



Hartlip Endowed Church of England Primary (Voluntary Aided)

Monday 19th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope that you have had an enjoyable February break with time to rest and recharge. We certainly ended term 3 with a fabulous evening at the Valentine's disco! The staff had a lot of pleasure planning and organising it and the children seemed to have a great time. We are grateful to our parent helpers who also gave of their time and expertise, face and nail painting, tattoo application, squash station and general stewarding. It is our pleasure and pride to offer such wonderful opportunities for our children in their educational experience. After all, we are Learning to Live! Living to Learn!

I am in no doubt that this term will rush by, just like the last. Please as ever, if you have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Class teachers are your first point of contact and all are available on dojo. Additionally, if your concern is pastoral, Mrs McLeod is contactable on dojo and if your concern is behavioural, Miss Donoghue is available on dojo. Urgent messages should always be sent to Miss Clark in the office. Support staff are not available on dojo as it is important that class teachers are aware of all issues for consistency. They brief their staff team. Staff also know that they are not to liaise with parents on any social messaging system. Please support them by refraining from making the first contact with them. Thank you for your understanding

Parents Evening

This is scheduled for Monday 26th February from 1.30pm. The booking system (after a few technical glitches!) went live TODAY! We will be pleased to meet with you at this time. In the usual way, ten minutes are allocated to this appointment and to be fair to everyone, we do have to be disciplined and stick to this. At this meeting, you will receive details about your child's attainment and progress at mid-year points. The SEN reviews will be scheduled towards the end of term 4, as we complete a seasonal cycle 2. I will be available in the hall at parents evening if there are any arising issues or concerns.



Homework Club

Continues to be popular and teachers are pleased to provide this support to children. Home learning is a valuable opportunity for teachers to assess what children can do independently. Work set reflects what children have been learning during the course of the week. Tempting as it is to help, let children show you what they can do. And, if they are struggling with a particular topic focus, do take advantage of the homework club, where class teachers will be pleased to support and tutor. It is also valuable if you like to keep home as home and school as school, or you are having a busy week/weekend. We regret, that if a class teacher is absent from school, the club will be cancelled and parents notified.



Parent Governor

Would you like to be a parent Governor? We are privileged to have an enthusiastic, committed and passionate body of people who make up our Governing Body.

If you would like to join us and be instrumental in promoting the Christian distinctiveness of our school, then please refer to the attached information and nomination form. If you require any additional information, please do ask



Swimming

It is the turn of year 4 this term. Our swimming lessons take place on a Friday and so this is the Active Day for Peacocks and Eagles. Mrs Rogers is the teacher in charge and Mrs Kent is the teacher in charge of the PE delivered in school.

A reminder that on Active Days, children should come to school in their Active Uniform. This is their House Team coloured T shirt with red/black jogging bottoms. Usual school logo sweatshirt/cardigan and trainers. Hair must be tied back and no jewellery. This is for children's safety

Forest School

Some of you have been asking about Forest School and querying where this provision has gone! Do not fear! We are still going! I am sure that you are all aware of the massive, complex and amazing A249 works. We like to provide transport, free of charge, to and from the forest for all classes. The situation is such that the journey is too long and complex in regard to time. The last thing we want is for children to endure long journeys for very little learning time. We are hoping to go at the end of this term and are fortunate that Mr Weller is in contact with Highways to try and make this happen in the smoothest travelling way possible. We will keep you posted!



Lent

I hope your children have told you that we are now in the season of Lent! As a school, we like to recognise a charity to support in the season of Lent and come up with an initiative to do this.

This Lent, you can help in the following ways:

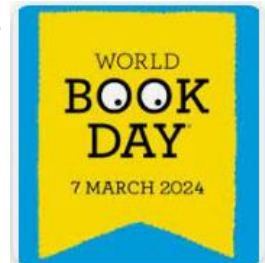
- 1) **Fast for Foodbank:** On a Friday during church worship, we will be pleased to receive gifts for the foodbank. We will ask the children each week what food

item, they would like to fast (give up) and ask either for donations of that food or monetary donation of what may have been spent on that food. We will offer both at our church worship.

