



HANDCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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LATEST NEWSLETTER – 2 October 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It's October already! The children have immersed themselves in the new school year and lots of exciting learning has already taken place. I am starting to feel at home at Handcross, everyone has made me so welcome. I am still enjoying the challenge of matching names to faces; I think it might be a game I will be playing for a while.

Staff change

Sarah Goodenough, our valued office administrator, will be leaving Handcross at half term. She is very experienced and has a wealth of expertise, so it is a huge loss to the school. She is leaving to join Warden Park Primary Academy, where she has community links. On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank Sarah for all her hard work and dedication over the years and wish her every success for the future.

Harvest Assembly

At this time of year the children are finding out about seasonal changes and discussing Harvest. We think about the less fortunate at this time, while giving thanks that we have enough food to eat. This year our Harvest donations will be going to the Easter team to support the homeless. Year two children will lead a Harvest assembly on Friday 12th October. Please bring in a donation of non-perishable food items, by 9am on 12th October ready for our assembly. We would be very grateful for any donations, please give generously.

Parents Meetings

We will be holding parents meetings on Tuesday 16th October 2018 and Thursday 1st November 2018 from 2.30 – 5.00pm. Please book your slot at the school office – sign-up sheets will be displayed in the foyer. It is a valuable opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher and discuss how your child has settled into a new year group, as well as progress made so far. Do please try and come along. Unfortunately we cannot offer a crèche and do ask that you try and find alternative care for younger siblings. Please note after-school clubs will run as normal with the exception of Fencing and Musical Theatre.

Break times

Junior children are welcome to bring a snack to eat at break time. As a healthy school and as part of our commitment to supporting children to make healthy choices, please only send a piece of fruit or vegetables as a snack. Infant children are provided with fruit or vegetables as part of the government's free fruit scheme.

School Applications

Was your child born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015? If so then he or she is eligible to start school in September 2019, and you will need to apply for their place by 15th January 2019. Apply online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions from 1st October onwards. If your application is received after the deadline of Tuesday 15 January 2019 your chance of securing a place at one of your preference schools could be seriously affected.

To support your decision making, we will be holding school tours on various dates throughout the Autumn Term. We would be delighted to show you around our wonderful school and our Early Years classroom. Please note that these tours are by appointment only, so it is important to pre-book your space. Please contact the school office on 01444 400291, or email the office for more information.



School Tour dates for parents of children starting Reception in September 2019:

Friday 19th October 11am

Thursday 1st November 9.15am

Wednesday 7th November 9.30am

Monday 12th November 11.30am

Tuesday 27th November 11.15am

School Photos

The deadline for dropping back your orders to the school office or ordering online with JP Photographic is this Friday 5th October.

Safeguarding

Please remember to contact the office in writing if you wish to give consent for another parent/friend/relative to pick up your child – they will inform the class teacher.

Junior Trip to Brighton Museum



To start off their exciting topic 'Ancient Egypt', the Junior classes visited Brighton Museum in the first few weeks of term. The children took part in a brilliant, hands-on workshop where they got to carry out the gruesome mummification process together as a team. This was a very memorable activity which really helped inform their instruction writing on how to mummify a pharaoh.

They then had some time to look around the Egyptian galleries at the museum which included some fascinating artefacts from Ancient Egypt - including a real sarcophagus!

The children had a fantastic time and we received high praise from Brighton Museum staff regarding their enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour during the visit. What a great start to the year!

Finally,

In the current financial climate, all schools should be looking at ways of being more sustainable for the future. Handcross Primary School is no exception. We are looking at ways to develop our curriculum and make learning an exciting and enriching experience for the children; this has financial implications for our school. If you have links with businesses that raise funds or you have the time and capacity to raise funds for the school yourself, please get in touch.

Many schools have PTAs who raise money through events such as Summer Fairs and quizzes. PTA teams need to be organised and have the time, capacity and energy to take on fundraising projects.

Currently, Handcross does not have a PTA to help with fundraising projects. As well as the financial benefit to the school, this is a key way to develop home - school partnerships and to create memorable experiences for the children. If you feel you have the skills needed, or there is a group of parents who would like to take on this fundraising challenge, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Kind regards,

Handwritten signature of Sharon Bondonno in black ink.

Sharon Bondonno
Headteacher