

Hawkinge Primary School

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Dear Parents,

This week the new members of our school have started school full time! I have been exceptionally impressed to see all of them coming into school confidently in the morning and many wanting to walk to their classes themselves (leaving their parent at the door!!!) On Tuesday - their first day - the children were keen to come in and as parents left them for their first full day we didn't see too many tears! Mr O'Brien and I have been to visit both classes and have read the children a story - in their words they have now met the 'bosses of the school', a phrase that always makes me smile! Fingers crossed that the weekend doesn't put any of them off and they are as enthusiastic to come back to school after a 2 day break!

Thank you to everyone who has supported Jeans for Genes day today - I will let you know how much money was raised in next week's newsletter. There were so many children wearing jeans today - great to see so much support for such a worthy charity. Thank you to Ms Thompsen for organising the day.

Thank you also for returning the 'free sausage and mash school lunch form' this week. I am certainly looking forward to my lunch next Thursday. If you have not returned the form please do so no later than Monday morning to ensure there are enough sausages for everyone! I can confirm that the kitchen will also be serving a vegetarian option to sausages!

At the PTFA AGM this week Makala Thomas stood down as chairperson for the PTFA Jennie Jones is our new chair. I know she intends to introduce herself to you all shortly. Steve and Sarah Smith remain as the treasurers and Kirsty Ward the secretary. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Makala for all her hard work as chair. She has been great to work with - full of energy and motivation, her drive to raise money for school funds has been outstanding. Her hard work has always been complimented by her sense of fun and desire to provide the best opportunities the PTFA can for the children at school. It has been under her 'chairmanship' that the initiative to give each year group £150 towards a school trip each year has been introduced - which I know has been appreciated by everyone! The work of the PTFA is embedded in team work and a lot of hard work by each member - than you Makala for keeping us on our toes!

Have a lovely weekend

Aly



Diary Dates – Term 1

21 Sept – PTFA AGM 7pm at school
25th Sept – Jeans for Genes day
30th Sept – Class photographs day
14th Oct – Kent Test Results Day
19th Oct – Y1 & 2 landing pad assembly (2:15-2:45pm)
20th Oct – Y5 & 6 landing pad assembly (2:15-2:45pm)
21st Oct - Y 3 & 4 landing pad assembly (2:15-2:45pm)
22nd Oct – Reception landing pad (2:15-4:5pm)
23rd Oct – Last day of term!

Year 6 Secondary applications

Parents of children in Year 6 have until 31st October to register online for their child's Secondary School preference. You can apply for up to 4 schools, putting all 4 preferences on the same form. If you do not have access to the internet or would like some assistance with registration, please call into the school office.

www.kent.gov.uk/ola

Discovering Languages – curriculum update!

For the past few years, children in Key Stage 2 have been learning French. This year, we are trying a new approach called 'Discovering Languages'. This is a multi-lingual approach in which pupils experience the basics of several languages before becoming proficient in one (which will be French) at the end of KS2. This means that the children develop an interest in a wide range of languages as well as a greater cultural awareness and understanding of how language works. It also reinforces an understanding of their own language and contributes to communication skills. This year children in Year 3 and 4 will be learning Spanish and Italian and children in Year 5 and 6 will be learning German and Mandarin. As teachers, we are also hoping to acquire some new language skills as well!!!!

Miss Dawe

Advance dates for your diary!

3rd & 4th Nov – Parents evening
15th December – Nativity
4th Jan –staff training day
24th & 25th Feb - Parents evening
24th March –staff training
1st July –staff training
24th June – Sports Day
6th & 7th July – Parents evening

CHANGES TO PERSISTENT ABSENCE FIGURE

From September 2015 the Department for Education is raising the persistent absence figure from 85% to 90%.

Children who have more than 10% absence a year are identified as a 'concern'. Please work with us to ensure your child's attendance is above 95%.

If your son / daughter is ill please contact the school on 01303-892224 before 8:30am on the morning of their absence and each day they are absent from school. Thank you

Class photographs

On Wednesday the school photographer will be coming into school to take photographs of our new classes. Come to school with an extra big smile on Wednesday!



Attendance

The class with the best attendance last week was Capybaras - 100% (14.09. - 18/09)

Attendance / holidays

Please do remember that we are not in a position to be able to authorise holidays for children during school time. If there is a reason your son / daughter needs time out of school for an **exceptional circumstance** please complete the exceptional circumstance form that can be found in the school office or on the school website – About Us / Policy link / Attendance Policy.