffiths, author of The 13th Treehouse Series. In a couple of week's time, some Hardwick Year 5 children will also be participating in the Big Read & Write initiative in Cambridge where Jo Cotterill, author of A Library of Lemons, will be speaking. Next week is school book week and we are looking forward to welcoming a visiting illustrator on both sites as just one of many activities planned for this week.

Snow days and emergency closure

As the winter weather looks like having one last blast, I thought I'd remind you of the school's emergency closure procedures. We try to make any decision to close the school as early as we possibly can (usually between 7-7.30). We often do this in consultation with other schools. If we choose to close, we inform the local authority and BBC radio Cambridgeshire, and notify parents on the school website, twitter and parentline. If we don't communicate on any of these forums please assume that we are open as usual. The webpage for the LAs school closures is www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-&-learning/school-term-dates-&-closures/school-closures/ or tune into BBC radio Cambridgeshire and wait for their announcements.

Lunches

We have been informed this week that the Local Authorities Catering service (CCS) , which we use to deliver our school meals, has taken the decision to close at the end of this year. The school will therefore be looking at alternatives for providing school meals during the next term, and the governors will be making a decision about future provision in due course. We will keep you fully informed as we approach a resolution to this issue.

<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

Please ensure all dinners are paid for in advance, we not able to provide lunches without payment.

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

Diary Dates for the remainder of this term

March

1st World Book day—dressing up for all year groups

27th Year 3/4 Play—Mary Poppins, 2pm Cambourne; 6pm Hardwick

28th Year 3/4 Play—Mary Poppins, 2pm Hardwick; 6pm Cambourne

30th Easter Holiday starts

April

16th Summer term begins

