

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018

## HANDCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Gillian Pedersen

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is a lot of important information in this letter which I hope you will find interesting. Firstly, I would like to send you a reminder about dates and timings leading up to the end of the term (the entries in red you have not seen before):

- Thur 28 July - Infants Sealife Centre Trip, Brighton
- Fri 29 June - Y6 Warden Park Induction Day
- W/c Mon 2 July - Swimming Week 1 for less able Y5/6 swimmers
- Mon 2 July 10 – 12: NEARS Sports morning **Handcross Park School** – selected junior children
- **Thur 5 July am - Our Sports Morning - Handcross Park School – we will commence as soon as we can after 9.15am and this will last approximately two hours**
- Fri 6 July - Celebration Assembly - Kestrels poem recital
- **Fri 6 July - Celebration of the completion of installation of the artificial grass (see below).**
- W/c Mon 9 July - Swimming Week 2 for less able Y5/6 swimmers
- Mon 9 July - 2.45pm Miss Ralph explains EY reports to parents
- Tue 10 July - NEARS Y2 Athletics Competition – selected children
- Thur 12 July - 3.30pm Parents of SEN children consultations with teachers
- Fri 13 July - Annual Reports circulated to parents
- Mon 16 July - 3pm Full Governing Body meets
- Date of 4 summer musicals: Tues 17 July  
**9.30am and 1.30pm Year 5 actors with Roedeer and Badgers to support  
11.00am and 2.30pm Year 6 actors with Roedeer and Dragonflies to support  
Amelia Steenkamp sells coffee in aid of the Rwandan charity**
- Wed 18 July - Y6 Leavers' Outing – Brighton
- **Wed 18 July - 3.30pm Final talk on PGL residential trip in September Year 5 parents and children**
- Thur 19 July - Final Celebration Assembly
- **Thur 19 July - 11.30am children Meet-the-New-Teacher**
- Fri 20 July - **1.30pm** Leavers' and Prizegiving Assembly; Y6 parents please notify us if you would like to attend. All parents of prizewinners will be notified shortly before the event. **Afterwards, we invite all parents and carers to join Mrs.Cozens, Mrs.Nobes and me for informal tea and cake so that we can have a chance to chat with you and say goodbye properly before we leave the school at the very end of the term. Please put a little time aside for this because we would really appreciate the opportunity to do this with you.**
- **Mon 23 July Last day for children.** Toy Day and final assembly.
- **Tues 24 July Inset:** Blitz on school to prepare for a good start in September



### **Celebrations of Work**

Kestrels - Wed 11 July 2.45pm  
Hedgehogs - Mon 16 July 2.45pm  
Robins - Tue 17 July 2.45pm  
Roedeer - Wed 18 July 9.00am  
Badgers - Fri 20 July 9.00am  
Caterpillars - Thur 19 July 2.45pm  
Foxes - Wed 18 July 2.45pm  
Dragonflies - Fri 20 July 9.00am

### **Celebration of the New Field**

As you will have seen, Trulawn are busy installing the long awaited artificial grass on the field which we used to lease, but now own. We are really excited that it is happening after our long struggle to both acquire it and gain planning approval for the change, involving lengthy legal wrangles and numerous surveys. There have been several layers of applications including those for weed control and mole control. We anticipate that the work will be completed during the week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> July and we intend to celebrate the event on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July with a picnic for the children and fun activity afternoon which will include using our new table tennis tables and maypole for the first time as well as many other activities.

We would like to kick off the event with a lovely, summer celebration picnic. So, we would be grateful if your children could contribute to a group picnic lunch that day. We will organise it on the same basis as the Christmas lunch which the children share in their classrooms each year. The teachers will be sending letters out about this shortly. Sarah in the office has asked for packed lunches for infants on that day which the children can either take home or actually eat on that day, if the picnic has to be cancelled due to poor weather. Sarah has contacted parents of junior children who may already have ordered a hot lunch for that day.

### **Class Organisation in September 2018**

We are now ready to announce the arrangements we have made for the organisation of classes in September. As I announced in my previous letter, we have decided that all the **classrooms** will keep their names permanently from now on, regardless of the year group of the children. Year groups and teachers may change, but the classroom name will remain the same. This will avoid all the unnecessary confusion which ensues when we change classroom names.

