



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

OUR SCHOOL VALUES: RESPECT - UNDERSTANDING - PEACE - HONESTY - RESPONSIBILITY - TEAMWORK

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'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 13:34

February 2018

Dear Parents

This half term's value is **Responsibility**

Spring Term Newsletter No. 2

Welcome back to school after what seemed a very quick half term break. I hope everyone had a restful and happy time and is ready for a busy few weeks. Let's hope the sun starts shining for some of the following activities!

Our Pond

Following on from the success and fun of our previous outdoor-learning-space development volunteer afternoons, another one will be held on Saturday February 24th, 10.30am – 4.30pm. You are most welcome to come for an hour or so during the day, just the morning or afternoon or the whole day! We really do need your help and would be very grateful for your time.

The day will be spent taking out the existing damaged pond liner, landscaping the pond to make it better for the wildlife and for pond dipping, and possibly inserting a new liner, depending on time. This is an activity that is suitable for adults and older children and will make a big difference to all of the pupils in the school this academic year – hopefully enabling us to get the pond filled before Spring. Children absolutely love pond dipping.

World Book Day – Thursday, 1st March

Please can children come dressed as a character from a book they have enjoyed? There will be prizes for the most fantastic costumes! There will also be a competition for the best dressed bear! Dress a bear as your favourite book character and bring it into school on World Book Day. There will be individual class competitions and overall KS1 and KS2 winners and runners up.

As part of World Book Day, we would like to take the opportunity to refresh our school and class libraries, and are asking for donations of books. We are also hoping to make some story sacks and are looking for donations of toys and puppets. Please leave donations of books and story sack items at the back of the ICT Suite between 8.40am and 9am on Monday 26th, Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th February or Thursday 1st March.

Mothering Service – led by KS1

Our service this year is on Tuesday, 6th March at 2.15pm. All parents are invited, although the Service will be led by KS1 on this occasion.

School Fund

Thank you so much to parents who have sent in an annual contribution towards extra resources and materials or special events. We appreciate any donations, big or small.

RE Afternoon

RE afternoon was a great success as the school considered the title - Christianity: A worldwide religion? The children were learning about the similarities and differences of Christianity around the world today. In one activity they learnt about Christians in Uganda before heading off to think about how Easter is celebrated in Germany. There was African singing, church building using Lego, the making of Catholic rosary beads and clay scallop shells marking pilgrimage in Spain. The final assembly saw children sharing their understanding that Christianity is actively practised across the world today.

Late to School!

Unfortunately the new term has started with an abundance of children still arriving late to school. This was occurring before half term and I had hoped that after the break punctuality would be better. Earlier this week we had 14 children arrive after 9.10am! When children are late it not only disturbs the rest of the class / teaching / assembly, but more often than not has an unsettling effect on the child who is late. I do understand that sometimes one-off lates cannot be avoided, but they should not be happening on a regular basis. The school gates open at 8.40am.

Cross Country

A few of our KS2 children went to The Misbourne School on Tuesday to represent our school in a Cross Country Festival. Mrs Blackburn was very impressed with their enthusiasm, sportsmanship and behaviour. Well done to Danielle Duminy, Sean Bathurst, Charlotte Miller, Jake Offlow, Daniel Barnes, Noah Eames, Blake Worrell-Hills, Nichole Colledge, Kiera Woodley, Gretel Weaver, Hope Ottaway, Joshua Watteux, Laurence Lewis, Marcus Dale and last but not least Zac Morris who placed highest with a 3rd in his category. Many thanks to the parents who drove the children to the event.

Lent Plastic Challenge

Lent is the time when Christians remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, facing challenge and temptation. It is a time to reflect on God's purpose for our life. This year The Church of England's Environment Programme challenges you to give up single-use plastics – to reduce the actions which damage God's Creation. Over 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic have been produced since the 1950s. That's enough plastic to cover every inch of the UK ankle-deep more than ten times over. Just 9% was recycled.

The Challenge can be found on the school website in the News section.

Parking

As we are thinking of the environment, it is a good opportunity to mention the Common. Once again some parents are parking on the Common in the mornings and afternoons. A few are arriving very early to get a parking space when collecting their children at the end of the day and are sitting with their engines running. We take your children over to the Common and as the weather warms up it will take place more often. So, why not go for a stroll on the Common while you wait? It really is beautiful countryside.

Easter Gardens

As we approach this important time in the church calendar, we would like to invite all children to create an Easter garden. Easter gardens are a fun and easy way to focus on and learn about Easter. The following link helps to explain more about Easter gardens and you and your child may enjoy watching it together. <http://request.org.uk/restart/2017/02/23/make-an-easter-garden/> Please can completed Easter gardens be brought in to school Monday, 19th and Tuesday, 20th March where they will be displayed for all to see. Additionally, all who take part will be awarded 10 house points.

Kind regards

Mrs R Phillips
Headteacher