



Hartest Primary School

Hartest Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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



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“Developing the whole child”

24th February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school, and I hope everyone has had a good half term.

As you know, every child in the school is part of a ‘house’ represented by a different colour, where they can earn points for their team and have the opportunity to work together. In our recently reformed School Council meeting, the children decided that they would like to give each house team a name. They chose the theme of animals and birds. Red House elected to be called Wolves, Blue House are now Cheetahs, and Green House are now Lions.



On Monday, Kestrels once again enjoyed the expertise of Mr David Ackroyd, a local scientist, as part of their ‘Forces’ topic. The children had designed and made model cars and had the opportunity to test them in a wind tunnel! Henry said “I found it really interesting testing how aerodynamic our handmade cars were.” Logan said “Mr Ackroyd was awesome!” A big thank you to Mr Ackroyd for visiting us.

Hedgehogs have started learning country dancing and had a lovely time in the hall this week with Mrs Coe doing their circle dance. It was

lovely to watch them promenade round the circle! Eli W said he “Like the clapping in the dance!” Winnie thought “The dancing was very, very good.”

A couple of reminders of things that are coming up next week. On Monday, we have the NSPCC coming into school to lead assembly and workshops with the children. Please see information on the reverse of the newsletter about this.



Also, parents and visitors would be most welcome to attend our next celebration assembly, on Friday 3rd March, 2.30pm in the school hall. It was lovely to see the last parents’ assembly so well attended. Please do nominate your child for any out of school achievements as we greatly value celebrating these in school. I will be available for a Parent Forum after the assembly, where you are welcome to speak to me. We hosted Open Classrooms this week which was a chance to come in informally and see the children’s work, classrooms and teachers. Look out for this again next term.

Friends of Hartest have organised for “Phil the Bag” to be in school for collection on Monday 6th March. This is an easy fundraiser for school. All you have to do is fill a bag with any old textiles and drop them into school for collection on Monday 6th. There is a donation to school for each kilo collected, so go through the airing cupboards and declutter.

We are sorry to have to say that Mrs Clarke will not be in school for a while, due to illness, for which she started treatment this week. Our thoughts are with her. This week we welcome Mrs Waller, who is teaching Squirrels Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and Mrs Flack who will be teaching KS1 interventions. Mrs Waller knows the children as she has been working in the school already this year, teaching small groups. We also welcome Mrs Barneveld who will be assisting in the office periodically during the week.

We have today had the confirmation from the Department of Education that our Academy Order for academisation with the Ipswich and St Edmundsbury Diocesan Multi Academy Trust has been approved.



Matthew Coombs
Head Teacher

NSPCC ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

Dear parent/carer,

The NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme is visiting our school to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse.

I'm pleased to tell you that we will be working with the NSPCC, the UK's leading children's charity, who'll be delivering their *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme on Monday 27th February. This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they'll be presenting an assembly to the children in our school as well as a workshop for Years 5 and 6.

"NSPCC has helped me to build the confidence to tell people about my worries and problems." Child's feedback

What is the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme?

Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff and volunteers will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and sexual abuse, without using scary words or adult language. We have studied the content of the materials and heard from other schools who have participated and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of their visit, we're convinced children will feel empowered - knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

"This service provides important information in a child-friendly way - it should be made mandatory in all schools. A brilliant service!" Teacher, Wistaston Primary, Crewe

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website nspcc.org.uk/schools or please come into speak to me and I can provide more information.

Talking about the Underwear Rule with your children

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe - and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'The Underwear Rule', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse - without using scary words or even mentioning sex.

The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at nspcc.org.uk/pants

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe