



HANDCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

London Road, Handcross, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6HB

Telephone: (01444) 400291

Fax: (01444) 401176

Email: office@handcross.w-sussex.sch.uk

Website: www.handcrossprimary.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Gillian Pedersen

Tuesday 5th June

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the final half term of the year during which we have many events for the children and you to enjoy. Here is a reminder of the dates for your diary (**red indicates notices you have not seen before**):

- Mon 11 June - Kestrels/Badgers Cuckmere Haven trip; Y5 Forensic Science Workshop for higher achieving children Christ's Hospital; **Talk/workshop for parents on Solihull Approach to Parenting 1.30 – 3.00pm refreshments and crèche provided (see below for details)**
- **Mon 11 June - Trulawn commence installation of the artificial grass**
- Tue 12 June - 11 children Y5 NEARS Big Sing Ardingly College
- Thur 14 June - 9am Premises Committee – governors
- Thur 14 June - Roe/Foxes/Dragonflies Cuckmere Haven trip
- Fri 15 June - Celebration Assembly Hedgehogs poem
- **Mon 18 June - Amelia Steenkamp talks to children in assembly about charity work she undertakes in Rwanda**
- Mon 18 June - Y5/6 B teams take part in NEARS Inclusion Sports Festival
- Wed 20 June - 10am Children and Learning Committee - governors; Miss Stratton leads Reading Workshop for higher achieving Y4/5/6 children
- **Fri 22 June - fundraising for Rwanda charity: sponsored DANCEATHON; Amelia Steenkamp and Sophie Parker sell their delicious coffee at beginning and end of the day. Please buy!**
- **Mon 25 June - Inset day 4 – closure**
- **Thur 28 June – Infant Trip to Brighton Sealife Centre**
- Fri 29 June - Y6 Warden Park Induction Day; **PGCE students, Miss Lloyd and Mr.Chalk's final day on placement; celebration of the completion of works of the artificial grass installation??!**
- W/c Mon 2 July - Swimming Week 1 for selected Y5/6
- Mon 2 July – 10am–12noon NEARS Sports morning – selected junior children
- **Wed 4 July - 1.30pm some children attend BBC orchestra event at Millais School**
- **Thur 5 July - am Our Sports Morning – 9.15am (or as soon as the classes can get over to Handcross Park in their PE kit!) The event will take approx 1½ hours**
- Fri 6 July - Celebration Assembly Kestrels poem recital
- W/c Mon 9 July - Swimming Week 2 for selected Y5/6
- Mon 9 July - 2.45pm Miss Ralph explains EY reports to parents
- 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: Y5 actors and Roedeer/Badgers
11.00am and 2.30pm: Y6 actors and Roedeer/Dragonflies
Amelia Steenkamp and Sophie Parker will sell coffee at these events
- Wed 18 July - Y6 Leavers' Outing – Brighton
- Thur 19 July - Final Celebration Assembly
- **Thur 19 July - Children Meet the Teacher opportunity**
- Fri 20 July Leavers' and Prizegiving Assembly **2pm**; Y6 parents please notify us if you would like to attend. All parents of prizewinners will be notified shortly before the event.
- **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
 Foxes - Wed 18 July 2.45pm
 Caterpillars - Thur 19 July 2.45pm
 Badgers - Fri 20 July 9.00am
 Dragonflies - Fri 20 July 9.00am

Solihull Parenting Support – an introductory talk in the school on MONDAY

It is probably true to say that we all find parenting the most challenging undertaking of our lives. For this reason, we have subscribed to an online course known as the Solihull approach to parenting this year. This is free for you to use until the end of the academic year. Many of you have already undertaken the online course and have commented on how useful it has been. It is ideal for ALL mums, dads and other carers who want to learn more about sensitive and effective parenting, and being the best they can be. The course covers: responding to how your child is feeling; how your child develops; different styles of parenting; how your child communicates; understanding your child's behaviour; sleep, self-regulation and anger.

Comments that parents have made after the course include the following:

I feel much, much happier and am enjoying parenthood more than I thought possible!

I have found the course very useful. Now, I take time to think more during difficult situations and during arguments with my kids.

I like finding out some of the reasons children behave as they do.

It doesn't work all the time but bit by bit, we are working towards a less confrontational household!

We hope that this course will help you at home, but will also show you how we understand children's emotional needs and behaviour in school. For further information about the course visit www.inourplace.co.uk. Please enquire at the office if you would like to have the log in password. (I wish that there had been something like this when I brought up my own children!)

