



Hamsey Community Primary School

Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Term 1 is nearly at its end and it has been a busy time at Hamsey! Thank you to all of you for your support and time over the last few weeks. It is lovely to be working with you on initiatives such as our reading challenge, for example.

Take One Flight

It was good to see so many of you at our recent *Take One Flight* Open Afternoon. The children had produced some lovely work for this and there were a range of activities to see and join in with. Some of the comments received on our Open Afternoon: *I'm really impressed with the amount of work the children have done so far; what a lovely classroom; I love seeing their art and doodles everywhere; my daughter is really enjoying her learning and she says that time flows by!* Your feedback-and, of course, the children's feedback-is important to us and we appreciate your comments.

Harvest

Our Harvest Festival took place at Offham Church on Monday 8th October. It was lovely to welcome parents to this, too, and we appreciated all of your kind donations. Thank you!

Cross Country Results

Well done to all of our pupils who took part in the recent Cross Country Competition held at Chailey School. In the Year 5/ 6 girls' race, Ava came first, and in the Year 5/ 6 boys' race Max achieved sixth place overall. In the Year 3/ 4 girls' race Bea came second, and in the Year 3/ 4 boys' race Enzo achieved second place and Tristan came in third. Congratulations to everyone who took part; we were proud of the way in which you represented our school. Thank you to Mrs Shinebourne for organising this opportunity.

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.

Breakfast Club

Hamsey's Breakfast Club is open daily from 7.45am-8.30am. To attend, there is a cost of £3.00 for 7.45-8.30am and £2.00 for 8.00-8.30am. This can be paid for in advance or on the day. There is a discount for siblings of 50p per session. A choice of breakfast will be on offer (toast or cereal) together with a drink. We are looking for table top games that are quick to play for our Breakfast Club. If you have any games to donate we would be extremely grateful. Please contact Mrs Whitehorn.

School gate

To ensure the safety of your children the school site is kept securely locked during the school day. The side gate for children coming to and leaving school will be open at the following times:

Morning: 8.30 to 8.45 a.m.

Afternoon: 3.00 to 3.15 p.m.

Please ensure that your child is in school promptly and, at the latest, by 8.45am. We place great importance on good punctuality here at Hamsey and are pleased with the improvements we have seen over the past year. We are hoping that this year will be even better with the support of our parents and carers.

End of day arrangements

If your child is in Owls (Years 5 and 6) and is to walk themselves home, or is catching a bus at the end of the day, could you please complete a form in the office.

If your child is to be collected by someone other than yourself, could you please notify the office, in person or in writing, of who will be collecting your child. Teachers will not release your child to an unauthorised person, as we have a duty to safeguard your children until they are in your care or that of an authorised person.

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.

Attendance at Hamsey

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 95.5%. Attendance in Hedgehog Class is 98.9%, Foxes are at 96.4%, Badgers are at 95.3% and Owl Class is at 93.1%.

Writing at Hamsey

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, writing is a key focus in our School Development Plan this year. It is lovely to be able to share some snippets of our children's work with you. Foxes Class are feeling proud of their writing this term. Roxy wrote, *On Sunday 1st September, in the cosy town of London, the most eye-dazzling thing took place.* Our Year 2 and Year 3 Fox pupils have been thinking carefully about how they use punctuation. Mimi wrote *The egg had always loved looking up, seeing birds and balloons, aeroplanes and insects, helicopters, bats and clouds.* Amelie P. wrote *We learned from a local chicken that the egg had always wanted to fly!* The children said they felt 'eggstatic' about what they had written!

The Big Draw-Draw Me In

The Big Draw, the world's biggest celebration of drawing, takes place throughout October every year. We would like to celebrate this at Hamsey and have planned an exciting, creative day for our children for next week. On Friday 19th October (the last day of Term 1 and the day after our INSET day) we have planned a lovely range of artistic opportunities for our pupils. They will be taking a line for a walk, working outside (weather permitting!), and exploring Rangoli patterns, for example. It promises to be a lovely day and we would like to thank Mrs Griffiths for her support with this. We look forward to sharing our work with you at the end of the day.

Dates for your diary!

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

| October 2018 | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Monday 15th | Parent Consultations 3.30-5.30pm |
| Wednesday 17th | Parent Consultations 4.00-7.00pm |
| Thursday 18th | INSET DAY |
| Friday 19th | <i>The Big Draw-Draw Me In</i> Last day of Term 1 |
| Monday 29th | Term 2 begins |
| November 2018 | |
| Tuesday 6th | Individual and family photographs |
| Wednesday 7th | Owl Class Assembly 9am |
| Wednesday 21st | Badger Class Assembly 9am |
| December 2018 | |
| Wednesday 12th | Fox Class and Hedgehog Class Christmas Performance |
| Thursday 13 th | Children's Christmas lunch (tbc) |
| 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

Our PTA are planning lots of lovely events during our school year. Next week the children will have the chance to participate in Who Knows?! This is a competition in which you can find out some amazing and interesting facts about Hamsey Primary School. A separate letter will be sent out regarding this; thank you to Mr. Strom for organizing this event. Next term a Halloween Party is planned and there will be events planned for the build up to Christmas. More details to follow.

Half Term Holiday

Term 1 ends on Friday 19th October; our school re-opens on Monday 29th October. We hope you all have a very enjoyable half-term break. Mr. Dean recommends a scoot along the sea front, Ms. Hamilton suggests a walk in Wilderness Wood, and Mrs. Baker advocates a stroll around Wakehurst Place. Ms. Yapp recommends the free activities that the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne are providing, and Ms. Shannon suggests a visit to the local library and lots of sleep!

With best wishes,



Stewart James, Executive Head Teacher