



Handcross Primary School

Newsletter - March 2019

Tuesday 5th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Spring 2 newsletter. It is lovely to see the days getting longer, the sun shining, everyone looking cheerier: Spring is definitely in the air!

We have lots of exciting reading and writing events happening in March which are detailed on a separate letter. This newsletter contains a few reminders for all.

School yellow zig zag lines and Parking Concerns

Please do not drop off or park on school yellow zig zag lines. According to the UK Highway Code you cannot wait or even stop momentarily to drop off or pick up passengers. The Local Government Association explains this is because parking on yellow zig zags outside schools puts children at risk, outside school gates there are lots of children running round, buggy congestion and little ones on scooters and bikes. If you stop or park on the zig zag lines it is illegal, dangerous as well as being very inconsiderate to the school community as a whole. The parking restriction is in force from 8am – 5pm, so this area should always be clear at school drop off and pick up times. I will unfortunately have to speak to parents who are breaking the law, we have also let the police know as this is an ongoing issue and they will be doing spot checks. I would rather say good morning to families than remind them of parking laws so please keep the yellow zig zag lines clear and be considerate of others when dropping off your children. If you have concerns about parking in the area please report it via Operation Crackdown at <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/> or to the district police team for Mid Sussex: email midsussex@sussex.pnn.police.uk, contact number 01273 404 937.

John Welch, Chairman of Slaugham Parish Council, has suggested that some parents park at the recreation ground car park to ease congestion around the school. This will have the additional benefit of enabling children to get their Park and Stride WOW badge. Please consider whether you are able to leave the car at home, park further away and walk a short distance to school or perhaps use a bicycle or scooter to travel to school as the days become warmer. This will not only help the dangerous parking situation outside our school but will also have increased health benefits.

School Expectations for collecting children at the end of the day.

It has come to my attention there is a lack of clarity regarding collecting children at the end of the school day. We expect a responsible named adult to collect children, unless written permission has been given for a child to go home by themselves. This would usually only happen in Year 5 and 6 and we reserve the right to refuse permission if we feel the child may not be safe.

Under no circumstances can a child in Key stage 2 be responsible for collecting their siblings. Please adhere to these expectations to ensure your children are safe leaving the school premises.

If children who have permission to leave school unaccompanied have not been collected, they must return to the school building for their safety. They will be enrolled in Teddies and



parents are expected to pay for their supervision. Under no circumstances can children wait outside the school grounds unaccompanied. If children are repeatedly left unaccompanied, social care will be informed.

Holiday homework

Thank you to all those children who completed holiday homework. We particularly enjoyed seeing the results of the “character in a can” competition. All children who entered were recognised in assembly and were given a small prize. The overall winners were the Hungry Caterpillar, made by Sonny in Hedgehogs and Dobby the House Elf in Harry Potter, made by Bella in Roe Deer. The characters in a can are now on display in the library.

Holidays

Lots of parents are asking for holidays to be authorised. Please be aware that we cannot authorise holidays as a school. If you take your child out of school on holiday it may affect their education detrimentally and will be marked as unauthorised, which could incur a fixed penalty notice from West Sussex. Please book holidays in the 175 days of the year which are not school days!

Curriculum

Our Accelerated Reader programme is now fully underway and children are now completing quizzes after reading books to check understanding and to support the reading comprehension process. They are very enthusiastic and are keen to improve their scores.

Our new Lexia programme for children has started to support children in English. A particular well done to all the children who have been participating in Robins. They have worked so hard and have made significant progress since the start of the programme. One child in Robins asks to do his Lexia programme every day. When he knows he is doing Lexia he says “This is the best day ever!” Well done to all those working hard on improving their learning.



TT RockStars continues to be popular with the children across the school. A huge thank you to all you TT rockers out there - we had a brilliant assembly recently with lots of new winners!

Forest Schools

On Fridays a selection of Year 4 and 5 pupils go to forest schools on a rolling programme run by the forest rangers at Nymans and Mrs Aylett from Handcross. The children absolutely thrive on the experience of being in the woods, exploring the natural environment and learning new skills. Here is a taster of how the children feel about forest schools and what they have gained from the experience:



Imogen B (Y5): “I learnt never to doubt in my own ability to do something”

Abdul (Y4): “When we are at school we might not play with each other, but when we are at Forest School we are one big team and I can play with people that I wouldn’t get a chance to at school.... At Forest School we get the chance to create strong bonds.”



Austin S (Y5): “I love the flinting (using a flint & steel) to light fires and making dens with Malakey, Finn, Noah, Connor and Bobby.”

Sophie S (Y4): "What I enjoyed most about Forest School is drinking hot chocolate, toasting marshmallows, making pizzas, learning more about nature, getting to know other people better and making decorations out of wood. It was really fun! Forest School is the best. I love it!"

Lynda (Y4): "... On the last day Sophie's group made tracks for my group to follow all the way to the big field."

Malakey (Y5): "It was an amazing outdoor experience! I really enjoyed making tree cookies because you had to use a saw to cut a thin slice of wood and a palm drill to put a hole in it for the string."



