



Hartest Primary School

Hartest Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

The Row, Hartest, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. IP29 4DL



Tel: 01284 830343

Email: admin@hartest.suffolk.sch.uk

Respect Resilience Aspire Achieve

2014-2015 NEWSLETTER 1

Dear Parents / Carers,

12th September 2014

I hope all our families had a good summer break, enjoying family time together whether at home or further afield in Britain or abroad. The children looked really smart in their uniform, thank you. The children have certainly returned in good spirits and have quickly settled to the routines and expectations. Their lining up on the playground the first day back at school was brilliant and is now used as their benchmark in relation to what they can achieve. As always, at Hartest we never underestimate any child and focus on what they can learn, do and achieve in both their academic and personal development.

Staff update: We welcome Mrs Brown and Miss Vaughan to Hartest. They have quickly settled into the school and have already made an impact in their classrooms and the children are responding well to their expectations.

All the children have been missing Mr Bill. He has been in hospital recently and we are looking forward to seeing him back in school as soon as the doctor says he can return. We know that some children want to send him a get well card, so any cards given to Mrs Thorpe will be passed on to him.

Changes over the holiday

Many parents and children have noticed that the covered walkway at the back of school has been removed. This has made the whole outside area look more spacious and indoors the cloakrooms are much brighter. There has been much de-cluttering taking place during the holidays so that all learning areas are also more spacious.

Mrs Bec Edgar, a Forest Schools teacher, is working with Oak and Willow classes every Friday this year. After only one session, the children have really been enthused by this new venture. All children and adults have a special name when taking part in 'Forest Schools' lessons such as 'Daisy Duck'. These names are only used in these sessions, not at any other time. The willow fence to the side of the car park has been erected by Forest Schools to keep the children safe when learning in this area. The children will be adding to this later in the year when the willow fence around the pond is harvested!

Achievement Assembly will now take place on Thursday and will celebrate the children's learning and achievement. Lunchtime Awards have been replaced by Mid-Day Supervisors visiting classrooms on a daily basis to award house-points or commend pupils to the class teacher for their behaviour or conduct etc at lunchtimes. We will also be involving the pupils in recommending their peers for outstanding learning, effort, and achievement etc during the week.

We have introduced a Junior Leadership Team (JLT) to replace the School Council and Eco Council. Our Junior Leaders will help to continually move the school forward and have a voice about all aspects of school life and learning in addition to carrying out responsible roles within school. The current Junior Leaders who come to the end of their term of office in a few weeks are very excited about this new venture. Nominations and elections for a new JLT will take place before half term

Congestion at Reception:

We are very conscious that on occasion, Reception can become very busy. To help ease this and reduce the time any parent or visitor has to wait, we request that

- All monies are placed in a sealed envelope (with your child's name, date and payment written on the envelope) and given to your child to hand in to their class teacher during registration.
- All letters and forms (eg day visit or absence request forms) should also be given to your child to hand in during morning registration.
- All children KS2 children arriving late should go straight up the steps and complete the late register in the Hub before going to class. Oak and Hazel children only report to Mrs Thorpe or Mrs Hall at Reception.

We would like to thank all our parents / carers in advance for your co-operation.

Volunteers

Hartest is very fortunate in the number of volunteers who come into school to help out especially with practical lessons or listening to children read etc. If you would like to become more involved in school life and spend an hour or so in school, please do contact me as we can be quite flexible and match your skills and talents to curriculum areas or even 'Forest Schools' sessions! If you are interested in supporting the Forest Schools sessions, a commitment for the whole morning or afternoon session would be required. In order to demonstrate fairness both to parents and children, with the exception of day visits and Forest Schools sessions, our policy is for parents not to help out in the class where their child is.

Morning routines: The pupils promptly carry out the morning routine of organising themselves so that registration is completed often by 8:55pm. We do expect the pupils to focus on this routine from the moment they line up in the playground and know that they shouldn't be looking to wave through the windows to parents / carers. We ask that parents support this by not looking for or waving to their children as they leave the school grounds.

Evening Routines: We have introduced a new system for supervising and escorting pupils to the school transport each evening. These children now leave the grounds via the school car park leaving the school gate entrance free for parents / carers to use.