I am writing to remind you about the course before the subscription expires, but also to tell you about an **introductory talk that we are running next Monday (11th June)**. Mignon Springett, who has undergone the Solihull teacher training and who works at Harlands Academy in Haywards Heath, is going to come to our school and talk about the topics mentioned above. The talk/workshop begins at 1.30pm and ends in time for the pick-up. We will be providing refreshments and a crèche for pre-school children in order to make it easier for you to attend.

Please let the office know if you will be coming and if you need to book a place in the crèche.

Danceathon

On Monday 18th June, Amelia Steenkamp is going to give the children an update on the Rwandan charity which we supported last year. Those of you who were here last year will know that as well as supporting the Rwandan community as a charity, she buys the coffee beans that they grow for her coffee business over here, ensuring that the Rwandans receive a fair price for the very hard work that they do to produce their product.

We wish to raise money for the charity once more by having a sponsored Danceathon on Friday 22nd June. Miss Stratton has arranged for local dance teachers to come in throughout the day to lead and motivate each of the classes in turn with their dancing efforts. The cycle of dancing will not be broken until the end of the day and we ask you to kindly sponsor your child for their efforts in aid of the Rwandan Project.

Amelia Steenkamp and Sophie Parker are arranging to sell the delicious coffee at the beginning and end of the day. Please do come and support and...join in the dancing if you feel so inclined! Last year we had terrific fun as well as (thanks to all of you) raising lots of money!

Artificial Turf Installation

Our application for the installation of the artificial grass on the field has been successful! We hope that *Trulawn* will be able to start on the work on Monday 11th June. It will take two or three weeks to install and then we intend to celebrate the completion with some fun events for the children.

Miss Halliwell is leaving ☹

I need to tell you that our wonderful teacher, Miss Halliwell, is sadly to leave the school on Friday to take up another job. The parents and carers of the Badgers have known this for some time. Miss Halliwell recently applied for a very sought after job with the National Trust at the Edwardian country house, Polesden Lacey and she was successful. She is to be employed as their Education Officer, a job that requires the use of all Miss Halliwell's areas of expertise, including her teaching background and her degree in Marketing. Unfortunately for us, they require her to commence in the position as soon as possible and that is why she cannot complete the full academic year with the Badgers. Miss Halliwell is very sad about leaving the Badgers before the end of the academic year; she tried her best to persuade the National Trust to let her complete the year but, unfortunately, they need her as soon as possible, ready for the summer season.

Luckily, I have been able to secure the perfect replacement: Miss Bloomfield. Some of you may be aware that she has been on long placements this year in the Roedeers. We know Miss Bloomfield well from these placements and were very impressed with her, so I have been very pleased to recruit her as Miss Halliwell's permanent replacement in the Lower Juniors. She has literally just completed her teacher training at Brighton University and is available to take over from Miss Halliwell at just the right point, allowing for a couple of weeks shadowing and handover time when the two teachers will work together. So, given that Miss Halliwell must leave very soon, we have a very good solution.

Miss Halliwell has been here for three years as a teacher and prior to that she was a graduate Teaching Assistant here for a year and also a student on placement here during her teacher training year. We have known her for a long time and we will all miss her very much. She is an excellent practitioner, has a lovely calm and cheerful presence within the school, and is a well-liked and highly valued member of the team. We are going to miss her very much.

New Swimming Arrangements in September

From September, we intend to increase the provision of swimming in the Junior department in order to comply with new requirements in the competency levels of children leaving primary school. Year 6 children will continue to have one or two week long blocks of swimming provision in the autumn and summer terms and this will continue to be at Handcross Park School swimming pool. Year 4 and Year 5 will attend swimming lessons once a week at K2. They will be transported in a coach to and from the lessons. The cost of this provision will be met by the Sports Premium grant which every school is given.

Dogs on the premises

I am very sorry but I must remind some parents that dogs are not permitted on the school premises (except guide dogs) and this includes the area just in front of the main doors by the car park. This rule is regardless of the size of the dog or how cute they are (and some of them are very cute!). If you do bring a dog to school, please wait away from the main gates because some children are frightened of dogs. Many thanks for your cooperation on this. Thank you very much for your cooperation on this.

Thank you for your wonderful support always.

Kind regards,

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

Gill Pedersen