



## Hamsey Community Primary School

# Newsletter

Executive Headteacher: Stewart James  
 Advisory Headteacher: Caitlin Yapp  
 Deputy Head(s) of School: Matt Dean; Rea Hamilton

[office@hamsey.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@hamsey.e-sussex.sch.uk)  
<http://www.hamsey.e-sussex.sch.uk/website>

Address: Cooksbridge, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 4SJ  
 Tel: 01273 400370 Fax: 01273 400370

Dear Parents and Carers,

Term 2 is well underway and it continues to be very busy. The children have been enjoying lots of different events and opportunities and we have more planned in the run up to the end of term.

### Anti-Bullying Week

Last week was Anti-Bullying Week and World Kindness Day. We were thinking about respecting one another and what it means to think of others. Our Odd Socks are on display in the hall and you are welcome to pop in and have a look at the children's designs. We marked the BBC's Children in Need Day, too, and raised **£141.75**. Thank you for your support with this. Our school takes bullying seriously throughout the year and we will continue to work on initiatives with the children in our Personal, Social and Health Education sessions.



### Hamsey's Ofsted Report

As you know, our Ofsted report was published last week; we continue to be a good school. We are proud that 'the real sense of family' at the school was recognised, and we value the child's comment that lessons are 'fun and exciting'. However, we are certainly not complacent; we know that there is still much to do to improve the school for all of our learners. Ofsted's comments re the next steps for Hamsey reflect what we are already working to address. Subject leadership is a focus on our current School Development Plan, Writing, too, is an area of development for us (as we have mentioned in our newsletters to you this year); we want our children's writing skills and their presentation of their ideas to improve. We know, too, that our attendance figures must be at least in line with the national average. Attendance is an area that we have to continue to improve.



### Attendance at Hamsey; our *Christmas Countdown Cracker!*

Attendance matters at Hamsey; we want our children in school every day. As a school we are working hard to improve the education of our children. Attendance is a major factor that affects the attainment and progress that our pupils make. Regular attendance supports their well-being, too. Our attendance target is **96%**; currently our overall attendance is **94.2%**. We have had a very clear message from the Local Authority and, now, from Ofsted that

### Chailey Netball Tournament

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November we entered the High Five Netball Tournament at Chailey School. Nine local schools took part and Hamsey came third! It was a fantastic performance from our squad of seven. Ava,



Devon, India, Jesse, Loretta, Moses and Oscar played extremely well. We were only defeated by Newick School, the only team who managed to score against us. It was a real team performance from Hamsey; the children's collaboration and commitment were excellent. Thank you to parents who were able to come along and support us at the tournament.

### Tree Planting at Beechwood Hall



On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November children from Hamsey were invited to plant trees at Beechwood Hall. We also received trees to plant in our Hamsey School grounds. Our children planted sixteen trees at Beechwood and eight at Hamsey. They enjoyed planting Rowan, Cherry and Silver Birch trees-as you can see from the pictures below. Thank you to all of the adults involved in this initiative.



### Writing at Hamsey

Thank you for your responses to our recent writing questionnaire. It has been really interesting to read your thoughts and feedback.

we need to improve our attendance. So, we are launching our **Christmas Countdown Attendance Cracker!** In the final 12 days leading up to the end of Term 2 we want **100%** attendance. **Children who are at school every day from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December until Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December will have their names put into a draw that will take place on the final day of Term 2, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.** They will have the chance to win £20 of Cineworld vouchers, something for the family to enjoy over the festive season. Of course, we want our children attending every day. Our Christmas Countdown Attendance Cracker offers the chance for us to reward children who do attend every day. In Term 3 we will be reviewing our attendance reward systems. We have got to improve our attendance; 94.2% is not good enough.

### Car Parking around our School

Please park considerately and safely when you are dropping off your child in the morning or collecting them at the end of the school day. We asked, in our previous newsletter, that parents **do not** drive onto the school site at the beginning or end of the school day (from 8.30am-8.45am, and from 3.00pm-3.15pm). We want our parents and children to be able to access the site safely. Disappointingly, some parents are still driving onto the site during these times.

### Adverse Weather

There was a light sprinkling of snow in parts of East Sussex yesterday; winter has arrived! If, due to exceptional weather conditions, we are unable to open the school we will notify you by text message. Any details regarding a school closure will be on our school website and, also, on the East Sussex County Council website. Information regarding school closures is also given out on Heart FM. We only close the school in exceptionally adverse weather conditions; we always try to remain open. However, the safety of our pupils and our staff is, of course, paramount.



### Eligibility for Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are currently entitled to free school meals.

### Your child may be entitled to free school meals for all their time at Primary School.

If you are in receipt of Income Support, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Income related Employment and Support Allowance or some other form of support, your child may be entitled to free school meals throughout primary school and possibly beyond.

If your child does qualify, they also receive Pupil Premium funding for at least 6 years. This funding is used to support children's learning and help towards the cost of, for example, school uniform, after school clubs and school trips. If you would like to apply for these 'long-term' free school meals you just need to complete a form that is available from the school office.

Remember, if you are in receipt of benefits, you need to register for free school meals, even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 to ensure they receive free meals beyond Year 2, and also for your child to receive the pupil premium funding.

### Dates for your diary!

Please note these dates are not exhaustive and can be subject to change.

November 2018	
Tuesday 27th	Open Morning for prospective Reception Parents (for September 2019)
Friday 30th	Badger Class visit to Gold Properties Development (Chatfield Close)
December 2017	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Fox Class and Hedgehog Class Christmas Performance Dress Rehearsal at Beechwood Hall
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Fox Class and Hedgehog Class Christmas Performance at Beechwood Hall
Wednesday 12th	Badger Class Science at Cumnor House
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Christmas lunch
Tuesday 18th	Badger Class and Owl Class Christmas Performance
Wednesday 19th	Last day of Term 2
January 2019	
Thursday 3rd	Term 3 begins

### PTA Events

**Christmas Puppet Show, Disco & Raffle** at Christ Church, Lewes on Saturday 8 December 2018 @ 3pm

**Christmas Carols and Cakes @ 3pm** on Wednesday 19 December 2018 to raise funds for the Patina.

**Paper Chain Challenge** - £1 buys you the chance to win a cash prize! Your named paper link will be added to the paper chain, and at the Carols event after school on the last day of term a link will be randomly selected from the decorative chain. The named person will win 50% of the takings, so if 100 links are sold the winner will receive £50!! To kick start the challenge, one plain paper link is being sent home with each child, so they have the opportunity to decorate their own link and return it in advance with £1.

With best wishes,

Stewart James  
Executive Head

