



Hardwick Community Primary School Newsletter

17th September 2009

Dear Parents,

We are now all fully back in the swing of school life and both staff and children are getting into their first topics of the year. You will all have noticed the grounds developments in the corner of the field, which started over the holidays and will finish in the next few weeks. This work will provide us with a new landscaped nature area with different habitats and a pond. Next to this will be an outdoor classroom, a turf maze, new pathway, meadow areas and other features, all of which will make a great improvement to the potential for learning outside the classroom. On a related matter, the school will be erecting perimeter fencing around areas of the field and playground where existing hedging is not already in place. This is to provide added security for both children and property. This fencing and new gates will replace all gated access to the school field and completely secure the areas where children are during the day. We will be placing a plan on the noticeboard in the entrance hall if you are interested. We expect the work to start in the next couple of weeks.

Thankyou,

Andy Matthews & Ruth French (Co-Headteachers)

Reception news

Dear Reception parents, Thank you for your support over the last two and a half weeks. We have been so impressed with how well all the children have settled in to their new classes. They have shown a great deal of enthusiasm for school and seem to be particularly excited about having their lunch here with their friends. As of Monday children will be in all day and will need to be collected at 3.15. Please come and speak to us if you are at all worried about your child coming in full time as we are more than happy to accommodate to suit your child's needs. As mentioned in our previous letter, next week we will be using the children's favourite toys as stimulus for discussion and recording, so please send your child's toy in on Monday, along with the completed questionnaire. Many thanks.

The Foundation Stage Team



Having fun exploring our classroom areas and equipment!

Year 1/2 news

We are all having fun with our topic on fairytales, with the children learning all about writing descriptions through work based around famous fairytales such as Cinderella and Rumpelstiltskin. Princes, princesses, dragons, witches, frogs and elves have all featured so far and castles will become more and more a feature up to our Warwick castle trip. This trip will be across two days, due partly to the volume of children now in year 1 and 2 and partly to allow the year two children a slightly different experience to that of the year ones. We are planning to go on the 14th and 15th of October, with more comprehensive details about the trip being sent out next week.

We will also be starting to send spelling lists home from next week. Please try to practice these with your children during the week. Tests will be on the timetables morning session marked 'Reading groups' on the timetable.



Painting



Experimenting with gravity!



Working hard at our handwriting

Year 3/4 news

Welcome back to the new term, all the children have settled in well and are enjoying our new topic on the Caribbean. This term we will be finding out about the different islands, coral reefs and Caribbean carnivals. In literacy we will be looking at stories and poems from other cultures and writing some of our own. Spellings will be coming home this week in a lilac book so please look out for these, they are due in next Wednesday and the children will be tested on the words in their book.

Gardening

Morrison's are once again running their gardening voucher scheme so please do start collecting – we have found the equipment we got earlier this year invaluable! If you do have any spare tools or wellies that you could donate, our new shed is very willing to house them! Thank you for all your support in this; over the past year it has been wonderful to see so many of your children getting so into gardening and enjoy the fruits of their labour! We are also looking for a couple of parents who would be willing to help our Year 5/6 pupils with our 'allotment' after half term. This would be for a couple of hours on a regular basis. Please let us know if you have 'green fingers'!



Our allotment and gardens last year! More gardeners needed!

Year 5/6 news

The new Year 5 & 6 pupils have settled in well to their new routines and responsibilities. We have started our new topic on India and Hinduism which is completely cross curricular. Hopefully we will have seen many of you at our meeting by the time you read this and given you more information. However there are a few items we would like to bring to your attention.

Diaries

Could you please encourage your children to use their diary every day and bring it in daily to school. These are a vital line of communication from the teachers to you the parents and vice versa. Please feel free to write notes in the diaries if your child has an appointment or there is something you wish to bring to our attention. Please also check the diary regularly for notes and letters and to support your child with organising their homework.

Parent consultations

These will be the week commencing Monday 19th October and the sign up list will be on our classroom doors by Tuesday 6th October.

Helpers - Activity week (19th-22nd October)

If you are able to offer some time to help with our activity week, please could you contact your child's teacher to sort out times. The children will be dressing up in Indian style on the Wednesday that week.

PE Kit

Children will need both indoor and outdoor kits this term, brought in on Monday and taken home on Friday each week. Indoor kit should be shorts and plain T shirt (no long 'board' type shorts please). Outdoor kit needs to be tracksuit, trainers, socks -and football boots if using the field for rugby etc.



