



## Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to term 5! I do hope that you have had an enjoyable Spring break and a very Happy Easter.

We anticipate a busy and concentrated term ahead. It is also a challenging one for our children who will be undertaking their Statutory Assessments. You can be assured that as ever, we will support the children through this time and it is our aim to keep matters as informal as possible to ensure children maximum success.

From tomorrow (Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024) We invite: Year 6, Year 4 and identified Year 1 phonics children, to come in to school at 8.30am prompt every morning. This is so we can work with them and prepare them for statutory assessments. Thank you for your support in this.

We look forward to enjoying school life together. On Monday of next week, we will celebrate World Earth Day, when we will share a day of Spring and Easter celebrations.

The diary is attached, but as ever, if anything needs to be changed, messages and update will supersede this.

As ever, if you need anything at all, have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Happy Term 5!



Your children will tell you that whilst the Easter Break has passed, we are back at school, and most of the chocolate eaten (probably!), we are still in the season of Easter. And so, we celebrate!

Come and celebrate with us! Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 2.30pm. We will be celebrating Easter, Spring and Earth Day!



Children can come in to school in Spring dress and Easter costumes. There will be a parade to start the afternoon, when children who wish to engage, can make at home and wear an Easter/Spring/Earth Day hat/bonnet. We look forward to a wonderful day of celebration. We will share with you our activities of the day and you can watch us egg roll and hunt! (not real eggs due to an egg allergy in school)



As you will be aware, Mrs. Rogers has been appointed as a teacher of Special Educational Needs at Meadowfield School. We welcome to our school, Mrs Ros Heudebourck, as teacher of Peacocks Class. Mrs. Heudebourck is an experienced teacher and worked at a number of schools within the Swale area.

Mr Harry Garland joins our teaching team on a Monday and Tuesday. He will be teaching year 5 as a single cohort. This will afford Mr Gunn the time to focus specifically on the year 6 cohort. Mr. Garland is an experienced teacher. He has worked at a school in Swale previously. For the remainder of the week: Wednesday – Friday, he will be working at Tunstall School. Hartlip School has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with Tunstall School, which means that we can work together in this way and share resources, expertise and opportunities.

I have advised Parents of Blackbirds Class this afternoon, that sadly Mrs Dawson will not be returning to school. The children are extremely well settled with Miss Donoghue and Mrs Quinn. Miss Donoghue is keen to pursue a career in teaching and we are keen to support her. Blackbirds Class will be taught by Miss Donoghue on a Monday, Thursday morning and Friday. On a Tuesday and Wednesday, the class will be taught by Miss Victoria Branton, who has worked for a number of years in the Swale Area.

We welcome Mrs. Heudebourck, Mr. Garland and Miss Branton to our school team. We hope that they will be very happy with us and enjoy teaching our children.



During the Easter break, a group of enthusiastic and passionate staff, under the leadership of Miss Rocha, worked tirelessly to create a new learning environment for all children to enjoy.

Classrooms have been equipped to meet the needs of all learners. Classrooms have been decluttered and tidied. They are now minimalist. The boards are backed in neutral hessian and display all the tools the children need at their finger tips to assist in their learning.

Educational Research details, that like adults, children cannot concentrate and focus in busy, hectic, over sensory environments. We have taken this to heart and are delighted with the results. I know that you join me in thanking the happy band of staff who have made this possible. Our children are delighted and proud of the way that their 'new' classroom has been refurbished. They have immediately embraced the hard-working agenda of the day! We have had a talk in worship about living together in the school community peacefully, and the new look classrooms and learning environment reflect this well. We will be respectful of our environment and keep it looking lovely!

Back to Earth Day! On this day, we will turn our attention to the outdoor area. Our Bamboo Arch is taking shape beautifully. We will be able to develop this area further on Earth Day, as well as focus on the beauty of our grounds too. We are so lucky to have such an amazing space and we want to make the most of this and show it off. Watch this space! You will be able to see our ideas come to life on the afternoon of Earth Day!



I have mentioned previously, that our website has been under construction. The new refreshed site is now up and running. You will note that pictures and photographs are current.

As with any task like this, it will take us time to refresh all areas of the site. Please bear with us! We are working through things slowly and arranging

training for new staff, so that collectively, we can keep the site up to date and current.

And finally, in our new look school, and encouraging children to uphold standards and keep us tidy, we ask that if necessary, children ONLY bring to school a small bag that will hold their book and homework. This needs to be small enough to hang on your child's peg, or go in to your child's tray. Your child does not need a pencil case. We provide all stationery required for their day to day work and tasks.



Your child requires the following each day:

- Reading book
- Homework (returned Wednesday)
- Welly boots (stored in welly shed)
- Field shoes (stored in welly shed)
- Coat (hung on peg)
- Packed lunch
- Spare underwear (if a toileting accident is likely at any time) this can stay in a bag in child's tray/on their peg
- Spare school uniform (if your child attracts mud/water/sensory play mediums. This can stay in a bag on peg)

And finally....if your child is a school dinner (even if the meal is free: Universal Free School Meals – Robins and Blackbirds, Free School Meals: all years, please remember to book their lunch daily.

Do take advantage of finding out if your child is eligible for free school meals. Use this which will give you the immediate response: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals> There are additional benefits available if your child qualifies, such as free school visits, fuel and supermarket vouchers etc.

**Just a reminder...**

Breakfast club opens at 7.30am. Children can arrive between 7.30am and 8.15am to be fed!

The gate is opened each morning between 8.35am and 8.45am. Children should arrive between these times. At 8.45am, the site is secured. All gates will be closed and children arriving after this time should report to the school office.

Collection time is 3.15pm. All children should be collected by 3.20pm. Any child not collected by this time, will go in to school club, charged at £6.50 for the session until 4.45pm.

**Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility**



Safeguarding is central to everything we do at Hartlip School.

If you require entry at any time during school hours and particularly when the

gates have been secured, this is through the central office video call system. Even if there is a member of staff on the playground, or entering or exiting site at the time you require entry, they are not permitted, in their safe guarding role to grant you access. Please don't think we are being awkward, we are exercising exemplary safeguarding.

We communicate with you via dojo. Please ensure that your account is active.

We also use Twitter, to celebrate what is going on in the school community. We are looking at creating a Facebook page!

Parents often create their own class WhatsApp groups, which is a good information sharing platform. Please always be courteous and polite on such forums. Write as if the person/system you are writing about is reading your comments!

Our website intends to be informative and a knowledge/information base.



Last term's winners for huff puffs and house points were: Year 6 and Glorious Greens! So, on **FRIDAY**: Year 6 may wear sports kit of their choice and Glorious Greens do not have to wear school uniform. If your child is a Glorious Green in Year 6, they can choose! Very well done to them!

Here's to a happy new term ahead. It will be busy! No doubt there will be challenges, but we will work through them together.

We thank you as ever for all your support.

Very Best Wishes

Tracey Jerome- Headteacher