Some points to note:

- Almost all classes have 30 children; there are very few places available across the school
- TAs are distributed across the school according to the need in the class (some children require 1:1) and also according to the length of experience they have had. We have managed to provide a higher number of TAs
- Caterpillars will continue to be Caterpillars this year, but they will have a Junior teacher, new to them

	<b>Class Name</b>	<b>Class Teacher(s)</b>	<b>Year Group(s)</b>	<b>Teaching Assistants</b>
New intake to school	Hedgehogs	Miss Ralph	Year R	Mrs. Greany Ms Wright (Mrs. Taylor Thur am)
Hedgehogs	Robins	Miss Palmer	Year 1	Ms Grant Mrs.H.Taylor – shared with Seagulls
Robins	Seagulls	Mrs. Davies	Year 2	Miss Young Mrs.H.Taylor – shared with Robins
Caterpillars	Caterpillars	Miss Lane	Year 3	Mrs. Ford Mrs. Singh
Dragonflies	Badgers	Miss McDonnell	Year 4	Mrs.A. Taylor
Badgers	Roedeer	Miss Bloomfield	Year 3/4	Miss Caiger
Roedeer	Foxes	Miss Warsap	Year 5	Mrs.Julie Guiver Mrs.CatherineAylett
Foxes	Kestrels	Mrs. Stone	Year 6	Mrs.Powell Mrs. Cribb (pm only )

You will notice that we have appointed some new TAs to replace those we say goodbye to at the end of the school year and also two new teachers, Miss Bloomfield and Miss McDonnell, although Miss Bloomfield is not really new to the school: she has been on a long placement here while she undertook her PGCE this year and she is currently teaching the class she will have in September.

### **Part-time Staff leaving at the end of the term**

Mrs. Turvill has been teaching here part time for several years, taking groups of higher achieving children for extension work in Mathematics and Writing, or groups of children with special needs. She has done a wonderful job with all these groups and they made astonishing progress in her classes. This has been a part time, temporary arrangement while Mrs. Turvill completed the writing of her PhD thesis in primary mathematics teaching.

We feel grateful that Mrs. Turvill has stayed here for as long as she has. However, now that she has completed her PhD, she has secured herself a very responsible position in an academy chain, raising standards in mathematics across all the schools. We would like to thank her very much for her excellent contribution at Handcross Primary and wish her every success in her new job. We feel lucky to have had a professional of such high standing and with such expertise to advise us and work alongside us, but we will also miss her warm, friendly presence.

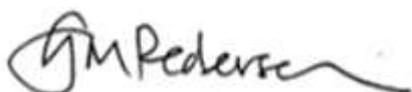
As you know, Mrs. Nobes returned to the school part time after her maternity leave for just one day per week this year to support Miss Ralph as she took over the Early Years. We wanted Mrs. Nobes to ensure the continuation of the great practice which she had established over many years as EY teacher here. Miss Ralph has done a splendid job this year and the temporary work of Mrs. Nobes is now complete. Wishing to continue her work in a part time capacity while her lovely baby, Ava, is so young, Mrs. Nobes has found herself a one-day-per-week job in the Early Years department of a school in Uckfield, which is close to her home. They are very lucky to have her – she is an exceptional EY teacher. I used to love observing Mrs. Nobes' inputs during lessons; her calm, clear and exciting manner had the children (and me) mesmerised every time. Mrs. Nobes has been a solid rock for the school over the 14 years that she has been teaching here, a huge building block of the great school that it is today. She has secured the successful launch of hundreds of four year olds, as they have embarked on their school careers at Handcross Primary. When the children in Year 6 write their leavers' speeches, they very often mention their time with Mrs. Nobes as being amongst their fondest memories! She not only ensured that the Early Years class thrived year after year, but that PSHCE across the school did as well. She was our behaviour specialist (nothing fazed her!) and she many times supported staff as they strove to manage challenging behaviour, if it arose in their classrooms. We are going to miss her very much.

There are three Teaching Assistants leaving the school at the end of term because they want to train to be teachers. They are: Nicole Snell and Jess Hemsley who will be going to Brighton University to undertake a PGCE which will qualify them to teach; and Henry Lewis, who is going to join Steve's company as a PE coach (Steve is our PE teacher). These three have been with us for a year and it has always been their intention to undertake teacher training. We are very grateful to all three of them for being very good TAs this year and...we are glad that we did not put them off pursuing their chosen career!

Another TA, Mrs. Fewster, who has been with us for a much longer period, has secured a very interesting Learning Mentor position at Steyning Grammar School in their Art and Design department from September. This represents a considerable promotion for her and will at last draw upon the expertise she gained when she undertook her Art and Design degree. We wish her many congratulations. Not only has Mrs. Fewster supported numerous individuals and groups of children with her brilliant teaching, she has been a wonderful presence in the school and a good friend to us all. We will miss her!

With many thanks for your continued support.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gill Pedersen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Gill Pedersen