



Handcross Primary School

Newsletter - January 2019

Wednesday 23rd January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Spring term. Thank you for all the kind words, cards and presents at the end of last term. I was touched by your generosity, as were the rest of the staff team. The children have returned to school well rested and focussed on learning, which is a pleasure to see. We have many exciting events planned to support the children's learning in school this term. Please see curriculum letters for more details. The weather is getting colder. Please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for the conditions. Hats, scarves and gloves are needed to ensure the children keep warm on the journey to school and on the playground.

Emergency Closures

When the weather is particularly cold it is a good time to remind you of the communication procedures for school closures due to an emergency. Emergencies could include closures as a result of adverse weather conditions, flooding, problems associated with the school building and in extreme cases such as insufficient staffing due to illness. Once a decision has been taken to close, the school will update the school website, twitter feed and text parents with information regarding any closures and re-opening times when possible. If the decision to close is made out of hours the local radio will also be informed as well as West Sussex County Council, who will use this information to operate their own school closure list on their website. Please ensure all your contact details are up to date.

Holiday Homework

Thank you to those children who completed their holiday homework. We are extremely impressed with the amount and quality of the work that many children have completed over the busy Christmas period and we know this would not happen without your encouragement, so thank you for your support; regular sustained basic skills practice makes a real difference to the overall progress of the children. Children who have made this special effort have had a certificate and a treat in class time.

Parking at Handcross

We sent out a parking survey in the Autumn term which gave us some useful information. 80% of families use a car to come to school, and 63% of these park twice daily at the school. Ideally only 51% of parents would want to use a car, with more walking at 32%. We have been trying to encourage parents to choose this mode of transport at least once a week through our WOW campaign, with incentives to help children achieve this.

The information we have been most concerned about is the safety incidents while parking or walking from car to school. 46% have had a safety incident or accident, which is a high number of families. I have read your comments regarding actual incidents and near misses, which are very worrying, and have raised concerns with West Sussex. Unfortunately, my request for developing the area outside the school to ensure safer drop offs has not been successful as it is not a high enough priority for West Sussex. However, we will keep trying and I will have to ask you once more to be considerate of each other at school pick up and drop offs, to refrain from parking on school lines, or on the yellow lines, to not block the main road as this creates poor visibility for drivers trying to leave the area. If you are



concerned about safety at drop off and pick up times then please contact the council, we will continue to apply pressure to ensure the council listens to our concerns, as will the Governing Body.

Results of Parent Survey 2018/19

Thank you very much to all of you who took part in the Parent Survey last term. The results have now been collated and a response to your special comments is included in the document at the end of this letter. Feedback is really useful, particularly for me as a new Head. I have tried to act upon many of the points you have raised, whilst providing an explanation of why I may not be able to take action on specific issues, which I hope you will understand. While the staff value all feedback because it helps us to improve our practice, we are also very appreciative of the many positive comments you made about the school, which we often don't get to hear! Many thanks –it is lovely for staff to know they are appreciated, as they really do go the extra mile at Handcross to support your children!

School Development 2018 / 19

I attach our School Development Plan for 2018/19. We are always trying to improve our provision for the children and you may be interested to know about the areas of focus this year. Below are the main headlines:

English

One of the biggest focuses for school development is developing a rich reading and writing curriculum. Good readers develop into good writers, due to exposure to language, ideas, new thinking through quality texts. We want children to see themselves as authors, to enable them to express themselves in written form, with an awareness of the audience for which they are writing. Children need to have functional skills in writing, however they need to be able to inform, to entertain, to explain, to persuade and to be creative with language. In order to help the children flourish in this area we have been developing our school library, which will be officially opened next week, investing in new books, launching a new accelerated reader programme to ensure children develop clear understanding of what they are reading. We have had whole school writing days, writing awards, including star writer pencil awards and quality writing displayed in the corridor to inspire others. Our next project is to launch our children's school newsletter/paper, to develop children's understanding of purpose and audience. Authors will be visiting the school this term and we hope to inspire children to believe in themselves as writers. In order to support development of skills, we are also investing in Lexia, an intervention programme to support closing the gaps in English skills.

Maths

Maths continues to be a focus and we have introduced Times Table Rockstars to support children's times table skills. We are developing the Mastery approach within Maths and embedding reasoning skills within Maths lessons.

P.E

We achieved the Goldmark award in PE last year and we hope to achieve Platinum this year. We have signed up to Mid Sussex Active and have extended the range of sports competitions the children can attend. Our children have been successful in many areas with 2 girls and 3 boys reaching the final recently for the Mid Sussex Cross Country competition in January. We were very proud of all of them.

