

# Harting Primary School Newsletter



## Message from the Head

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I am delighted to share with you the outcome of a recent church inspection, referred to by schools as 'SIAMS'. Since we were last inspected six years ago, the criteria for the such inspections have changed dramatically - a 'toolkit' portfolio had to be developed to share with the inspector. Although delightful, our inspector was really rigorous yet has recognised some of the strengths of the school.

The highlights of the report include:

- Recognition that the values of 'love and respect' underpin all that we do at school. I reckon that if we show this to each other, our community will be harmonious and those interviewed expressed that it is a 'happy school'
- Evidence that respect extends to tolerance for all belief systems and that we are seen to be inclusive of all comers

What I'm not sure is evident, in the report, is that there is no coercion related to Christianity or prayer - I consider this to be really important. Children always have the opportunity to have moments of reflection or pray in 'assemblies' - we endeavour to teach children to respect the choices of others, which is part of our ethos. Nevertheless, we are pleased that we provide children with times when they can learn about Christian values (regarded by most as a good moral code). Equally, children have time to pause in the day to 'talk to God' if they so wish.

If you would like any clarification of the report, you are most welcome to discuss it with me.

Best wishes,

*Fiona*

Fiona Mullett

## New staff

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Although we are extremely sad to be losing Sally Goodman from Rother Class, we are delighted to announce that Lettie Langley will be joining us after the half-term holiday. She comes with plenty of experience of working with children, especially Early Years - she comes highly recommended. We look forward to welcoming her to the staff.

## Young Voices

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Today our Young Voices choir will be performing at O2, following weeks of rehearsal. Thanks go to Cathy Day who has encouraged the children to practice so they can enjoy this wonderful opportunity. We look forward to reporting back the events of the day.

## Sharing assembly - Batafon Arts

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Please do keep the time free to join us for the sharing assembly on 2<sup>nd</sup> March when we will be enjoying the sound of African drumming. Some of the children will be performing

Key Harting values: love and respect  
'Love others as yourself'  
Worship Theme: Perseverance

traditional dances, learned in a workshop during the day. Working with Batafon is reported to be one of many children's favourite days at Harting School, so it's well worth stopping by. This is an assembly where it will be hard to sit still - all welcome!

### Author visit

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An author, Gill Medway, will be discussing her writing with the older children on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. She will be bringing a few copies of her book 'Oscar Temple and the Yesterday Tree' with her to sell. If your child is keen to purchase a copy, she suggests they bring £5 - she will be signing them as well as book plates, should you wish to buy a copy through Amazon instead.

### Sally Goodman's leaving book

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We are trying to gather messages from families who have been touched by Sally's kindness and expertise whilst working at Harting school. She has been at the school for a couple years short of two decades so it would be lovely to share your thoughts. Sally is due to leave in a week's time so if you'd like to add something, please pop into the school office where you are welcome to write your good wishes.

### Texts from school to parents

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The questionnaire responses to the governors were really positive. There were, however, a few helpful comments that have made me think. One of them was that text messages often do not have a context to them, which I am sure is true. We are making every effort to provide such background in all our communications but I wanted parents to realise that the text service has a limited number of characters for us to use. This means that texts can come over as abrupt. We have considered sending a series of texts but this might produce fragmented messages with pieces missing and slow down the whole process. Please bear with us when we text you - we do try our best. Sometimes I have to cull words or find the shortest word I can, if it is me sending them, and please can be really hard to fit in!

### PTFA

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The next meeting will be at The White Hart on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February (9am). Please do make it if you can.

### Key dates for your diary

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**Note:** Inset days; PTFA events; new dates/ information added to calendar

We respectfully ask that you log the dates of the school calendar in your diaries as legislation does not permit us to authorise leave, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Therefore you are asked to take family breaks in school holidays only. The school website has the Absence policy, should you need clarification.

Spring Term 2018	
Week Beginning 1.1.18	
1.2.18	Young Voices
2.2.18	Forest School (year 5) start - Fridays (+ one additional Monday tbc)
9.2.17	Last day of half term PTFA cake sale (3pm)
12.2.17	Half term holiday
19.2.17	Back to school
23.2.17	Sharing assembly: Warren/Beacon
27.2.18	Parents' eve (Pupil conferences year 6)

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28.2.18	Parents' eve (Pupil conferences year 6)	
1.3.18	World book day - theme tbc	
2.3.18	African dance sharing assembly (Downlands + others)	
	Author visit to Beacon class	
14.3.18	Debating competition (MRC)	
16.3.18	Open Mic - Roundhouse (eve)	
23.3.18	Spelling Bee (y3-6)	
	Last y5 Forest School	
	6.00- 7.30pm School disco and karaoke (tbc)	
29.3.18	11am	Easter service (Congregational church) - all welcome
	Last day of Spring term (Mufti-day)	
2.4.18	Easter holiday	
<b>Summer Term 2018</b>		
Week Beginning 16.4.18		
16.4.18	Back to school	
25.5.18	Last day of half term	
Half term: 28.5.18-1.6.18		
Harting Festivities 28.5.18		
Week beginning 4.6.18		
4.6.18	<b>INSET DAY</b>	
Week Beginning 11.6.18		
14.6.18	pm	Sports day
20.6.18	pm	Reserve Sports day
22.6.18	<b>INSET DAY</b>	
24.7.18	Last day of school year + Leavers' service (Parish church)	
25.7.18	Summer holiday starts	

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