2) **Charity Tuck Shop:** This term, we will offer sweets in a pot or a tube for £1. The idea is that these are happily enjoyed and then returned to school full of coins. 20p pieces fit beautifully in to smartie tubes and in other pots you can be creative.

Our Lenten Giving supports our sponsored children: Patience. Treasure and Joshua in Uganda.

Thursday 7th March is World Book Day. Celebration and enjoyment are at the heart of World Book Day. They are key to a child developing their own habit of reading for pleasure. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than family circumstances, parents' educational background or income. World Book Day wants to see more children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them. We want to make this accessible to everyone. So, this year, all teachers have



chosen a book. During the week, core learning will focus on the book and on World Book Day itself, children will have the opportunity to participate in a tea party, around the theme of the book. Children will not need to come dressed up. Props and costumes will be made as part of the activities during the course of the week.

You will have seen our willow arch. This was kindly gifted to us by a parent in memory of Ella. It is well placed on the field, where she spent most of her time in competitive ball games, covered in mud. We will continue to develop this area during Book Week, placing seating in the willow dome and storage in the area. It is a long term aim to place flower boxes to enclose the area and it be a place where children can be quiet, read and reflect.



Are you free on a Friday afternoon? Would you like to be involved in school activities? We welcome any parent/grandparent/ friend to come and share in reading with our children. You may read with individual children/groups of children. We are keen to develop HART at Hartlip: **H**aving **A**ll **R**ead **T**ogether! Friday is HART day! Please contact your child's class teacher or Mrs Jerome if you would like to be involved in this initiative.

A Book Fair has been organised for 4th – 6th March. Come and browse at 3pm!



We will mark **Red Nose Day** on Friday 15th March 2024 We will source red noses for the children to buy and of course have a non-uniform day. Additionally, we will look at celebrating in a special way. Our school council have been mentioning a talent show....watch this space!

On Friday 8th March we will celebrate **Mothering Sunday**, which is **the fourth Sunday of Lent**. We invite you to join us in church on this day, when children will be saying a special thank you to their mums. Anyone BUT mum.... look out for details of our Mothers' Day markets. An opportunity for children to select and purchase a special gift just for you!



On Thursday 21st March we will celebrate **World Down Syndrome Day**. Children will be invited to wear odd socks! This will be Elodie's last year with us at Hartlip School, before she heads off to secondary school! We will make it really special.

Website

If you take a look at our website, you will be aware that a number of our children pictured have either left the school, or are very young! Today, a photographer joined us to take pictures of the children in their learning and in their play. We are then having an overhaul of the website. So, if you have been looking and thought our policies are dated, you would be right! Please be assured that policies in school are up to date. However, we all have to work smartly these days and as the website re launches, we will be up to date! We could have taken the decision to put a 'website under rebuild' notice on, but decided not to. We will keep you posted on our progress and watch this space...maybe this is now also the time to launch a Facebook page!



OPAL

We have exciting playtime developments ahead. We have started work to become an OPAL school. OPAL is the UK's leading, award winning organisation, providing school improvement through play.

"OPAL is one of the most impactful transformations on children's lives that we've seen in the UK in the last 10 years- not just in schools, not just in education but just as a way of

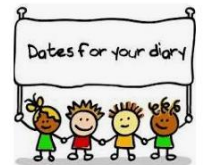
making a positive difference in children's lives...I'm in awe actually."

Tim Gill former Director of Play England

Research shows that children's mental and physical health is getting worse and that great play can make it better. During seven years at primary school, children spend 1.4 years at play.

Our Action Plan will start in earnest in September, but the background work has now started! Watch this space!

The diary is attached for your convenience. We hope you find this useful. As ever, whilst we try not to make any changes, things do change and you will receive the most up to date information on dojo. Please refer to this regularly.



It's a busy term ahead! We look forward to seeing you for **Parent Consultation Meetings**. Do let us know if you would like to join our **HART** group. You may wish to become a **Parent Governor**. Do join us weekly for Church Worship, 9am, on a Friday morning in church

We are here for you! Your child's education is a holistic progress. Do get as involved as you can and are able.

We look forward to working with you.

Best wishes

Mrs Tracey Jerome

Headteacher