



## HANDCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Bondonno

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Welcome

The staff and I would like to give a warm welcome to everyone at the start of the school year and especially to the new children in the school and their parents, who will be starting fulltime this week. There are some new staff at the school who are looking forward to getting to know the school community:

Miss Bloomfield is the teacher in Roe Deer and Miss McDonnell is the teacher in Badgers, though many of you will know Miss Bloomfield as she worked for part of the previous academic year in Handcross. The new TAs to the school are:

Miss O'Brien (TA Roe Deer – 1 to 1 support)

Mrs Singh (TA Caterpillars)

Miss Caiger (TA Badgers)

Mrs Taylor (TA Robins/Seagulls)

I am sure you will all make them feel as welcome as you have made me!

The staff are all looking forward to the new term and year ahead. You should have received the Curriculum plans and letters from the teachers on Friday, there are some exciting activities planned for the children. We also have some important dates for the diary below. We generally like to email letters to you and will also add letters sent out to our school website. Please make sure your current details are up to date.

### Pupil Premium

The school receives additional money for children in receipt of free school meals to fund extra provision for them; this means that it is very important to claim free school meals if you are entitled to do so. The additional money enables us to provide many benefits for your child to improve their learning and life chances. Information about who is entitled to the Pupil Premium is confined strictly to those who need to know and nobody else.

All Infants receive a free hot lunch every day regardless of Pupil Premium, though it is still very important to apply. However, if you are on benefits of any kind or on a low income, your Junior child may also be entitled to a free lunch every day. Please see me if you think that this may be the case and we can support you in filling out the Pupil Premium forms. The information is treated in the strictest confidence.

### Osmington Bay Residential Trip

The children have had an amazing experience at the annual Year 6, 4-day residential trip to the Dorset coast at Osmington Bay. The trip was very successful and the children had a variety of action - packed experiences, such as fossil hunting, rook- pooling, archery, zip wire and raft building. The Year 6 children will be presenting an assembly on the theme of their trip on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 9am. Y5/6 parents are invited to



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see it and the Year 5 parents and children are further invited to attend a promotional talk about the September 2019 trip immediately afterwards. Any other interested parents are welcome to attend. I have been reliably informed by the children that they can't wait to get to Year 6, primarily because they are keen to go to Osmington Bay! Thank you to all the staff who gave up their weekend to ensure the children had such a special and memorable time.

### **Before and after school care/ Clubs**

For those of you who are new to the school, we provide before and after school care for working parents: Breakfast Club for an hour before school and 'Teddies' for two hours after school. Please ask in the office for further details and information about the fees.

We have also sent out a separate clubs letter for your information. Some are run internally; others are run by outside providers. There is a fantastic variety of clubs on offer to enrich your children's experience at Handcross. They are very popular so please return your requests as soon as possible. Please note that all Year 1 to 6 children are encouraged to attend one of the physical activity clubs on offer. We want to ensure your children are fit, healthy and achieve the recommended level of physical activity each week.

### **Car park**

Please could you refrain from allowing children, including siblings, to go between the cars in the car park to ensure everyone's safety and to ensure cars do not get damaged during the school day. If you see anything that concerns you in the car park area, please let the office know immediately. We had some damage to cars earlier in the week and we would like to avoid any further issues. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Homework Policy**

The children are expected to complete the following homework each week:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>R</b>	Daily	Letter sounds daily and red word sheets		
<b>1</b>	Daily	Spellodrome daily Spelling lists	Specified online games and/or worksheet	
<b>2</b>	Daily	Spellodrome daily Spelling lists	Specified online games and/or worksheet	
<b>3</b>	Daily	Spellodrome daily Spelling lists	Specified online games and/or worksheet xTables	Topic or Literacy 30 mins
<b>4/5</b>	Daily	Spellodrome daily Spelling lists	30 min weekly Specified online games and/or worksheet xTables	Topic or Literacy 30 mins
<b>6</b>	Daily	Spellodrome daily Spelling lists	30 min weekly	Literacy task to be specified

Homework will generally be given out on Thursdays, apart from Year 6. Spelling homework will be set by the person leading RWI or Spelling Group. Infants must give in all homework by the following Monday; Juniors must give in all homework by the following Tuesday. All children will have their spellings tested on Mondays.

Homework is an opportunity to practice key skills and we try to make sure that it is meaningful and beneficial to your child's learning. If you have any concerns, please see your child's class teacher.

