



HANDCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Dear Parents & Carers,

Autumn is truly here and as the weather gets colder, please ensure the children are warmly wrapped up for the journey to and from school and at playtimes.

Thank you to all your generous donations for Harvest Festival; the Easter team appreciated your support. Last year they gave out 1000 food parcels and have told us that there has been a sharp rise recently in families asking for help, so your contributions were gratefully received. We would also like to thank Year 2 for a wonderful rendition of The Little Red Hen and Sam Widdowson for fantastic keyboard playing during the Harvest Festival assembly.

We had our first whole school writing day just before half term. The whole school spent a day planning, writing and editing their own story about a lighthouse for a competition.



The children discussed ideas and had plenty of drama opportunities before ideas went down on paper. The children had a common purpose but were free to extend their own ideas, developing independence and stamina within writing. At the end of the day the most imaginative writers were chosen from each class to receive the very first Superstar Writing certificate, their work was displayed in the school and they were awarded the very first Superstar Writer pencils. We

hope that many more ideas will flow as a result. The children enjoyed the day very much: Sofia in Seagulls said "My favourite day of Year 2 so far was writing day!" In Year 5, AJ said: "Time flies when you're having fun!", "Can we do this more often?" Jaydon was keen: "I love this, can we do this more often?" Tommy was focused the entire day and Max was completely focused and didn't take his eyes off his page the entire time he was writing!

Children across the school loved the experience of immersing themselves in writing for an extended period, it was a great opportunity to develop greater depth within writing and the feedback was that they can't wait to do it again!

We are very lucky to be able to utilise the facilities of Nymans Gardens and last week the whole school enjoyed an Autumn walk around the wonderful grounds.





Mrs Davies said “The Infants had so much fun learning about Autumn during our morning at Nymans last week. We explored the gardens and looked out for signs of the changing seasons. We searched for 'scavenger hunt' items, including berries, acorns, horse chestnuts, pine cones and different coloured leaves. We even spotted a beautiful robin in a tree! We collected these natural items (not the robin!) and used them to create ephemeral art inspired by examples of Andy Goldsworthy's work. Our pieces included

a windmill, flowers, spooky Halloween pumpkins and a peacock! We were very tired and ready for our lunch when we arrived back at school!”

Mrs Stone said “The Juniors had a very productive afternoon at Nymans and were excited to be able to identify a number of plants, trees and seeds which they have read (and written!) poems about in 'The Lost Words' by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris. They also created some fantastic natural sculptures in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. “



All year groups had a memorable outdoor adventure and have been made aware of the opportunities that nature and the changing seasons bring.

We said goodbye to Sarah Goodenough in our school office just before half term and this week we welcome Amanda Correia who will be joining our office team four days a week from Wednesday 7th November. Mrs Correia knows the school very well and is looking forward to getting to know all the children and families. We are certainly keen to utilise Mrs Correia's experience and skills!

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Parent Consultation Meetings in the last few weeks; it is such a valuable opportunity to share your children's progress and targets and for staff to meet parents. Thank you for your on-going support for your children's education. We do have an open-door policy, so do not hesitate to make an appointment with staff should you need to speak with us at any other time. Please discuss any issues initially with the class teacher before making an appointment to see one of the Senior Leadership Team if concerns still need to be addressed.

We sent a selection of runners to a cross country event at St Giles School last week. Very well done to all the children involved – they are excellent ambassadors for sport at Handcross Primary School. Special mention needs to be given to Jaimeson and Harriet who were 1st and 2nd girls respectively and Finn who was 1st boy. They will progress to represent the school in the Mid Sussex area finals in the new year. Mrs Cribb and Mrs Aylett, along with the rest of the sports team have some very exciting events planned for the children across the year, so watch this space.

Reminders and date changes:

The School Council have decided to raise money for Children in Need on Friday 16th November. Please see the letter they have written themselves that was sent last month. They would like all children to wear something spotty in exchange for £1 suggested donation and would like contributions for a bake sale. Please bring baked goods to school in the morning and come to the bake sale after school to support this good cause.



We have our first PTA AGM on Monday 12th November at 2.15pm. Please see separate letter for more details.

If you have given your written consent for the school to administer non-prescription medicine such as paracetamol & Piriton, please let the school know if you wish to amend/withdraw your consent at any time.

A travel survey has been sent out for you to complete. We are in the process of developing our travel plan: collating up-to-date knowledge of how families travel to school will give us valuable information to work on.

Dates for the remainder of the term:

Dates change for this term: Celebration of Work for Robins & Seagulls has been re-scheduled to 11th December at 2.45pm.

Fri 9 Nov Caterpillars Poem retell in Celebration Assembly 9am
Mon 12 Nov PTA AGM Meeting 2.15pm
Tue 13 Nov Year 6 health checks (school nurse)
Wed 14 Nov Egyptian day & Rainbow Theatre 1.30pm
Fri 16 Nov Children in Need Day & Bake Sale
Mon 26 Nov Flu Vaccination Year R-5
Mon 3 Dec Christmas Decoration day
Thurs 6 Dec Roe Deer Celebration of Work 9am
3rd – 7th Dec Book Fair Week
Mon 10 Dec Kestrels Celebration of Work 2.45pm
Last week of clubs
Tue 11 Dec Robins & Seagulls Celebration of Work 2.45pm
Wed 12 Dec Badgers Celebration of Work 9am
Caterpillars Celebration of Work 2.45pm
Thur 13 Dec 9.45am & 2.00pm EYFS/Key Stage 1 Nativity to parents
Fri 14 Dec Christmas Jumper Day
Chartwells Festive Christmas Lunch (pre-order online before 2 Dec)
Mon 17 Dec Candle Light service in school am: Yr R, 1 & 2 – pm Yr 3-6
Hedgehogs Celebration of Work 2.45pm
Tue 18 Dec Christmas Party Day & shared lunch
Xmas Disco: **Yr R, 1 & 2:** 2.30–3.15 **Yr 3-5:** 3.15-4.30pm
Foxes Celebration of Work 9am
Robins Celebration of Work 2.45pm
Wed 19 Dec Last day of term/ Toy day (no wrap-around care on this day)
3rd – 4th Jan 2019 Inset Days
Mon 7 Jan 2019 Spring term starts

As you can see, the Autumn term is very busy. Thank you in advance for your support and co-operation as we move into the festive season.

Kind regards,



Mrs Bondonno