

Hartlebury CE Primary School

September Newsletter- Welcome Back!

Please read to the end (it is long!) as many of our changes for this term are in this Newsletter.

A New Academic Year begins!



Welcome back everyone! You may notice many of the improvements that have occurred during the holidays; we have had our main corridor completely renovated, we have had new lockers for Years 3,4 and 5, the server has been rebuilt and we have replaced much of our older furniture with new tables and chairs. YES we have been busy again!

We also have a new teacher starting this term; Miss Gemma Bagnall in Year 3, although she did join us at the end of last term to get to know everyone, she now joins us officially and we welcome her!

Arriving in a morning- as soon as the children arrive (after 8.40am!) just come in!

We are changing our procedures in the mornings and children will now be able to come directly into their classroom from 8.40am, where morning activities will be set up for them. Children in Year 2 will access their classroom via their familiar route into Year 1; an adult from Year 2 will be available at this door for any messages. The classroom doors will close at 8.55am, just after the starting bell at the normal time of 8.50am. We hope this will mean that dropping off is easier for all and leads to no time 'kicking our heels' on the playground. Children arriving before 8.40am will be the responsibility of their parents as classroom doors will not be open until 8.40am (even in the rain!).



We still expect the children to be developing their independence and to take responsibility for their belongings and simple messages. Parents should continue to say goodbye to their children on the playground in a morning; any messages which can't wait until after school (or be trusted to your child), should be given to the adult on the door or taken to the office. We do start lessons before 9.00am and children hate being late, often missing the lesson opener. Being late sets them up on the wrong foot for the whole school day and can cause a great deal of anxiety! Your help is really invaluable by getting your children here on time.

The playground gates will be locked at 9.00am and access after this time will be via the front drive.

Welcome Dewi Dragon; our new attendance mascot!



Our new attendance mascot is here! Dewi Dragon has arrived and I'm sure will be as popular as all our other mascots. This is the most sought after prize in school and, as you will know, is awarded to the class that has the best weekly attendance, but for the classes to win this everyone needs to be here as much as they can! The class that has the most

weekly prizes at the end of term will receive an individual Dewi for all the children (and adults!).

As you will be aware the Government is 'ramping up' its expectation of attendance for all children and we have to follow suit. I am **unable** to authorize any holidays in term time unless there are significant mitigating circumstances, and we are now taking the same approach as all schools within our pyramid, including the High School.

I will be writing to all parents whose children are in danger of falling below 90% attendance and being classified as '**Persistent Absentees**' and I shall be requesting meetings with parents and the outside agencies that are supporting those families who do fall below 90% attendance. My aim is to reduce the amount of referrals we have to make to the Education Investigation Service and the consequent unpleasantness that follows. We really do believe that in order for children to be successful with early reading, writing and mathematical skills they need to be here all of the time. This is supported by all the national evidence and research and is why attendance is one of the main educational priorities for this government.

Breakfast Club has moved!

Breakfast Club is moving back into the library and school hall. Please access via the kitchen door in the right hand corner of school. This is due to us moving to single year classes and the mobile being the Year 5 class. Breakfast club is available from 7.30am



After School Care

Please remember this facility needs to be booked and paid for **in advance** unless in an emergency. Our food order is placed on Fridays and therefore all bookings should be made by this day. We do have limited places in this facility and cannot guarantee places if not booked in advance. Collection time is no later than 5.55pm Monday-Thursday and 4.55pm on Friday. There is a cost penalty of £5.00 per 15mins (or part of) for collections after these times. Children not collected from school by 3.25pm will automatically be moved to After School Care and parents will be charged accordingly.

Homework



All children will continue to be set homework. In Key Stage 1 this may be reading, spelling, mental mathematics and possibly learning times tables, but by Key Stage 2 we will be setting more formal homework. All homework will be set on a Thursday and must be handed in by the following Wednesday morning. After School Homework Club for Key Stage 2 and Year 2 children will be on a Thursday and should be signed up for on the usual After School Activities form. BUT we are also introducing a 'Catch Up' Club on a Wednesday lunch time for all those children who have not completed their homework!

It is hoped that children will develop the skill of completing their homework at home in readiness for High School. But for those who need a consequence for not completing their homework, the Catch Up Club will be there every Wednesday. We continue to appreciate your support with homework and know that good habits established in primary school make the transition to secondary school so much easier for everyone.

Reminders- PE kits, labeling uniform, reading diaries and water bottles

Some gentle reminders!



- PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE label all clothing! As you will appreciate all the jumpers, cardigans, coats etc are exactly the same and finding yours is very difficult especially when children forget where they left them. Please check regularly if you have written their names on the labels, as these do fade after washing and often are impossible to read.
- Book bags and reading diaries- these need to be in school every day please.
- Water bottles also need to be in school every day and MUST only water in them. Research has shown that water is best for the brain and also for teeth. We do insist that only water is taken during lesson time. Children can have milk, squash or fruit juice at break and lunch times.
- Full PE kits and pumps (and trainers in Key Stage 2) should be in school at all times. We do timetable set PE times but these may vary and additional opportunities do occur, so please leave the PE kits in school during the week.
- **Inhalers should be with the child every day** and will be kept in an easily accessible space for the child. Parents are responsible for ensuring that inhalers are kept up to date and replenished.

GOOD NEWS- We have maintained our GOLD Sports Award!