### **Celebration Assembly**

This happens most Fridays, from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September. This is an opportunity to reward good work and effort across the school. Parents are invited to join us for Celebration Assemblies which are held on most (but not all) Friday mornings at 9.00am. The office staff **do their best** to notify you if your child is to receive an award by sending an email on Thursday. You are welcome to attend the assembly to watch their special moment. There are points in the year where specific classes will lead on a choral retell or a song. The dates of this for each class are as follows:

### **Class performance in celebration assemblies, Fridays at 9am:**

Caterpillars: 9<sup>th</sup> November / 15<sup>th</sup> February  
Roe Deer: 14<sup>th</sup> December / 29<sup>th</sup> March  
Foxes: 2<sup>nd</sup> November / 1<sup>st</sup> March  
Hedgehogs: 8<sup>th</sup> March / January 18<sup>th</sup>  
Kestrels: 19<sup>th</sup> October / 24<sup>th</sup> May  
Badgers: 11<sup>th</sup> January / 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
Robins: 5<sup>th</sup> April / 21<sup>st</sup> June  
Seagulls: Harvest assembly 12<sup>th</sup> October / July 12<sup>th</sup>

On 21<sup>st</sup> September I will be available after Celebration Assembly to meet with parents; I am keen to ensure there are good links between home and school right from the start. On 28<sup>th</sup> September we will introduce Hedgehogs to celebration assembly. New parents are welcome to come. After this assembly I will be available to get to know new EYFS parents and welcome them to the school community.

### **Autumn Term Celebration of Work**

At the end of term you are invited into class to celebrate the excellent work your child has done over the term and to give you a flavour of their learning. The dates are as follows:

### **Autumn Celebration of work - Am: 9am / Pm: 2.45pm**

Hedgehogs- Mon 17<sup>th</sup> December pm  
Robins: Tues 18<sup>th</sup> December pm  
Seagulls: Fri 14<sup>th</sup> December pm  
Badgers: Wed 12<sup>th</sup> December am  
Caterpillars Wed 12<sup>th</sup> December pm  
Roe Deer Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> December am  
Foxes Tues 18<sup>th</sup> December am  
Kestrels: Mon 10<sup>th</sup> December pm

## Autumn Term Dates for the Diary

We would like to give you as much warning as possible about the events which are to take place this term, but please note that the dates below are subject to change, especially those nearer the end of term. We will keep you informed about any changes. There are some dates to be confirmed still, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Date	Event
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	EYFS Fulltime
11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Badgers swimming starts
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Foxes swimming starts
17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Phonics groups start
17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	9am PGL assembly to Y5 & 6 parents Talk to Y5 parents about PGL afterwards
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Brighton Museum: Foxes, Kestrels, Roe Deer
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Class and Individual Photos
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Brighton Museum Badgers, Caterpillars
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Yr 5 Maths Challenge Christ Church school (specific children)
21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	1 <sup>st</sup> Celebration assembly – Opportunity to meet Mrs Bondonno after the assembly
21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Forest school at Nymans commences
24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	EYFS Phonics talk 2.45pm Miss Ralph/ Mrs Davies
25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	EYFS walk Handcross
28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Celebration assembly – Introduce Hedgehogs, opportunity for new EYFS parents to meet Mrs Bondonno after the assembly
4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Kst 1 walk Handcross
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	9am Harvest Assembly (Seagulls perform)
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Tilgate Park EYFS/ KS1
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parents evening 2.30- 5.00pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct – 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Half Term
Wk. Beginning 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Autumn walk to Nymans Infant am/ Junior pm (date to be confirmed)
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Parents evening 2.30- 5.00pm
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Rainbow Theatre Egyptian day 1.30pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Christmas Decoration day
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Book Fair tbc
13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 9.45am / 2.00pm	EYFS/ Key Stage 1 Nativity to parents
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Candle Light service in school Am Kst 1/ EYFS – Pm Kst 2
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Party Day – Disco: EYFS/ Kst 1 2.30 – 3.15 / Kst 2: 3.15 – 4.30pm
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of term/ Toy day
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2019	Inset Days
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2019	Spring term starts

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

We pride ourselves on high levels of attendance at Handcross School. Holidays should not be taken in term time, can have a detrimental effect on children's learning and will not be authorised. We have a prompt start to the day to ensure that we do not waste valuable learning time. We open the door at 8.45am and the registers are taken at 8.50am promptly. Please ensure your child is in school at this time ready to start their learning. We are grateful to you for supporting us in this.

To help you plan your holidays at the appropriate times, please find listed below school term and holiday dates for the academic year 2018/ 2019:

## **Term Dates and Inset dates for the year**

### **Autumn Term 2018:**

Half term: Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Fri 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018

End of term: Wed 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### **Spring Term 2019:**

**Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Fri 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (Inset days)**

*Children start Mon 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019*

Half term: Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

End of Term: Fri 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### **Summer Term 2019**

*Children start Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019*

Half term Mon 27<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019

End of term: Fri 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**(Inset days Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019)**

## **Finally**

We operate an open door approach at Handcross school. Please come and see us if you have any worries or concerns. We will always listen to them and try to put things right. Staff are available at the end of the day and will make an appointment with you, if your concern needs further discussion. If you would like to speak to me, I am at the school gate most days, or speak to the office to make an appointment.

Many thanks for the welcome I have had from staff, children and parents alike. Handcross is a special school and I am looking forward to getting to know the whole school community in the coming year. I know the staff have worked very hard to plan a great year for your children and I wish your children every success for the year ahead.

Sharon Bondonno



Headteacher