School Grounds: We like to see our children using the school grounds between 3pm and 4pm (whilst the light lasts) provided they are supervised and in sight of their parents / carers and follow school rules:

- Be kind and safe in all we do and say.
- No climbing on the tunnels or in the trees
- No playing in the wooded area
- No climbing or swinging on the football posts and steps outside Reception
- The borrowed football is returned to Reception before the children go home.

Any children not following these health and safety rules will be asked to go home and leave the premises by 3:15pm

Elder Class: only pupils in Elder Class can walk or cycle to school provided their parents / carers inform us. As part of our duty of care, pupils must leave the site by 3:15pm so we know they are home within a given time limit. Should a pupil making their own way to school not be present at registration, we will contact home by 9am to make sure their whereabouts is known and they are safe.

Achievements

All our pupils will be bringing home their Arts Mark Certificate following their successful projects with Mrs Peddel during the summer term. Once again I would like to thank Mrs Peddel for her involvement at Hartest last year and making sure that every child was able to complete their tasks successfully to be awarded their certificates.

Out of School Achievements: Our first certificates of the year were awarded to Poppy and Hattie Lungley for helping with all the chores around the home following mum's accident at the start of the summer holiday.

School attendance

Many parents / carers will be aware that changes are being introduced this term to the Penalty Notice protocols for unauthorised absences. Schools are in the process of reviewing their attendance policy to bring it in line with revised national and Local Authority guidelines. The governors will approve the policy in October. The current policy is available on the school website.

- Please try to arrange medical appointments out of school hours
- All absences must be explained in writing on the first day back to school.
- Please note that only in exceptional circumstances will a request for absence be authorised.
- All pupils should be on the playground for 8:45am

Hartest School works very closely with the Education Welfare Officer. Mr Mike Game, our new officer, will be visiting Mrs Thorpe and me on 24th September. This service is also able to provide advice and support to families in a range of matters relating to attendance. Should you wish to meet the EWO please speak to Mrs Thorpe.

Parking near school

I am sure you will appreciate that parking and congestion outside school is a regular conversation topic by local residents and the doctors' surgery. We continually work to build and sustain good relationships with our neighbours in the village and to this end, over the coming weeks, Mrs Burr and I will be meeting with the Parish Council to discuss how parking issues can be eased and improved. We ask that parents / carers think carefully about where they park. Please park legally and carefully and consider parking at the Institute car park or village green and walking a short distance to school. Thank you.

School Photographs: Bentley Photographic will be taking individual and family groups in school on Monday 22nd September. There will be an opportunity to include younger siblings in a family group photograph from 8.30am – please go straight to the School Hall.

Harvest: Early notice: Dried and tinned food contributions for the harvest service can be sent into school from Monday 29th September

New Website: A big thank you to Ruth Hardy for her hard work on our new website. She has been working closely with Indigo Ross to develop this. We expect it to 'go live' within the coming days and information will be uploaded and updated over the coming weeks. Your views and suggestions are welcomed.

www.hartest.suffolk.sch.uk

ParentMail: We use ParentMail to electronically send out letters and information from school to home. Please make sure your email is registered with them so that you don't miss out! You are also able to pay for school dinners and trips using your debit or credit card through this service. Any queries with this service please see Mrs Thorpe.

Hilary Hall
Headteacher

Diary

Saturday 13 th September	Hartest Garden Club Produce Show at the Institute
Monday 22 nd September	8.30am Photographer in school
Tuesday 30 th September	Hazel visit to Gainsborough House
Thursday 2 nd October	2:15pm Harvest Service at All Saints Church
Friday 3 rd October	9 am FOHS meeting
Thursday 9 th October	Elder visit to Theatre Royal

2014-2015 Calendar

Autumn Term 2014

PDD Wednesday 3rd September 2014

Thursday 4th September – Thursday 23rd October 2014

PDD Friday 24th October 2014

Half Term Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2014

Monday 3rd November - Friday 19th December 2014

Spring Term 2015

PDD Monday 5th January 2015

Tuesday 6th January - Friday 13th February 2015

Half Term Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2015

Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March 2015

Summer Term 2015

PDD Monday 13th April 2015

Tuesday 14th April – Friday 22nd May 2015

Half Term Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2015

PDD Monday 1st June 2015

Tuesday 2nd June – Wednesday 22nd July 2015