We are delighted to tell you that at the end of last term we were again awarded the Sainsbury's Schools GOLD Sports Award. Mr Hickman has been steering us towards this achievement for the past 12 months and after rigorous external moderation we were delighted to gain the award for our second year. WELL

DONE EVERYONE, but especially to Mr Hickman!

Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday 25th September

This has particular importance to us this year as one of our parents, Jo Peters, sadly succumbed to her cancer and died during the summer holidays. She was supported by Macmillan nurses during her illness and her boys continue to receive their support. So please join us in remembrance of Jo from 9.00am-10.00am on Friday 25th September, for coffee, cakes and biscuits. Chat with your friends, think of Jo, her boys, her family and friends whilst supporting this great cause.



All we ask is a few minutes of your time on this morning and a £2.50 donation per person to help us raise funds for this important charity. The children will also be offered fruit juice and a small cake during their mid-morning breaks for a £1.00 donation if they wish to take part. Let's really help make a difference in Jo's memory and help support all friends and family who have been affected by cancer and needed the support of Macmillan. We will also hold a raffle on this day; tickets will be available all week.

The PTA will also hold their regular cake sale on this afternoon (Friday 25th September- all donations of small individual cakes greatly received) with the proceeds also going to the Macmillan fund.

Hot School Lunches



As many of you will be aware children in Reception class, and Years 1&2 are continuing to be eligible for Universal Free School Meals - no more packed lunches to make for your youngest children, Hooray! BUT our delicious lunches remain very popular with staff and children! If you want hot lunches in school these have to be taken for a whole week and booked on the previous Friday. The cost of hot meals for a week is held at **£11.00 per week**, which I know provides excellent value for the quality of food supplied. Please send payment in a sealed envelope with your child/children's name and class on the front. Cheques should be made payable to **SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL**.



BUT VERY VERY IMPORTANTLY:

If you are also eligible for free school meals (and in receipt of Universal Free School Meals) you should still apply, as this will offer you support with lots of school expenses as well! Mrs Waterall will be able to help and advise with the application. School receives funding for all children who would qualify for free school meals for their entire time here at Hartlebury and this makes a massive difference to our funding.

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After School Activities

These will begin on **MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER** and run until **FRIDAY 27th NOVEMBER**. Please keep a look out for the information form. We have tried to offer a wide range of activities as usual this term and they are proving to be extremely popular. We will again put names in a hat and draw them in front of the children for any oversubscribed activities. Please ensure your application is returned by note or by email by the morning of Friday 11 September to avoid any disappointment. All those that have secured places in a club will be told on Friday 11th September. If you have not been allocated a place we will send you a note and put you on the top of the list for next term. We are also offering some paid for activities this term. This is clearly indicated on the information form



Class Music Lessons in School

Learning violins and guitars in school is going really well. Our beginner violinists gave a brilliant demonstration at the end of last term to their parents and the whole school; their annual violin recital! They inspired many of our Key Stage 2 children to want to have a go. So as a new venture this year **ALL** of our year 3 and Year 4 children are going to learn violins for a year. Each child will receive their own violin (please take care of them!) and lessons for the year. Year 2 children are going to learn the recorder for the year. We are really excited about this new curriculum venture.



We are also still offering individual and small group violin and guitar lessons. Mrs Waterall will be contacting last year's budding musicians but if anyone else (year 2 upwards) wishes to learn a musical instrument she will gladly sort out the instrument and booking form, giving you all the details you need to get you going!



School Parking- PLEASE CONSIDER OUR NEIGHBOURS WHEN PARKING.

With the exception of Disabled Parking, for which there is a bay directly in front of the school steps (disabled badges should be on show) the school drive and car park is not for parents parking before or after school.

Parents should not park on the track either as this makes access for EMERGENCY VEHICLES to our neighbours' houses impossible.

Parent Mail

This facility has been a great success in school, ensuring that messages get to you more reliably. We will be reducing the amount of paper we send out now and you may be missing out on messages if you haven't signed up! We also use the texting service for urgent messages and this has been extremely valuable. BUT if your mobile numbers or email addresses have changed you do need to update them with Parentmail. We have no control over your account with Parentmail and therefore are unable to advise them if you are not receiving all the information you need. YOU MUST CHANGE YOUR DETAILS directly with them. If you need 2 parents to receive all our communications this can also be arranged on your account. If 1 parent has the account the system does not inform us that the other parent needs a paper copy, you need to ensure that all the adults needing communication are registered. New parents will automatically be given the information from Mrs Waterall but please do contact Parentmail if you are experiencing any difficulties.



New School Website and Prospectus- Hooray!

We are about to launch our new website (by the beginning of October) and our school prospectus. We have had over 300 action shots of your children taken and will be using lots in these. Please ensure that the school office knows if you **DO NOT** want your child's image used; **NO** children will be identified in either.



Pre-School Children in our Early Years Unit

Do you have or know any child turning 3 during this academic year? Children's names need to be put down for our Early Years Unit ASAP, as places are filling up really quickly! We would hate to be turning any children away! If you are interested in a place, or know anyone who may be interested for a place for their toddler and wish to have a look around our fantastic provision please contact Mrs Fudge or Mrs Waterall and they will book you in for a visit. Please bring your youngster along, it's always great fun!



**A long newsletter!! All important. Thank you for persevering!!
Any queries... please ask; we're here to make our school the best it can be for everyone. You, your thoughts and opinions are really valued by us!**