New School Newspaper – Pupil Led

Please look out for our school newspaper this week. A team of Year 5 and 6 pupils have been working hard outside curriculum time to create, write and edit their first edition. They have chosen the topics themselves and should be commended for their efforts to create an informative newspaper, written by pupils, for pupils. This is one of the ways we ensure that pupil voice is heard in school. The School Council will be going round to classes in the next few weeks to get feedback on the newspaper and to get advice on what pupils want to read, ready for the next edition, so please make sure you and your children read it. All feedback and ideas welcome!

NSPCC

We recently had the NSPCC in school as part of our safeguarding curriculum and to raise children's awareness of the NSPCC "Speak out, Stay Safe" campaign. The children participated in the Big Buddy Work Out on Friday to support the NSPCC's fundraising efforts. If you wish to sponsor your child's work out, please return the sponsor forms and money to school by Tuesday 12th March at 9am, as the NSPCC will be returning to Handcross to collect any donations later that day. Thank you in advance for supporting this worthy cause.

Chartwells Hot School Meals

There have been a number of queries to the school regarding Chartwells and hot school meals. As Chartwells is not run by school and is an external business, please contact Chartwells directly on the contacts provided below if you have any concerns or queries. We always pass on concerns from parents but it would be more beneficial for you to discuss your concerns directly.

For any Chartwells enquiries, please contact:

Phone: 01243 836130 or 0845 603 7998

E-mail: 73041@compass-group.co.uk

One of the concerns parents had more recently was the lack of choice on Monday 25th February, the first day back after half term. After enquiring with Chartwells, this is the information we have been given, which is on Chartwells website:

HOLIDAY RETURN MENU

At the beginning of each new term (and after a half term/Bank Holidays) Chartwells will be unable to serve the advertised menu for the first day of the new week as they have no access to the school during the holiday period. On this day, the Holiday Return Menu will be provided, which consists of jacket potatoes, sweetcorn & beetroot salad and peaches slices with custard.

If your child does not like jacket potatoes it would be advisable to bring a packed lunch on the first day back after any holiday. I hope this information helps you with your planning.

Sports Fixtures

The children have recently participated in a variety of fixtures as part of Mid Sussex Active and our Nears locality. We have had children going to Curling and Boccia, Basketball festivals and competitions, Badminton festivals, Quicksticks Hockey, Netball friendlies and competitions as well as gymnastics enrichment and cross country, with one child going through to the finals.

We are very proud of how the children have conducted themselves at each event. Their manner and sportsmanship has been commented upon by others. They are a credit to you and to themselves: our children at Handcross are fantastic role models for other schools.

PTA



I would like to extend my thanks to the PTA, who continue to do a brilliant job and have worked hard to set up a show in the Easter holidays for the benefit of our families. It is called The Unusual Adventures of Robin Hood, with performances on Saturday 6th April, first day of the school holidays, at 11am-12pm and 1pm-2pm.

If you would like to buy a ticket, please request a booking form and return to the school office with the fee of £5 per ticket (under 3's free) in cash. Please support this wonderful community event which will be a lovely start to the school holidays as well as an opportunity to raise funds for the school.

Finally, we are looking forward to such an enriching few weeks with lots of author events and Easter activities. The children will be very busy and active and will have lots of exciting learning opportunities. If you would like to get involved in school and have a few hours spare in the week, we are keen to have some volunteer readers to support the children further. Please note, a DBS check will be required. If you feel you would like to offer your time, please see the office for more information.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S Bondonno'.

Sharon Bondonno
Headteacher

Diary Dates – Spring Term 2nd Half

Date	Event
25 th February	Spring Term 2
26 th February	NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Assembly and workshops for Year 5/ 6
28 th February	Parents Consultations 2.30 – 5pm
1 st March	NSPCC Numbers Day
1 st March	Foxes Choral retell assembly
5 th March	Science Dome EYFS / KS1
7 th March	Yr 5/6 Writing at Greater Depth
8 th March	World Book Day Hedgehogs Choral Retell assembly
13 th March	KS2 Butser Farm
14 th March	MP Robertson – Author visit KS1
15 th March	Vashti Hardy Author visits KS2 Comic relief – children can wear red nose accessory (on sale in school)
15 th – 20 th March	Scholastics Book Fair
19 th March	NEARS Twineham
25 th march	Olympic Athlete Assembly & Workshop
27 th March	All Yr 2: Nears Little Sing Up Held at Handcross for locality in hall. 9am Badgers Celebration of Work 2.45pm Roe Deer Celebration of Work
29 th March	Roe Deer Choral Retell in Celebration Assembly 2.45pm Seagulls Celebration of Work
1 st April	Easter egg / bonnet competition run by School Council 2.45pm Foxes Celebration of Work
2 nd April	9am Hedgehogs Celebration of Work 2.45pm Robins Celebration of Work
3 rd April	2.45pm Kestrels Celebration of Work
4 th April	Easter shared lunch Easter Egg Hunt 2.45pm Caterpillars Celebration of Work
5 th April	Robins Choral Retell in Celebration Assembly Last day of term
6 th April	PTA Family Show “The Unusual Adventures of Robin Hood”
23 rd April	Summer Term Begins