SEND

As SENCO as well as Headteacher, I have been looking at the current SEN register and ensuring that it is up-to-date and in line with the SEND Code of Practice 2014. The teachers are currently reviewing ILPs and writing new ILPs. When this is done, if your child is on the SEN register you will receive a letter informing you, with a copy of his/her new ILP. This will state the prime category of need. Please note that your child may require interventions to meet their needs but may not be on the SEN register. A child is defined as

having SEN “if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

A child of compulsory school age has a learning difficulty or disability if they: have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age”

Areas of Special educational needs and provision can be considered as falling under four broad areas.

1. Communication and interaction
2. Cognition and learning
3. Social, emotional and mental health
4. Sensory and/or physical

If you receive a letter and an ILP and want more information, please make an appointment to speak to your class teacher in the first instance, or with me. Alternatively, you may wish to wait for Parent Consultations in February.

As a new Headteacher I have had lots of opportunities to go into classrooms and see teaching and learning in action: teaching is strong and children are focussed in class. As a school we children to have the best possible opportunities, which is why we are focused on continuous improvement.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bondonno

Diary Dates

Date	Event
28 th January	EYFS Nurse Health Screening
31 st January	Year 2 Storytelling St Augustine’s School pm - Selected children
5 th February	Safer Internet Day
6 th February	Whole school Writing day
7 th February	Nears Enrichment GD Writing Yr 5 at Handcross - Selected children
8 th February	Shackleton Day Kst 1
11 th February	EYFS Parents Consultations 2.30- 5pm
12 th February	Parents Consultations 2.30 – 5pm
13 th February	Am Nears enrichment – Gym Year 4/5/6 Balcombe - Selected children
15 th February	Caterpillars Choral retell assembly
18 th February – 22 nd February	Half term
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 / Kst 1
8 th March	World Book Day Hedgehogs Choral Retell assembly
13 th March	Kst 2 Butser Farm
14 th March	MP Robertson – Author visit Kst 1
15 th March	Vashti Hardy Author visit Kst 2
15 th March	Comic relief – children can wear red nose

	accessory (on sale in school)
15 th March – 20 th March	Scholastics Book Fair
27 th March	Nears Yr 2 Little Sing Up Held at Handcross for locality in hall – All Yr 2 Badgers Celebration of Work 9am Roe Deer Celebration of Work 2.45pm
29 th March	Roedeer Choral Retell assembly Seagulls Celebration of Work 2.45pm
1 st April	Easter egg / bonnet competition run by School Council
1 st April	Foxes Celebration of Work 2.45pm
2 nd April	9am Hedgehogs Celebration of Work 2.45pm Robins Celebration of Work
3 rd April	Kestrels Celebration of Work 2.45
4 th April	Easter shared lunch Easter Egg Hunt Caterpillars Celebration of Work 2.45pm
5 th April	Robins Choral Retell Assembly
5 th April	End of term
23 rd April	Summer Term Begins
27 th May – 31 st May	Half term
4 th July	Sports Day
19 th July	End of term
22 nd / 23 rd July	Inset Days

Mid Sussex Active Sports Competitions TBC –Selected children

Competition and Area	Age Group	Date/Venue	Time
MSA Cross Country Finals	5/6	East Court, East Grinstead Wednesday 16 th January	1:00pm-3:00pm
MSA Inclusion Festival New Age Curling & Boccia Open to All	KS2	The Triangle Leisure Centre Monday 28 th January	10:00am -12.30pm
MSA Key Steps Gym Open to All	5/6	St Pauls Catholic College Friday 1 st February	9:00am-3:00pm
Basketball Festival Mid & South	5/6	Warden Park School Wednesday 6 th February	12.45pm- 2.45pm
Basketball Competition Mid & South	5/6	St Pauls Catholic College Monday 11 th February	1:00pm-3:30pm
Year 3/4 Badminton Festival Open to All	3/4	The Triangle Thursday 14 th Feb	1:00pm-3:00pm
Dance Festival Haywards Heath	4/5/6	Oathall School Spring Term - TBC	TBC
QuickSticks Hockey Mid & South	5/6	Downlands School Wednesday 27 th Feb	2.00pm- 4.15pm
Hi 5 Netball Mid & South	5/6	Downlands School Wednesday 6 th March	2.00pm-4.30pm
Hi 5 Netball (B team comp) Mid & South	5/6	Downlands School Wednesday 13 th March	2.00pm- 4.30pm
Girls Indoor Cricket Festival Open to All	4/5/6	The Triangle Leisure Centre Monday 25 th March	9:00am-12:00pm
Girls Tag Rugby Festival Mid & South	4/5/6	Haywards Heath Rugby Club Tuesday 2 nd April TBC	TBC
Dance Festival Burgess Hill/Hassocks	1-6	Downlands School Wednesday 3 rd April	2.15pm-5:00pm