

# Hawkinge Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Welcome Back!

Yesterday was a wonderful first day of the school year. The children came in looking very smart and well rested (as did most of the staff) and we had NEARLY 100% attendance!

We welcomed 20 new children to the school coming from schools in the Folkestone area and some as far away as Brunei! So as you can imagine there has been much excitement across the school getting to know new children, and catching up with old friends.

Throughout this week 43 more children will be starting school in the Reception Classes, this week they will be coming in for afternoons, and next week they will try some mornings before coming in all day. I am sure there will be lots of tears on their first day (usually from the mums, and not the children!)

As usual, whilst the children have been on holiday it has been a hive of activity in school. Sean and Shane have been busy cleaning the classrooms, and they look super. Frank has painted at the speed of light, painting 5 more classrooms, and helping Richard Wickham to build a cupboard in the ICT suite (Thank-you Richard)

Our ICT technician Matt and Mr O'Brien have spent much of the holidays installing 30 new lap tops for children to use in their lessons, and many classes will be trying these out this week – ask your son / daughter what they think about them!

As usual with the start of the new school year there are lots of letters to send home to you which is why I have put them all in one envelope. As always at Hawkinge Primary School our priority is to make sure your child is safe, as a result there are several letters that need signing – please do sign these and return to the class teacher. The letters that need your consent are:

- First Aid letter
- Use of photographs in school letter
- Internet use letter

Other letters for your interest are:

- Internet use and internet rules
- Curriculum overview

The Kent SACRE



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County  
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This week is all about team building in school. Children are learning about how to co-operate with their classmates, work well together and understand the importance of listening actively and working as a team. The teachers have all planned good, fun activities to promote that this week.

On Wednesday as a special treat The Happy Puzzle Company are coming to spend the day in school working with all children. Each child will go to a workshop lasting at least 60 minutes and learn even more about the skills of working together. After school the Happy Puzzle Company will be opening a shop from 3 – 3:30pm in the school hall selling problem solving games and games that make you think! Everyone is welcome to come and have a look.

In the summer holidays I was waiting with interest to see the National Curriculum Results for children in KS2 across the country and use these as figures to compare how children at Hawkinge Primary School had achieved. It is excellent news – as you can see in the table below children at Hawkinge Primary School achieved better than children Nationally in all areas – something we are all very proud about. We are all especially pleased with the figures for writing as this was the school focus for improvement last year – we have shown good improvement I think you would agree!

	English	Reading	Writing	Numeracy	Science
Children achieving L4 on average in the rest of the UK	80%	86%	67%	78%	89%
Children achieving L4 on average at Hawkinge Primary School	89%	98%	82%	93%	98%
Children achieving L5 on average in the rest of the UK	29%	47%	19%	35%	43%
Children achieving L5 on average at Hawkinge Primary School	32%	52%	27%	48%	70%

I would like also to welcome 3 new members of staff to the school. Mrs Hall has joined the Foundation Stage as a TA this year, and Mrs Paterson has joined Y3/4 as a TA this year, and will be working in the school office on a Friday. Mrs Walker has also joined the school team as an Every Child a Writer Leader. She will be working with classes throughout the school to help children improve their literacy skills, amongst other things!

I will be writing the usual Friday newsletter this week with diary dates, but in the meantime this week the school photographer will be in to take CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS on Friday.

Please do not forget to sign and return the First Aid letter, Use of photographs in school letter & Internet use letter

Yours sincerely

Aly Ward