What are they making??



Is it a music or a science lesson, you decide!



Art in Y5/6

Healthy Eating

We'd like to remind you all, that we do not allow sweets or chocolates in school, either as part of a school packed lunch or for playtime snacks. All kinds of fruit or cereal bars are fine however. We would also like to remind you that only fruit and cereal bars are allowed at breaktimes. KS1 children have free fruit so do not need to bring anything else.

Parentline

Here's a reminder of our Parentline number. We'll use it for trip information this term, for ETA back at school. And of course, will use it to keep you updated if we ever have to close the school...

To Listen to an announcement:

1. Call the Hotline on **08447 70 75 76**
2. Enter our unique school ID which is **47546**
3. The message will then be played.

PTA news

Hello all,

The PTA are looking forward to another great year of fund raising for the benefit of the school and we already have several events arranged. If you would like to become part of this enjoyable group of staff and parents and can attend evening meetings once a half term then please come along to our AGM in the school staffroom at 7.30pm on Wednesday the 23rd September.

For more information please visit our new website at www.hardwickpta.co.uk



Do you want to **win £45** or other cash prizes every month? If so then you will want to be part of the Hardwick Wonderball draw. For just £6 a year you are entered into our monthly draw with the chance to win one of **5 cash prizes**. All money raised from Wonderball will go to the Hardwick School PTA and help provide ever-improving school facilities and resources for your children.

You can arrange for a standing order from you account (£6 once a year) which renews your membership year-on-year and adds you to our monthly draw. Alternatively speak to someone from the PTA or contact the school office for details of how to join in.

Oliver DVD

The DVD of the Year 5/6 production of Oliver is now available to collect from the school office.

Get the enhanced E-Newsletter

We are pleased to say that over half of our families now receive the enhanced newsletter. If you would like the e-newsletter emailed to you please email hardwickprimary@hotmail.co.uk. This will be an enhanced newsletter containing colour pictures of curriculum experiences and events. The paper newsletter will continue, however it will not contain the photographs due to high printing costs.

Vacancy for school cleaner

We have a vacancy for a cleaner for 4 hours a week. Working hours to be negotiated within reason. Full details including a job description and application form will be available from the school office from Monday 21st September.

Vacancy for a school-home bus escort

The company that run our home-school bus service for our Cambourne children require a bus escort to look after the children during the journey. Any interested applicants should contact the school office for more details and details of how to apply.

Lunches and Dinner Money

The catering service have altered the menu weeks for this half term. Attached is the new version. The cost of school dinners for the half term is as follows:

<u>Daily</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Half Term</u>
£2.00	£10.00	£74

Diary Dates for the term

September

23rd PTA AGM

30th Harvest Festival

October

15th PTA plant delivery

17th PTA family photos

19th—23rd School Activity Week

19th—23rd Parents meetings week

Half term 26th—30th

November

2nd Training day

16th—20th Eco week

21st Christmas bazaar

December

4th PTA 80s disco

9th PTA Christmas bingo

10th Reception nativity play

15th—16th Year 1/2 nativity play

18th End of term

Please look out for more dates being added as the term progresses.

TERM DATES 2009-2010

Autumn term 09

Term starts Thursday 3rd September

Half term 26th—30th October

Training Day Monday 2nd November

Term ends Friday 18th December

Spring term 2010

Term starts Wednesday 6th January

Half term 15th—19th February

Term ends Thursday 1st April

Summer term 2010

Term starts Tuesday 20th April

Half term 31st May—4th June

Term ends Thursday 22nd July

School Choirs

The children's choir meets every Wednesday morning at 8.30. All welcome from Y2 upwards. We have a concert in Cambridge with other local schools in November, as well as performing festive songs later on this term in our own school concert and at the bazaar.

Adult Choir

This meets every Tuesday evening from 7.30—9.00 in the community room. All welcome, no previous singing experience needed, no audition, just turn up and enjoy singing! Anyone welcome! (need a few more men!)

School Library

The library now has an after-school slot, every Wednesday from 3.15—4.15 so parents and children can come and browse and choose books together.

Lost Property

We have almost an entire shop's worth of un-named lost property in the changing rooms. Please come and rummage if you have lost anything. Anything left will be donated to the next jumble sale on the 26th... Please name children's clothing, some items look almost new...