



# TERM 5 NEWSLETTER 2018-19

## HARCOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL

### SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you have had a fantastic Easter holiday, eating chocolate and enjoying time with your friends and family.

Having spent a few days at Harcourt during the Easter break it really made me sit back and think about how fortunate we are to have a school set in such beautiful grounds.

#### **Year Two Classroom**

I am afraid that despite our best efforts we continue to have a problem with the roof and ceiling in the Year Two classroom. Over the past eight weeks, we have a number of visits from KCC contractors to resolve the issue but at the current time, this has not resulted in the desired outcome. KCC have agreed that the school requires a new roof but this is very unlikely to happen until the summer of 2020. In the meantime, I am continuing to work closely with members of the school's Governing Body and the Local Authority to find a short-term solution to the problem.

#### **Staffing Changes**

As I am sure you are aware through the large amount of coverage in local and national press that recruiting and retaining appropriately trained and experienced staff to work in schools is a huge problem. In recent weeks, there have been a number of changes made to our staffing team.

- Mr O'Neon has now left Harcourt school after a period of illness
- Mr Gaffney has been appointed as manager of a nursery school in Ashford
- Mrs Saywell is leaving the school on Wednesday to spend more time with her family

This term we welcome Mrs Black to our school team to teach Year 4. Mrs Black is an experienced teacher that I have previously worked with. She officially joins our school team on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April. We also welcome Samantha Male to our school team who is an experienced teaching assistant. We hope that they will both be very happy at Harcourt.

#### **Concerns or Questions**

From time to time, I am made aware of concerns or questions that are being raised on the parent's Harcourt Facebook page. As a school, we try to have an open door policy where your concerns are listened to and any questions that you have can be raised.

I am aware there are times when I like any other Headteacher cannot be immediately available to meet with you or contact you by phone and I would therefore like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the systems that are in place to deal with this.

1. In the first instance any concerns about your child should be raised with the class teacher
2. If you are not happy with the response you receive please speak to a member of the leadership team – Miss McGlone KS2 Leader or Mrs O'Connor SENCO
3. Finally, after each of these steps have been followed and if you still need to discuss this further please make an appointment to meet with me or of course, you can always come and speak to me on the school gate.

## **School Uniform**

Please can I take this opportunity to remind parents about our school uniform policy. The vast majority of our pupils come into school each day looking very smart but towards the end of last term, we were getting a number of pupils coming into school wearing trainers and jumpers that are not part of our policy.

Our uniform policy states that pupils should wear:

Boys	Girls
Grey/Black Trousers or Shorts A white shirt or collared t-shirt School sweatshirt, fleece or purple jumper Grey, white or black socks Black sensible shoes – not trainers	Pinafore dress/skirt <i>OR</i> Trousers A purple/lilac and white checked gingham for the summer terms A white blouse or collared t-shirt School sweatshirt, fleece or purple jumper Grey, black or white socks or tights Black, flat sensible shoes – not trainers

## **P.E Kits**

As we approach the warmer months, we will be taking the opportunity to teach our P.E lessons outdoors. Please can you ensure that your children have an appropriate P.E kit in school everyday. Our P.E kit is as follows:

- Black shorts
- A plain white t-shirt (no slogans)
- Black plimsolls
- Dark coloured tracksuit style bottoms for cold weather

## **Term Dates**

During the Easter Holidays, I have published on the school website and the official Facebook account term dates for the 2019-20 academic year. Please follow the link below for further information.

<https://www.harcourt.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=365&type=pdf>

If you have any questions related to this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## **Punctuality**

Towards the end of last term, we noticed in school a significant number of children that were arriving to school late each morning. It is so important that the children arrive in school by 8.50 am as this is when the register is taken and lessons begin for the day. Children that miss the start of the day often struggle to settle and miss key parts of their learning.

## **Parent Mail**

You will be aware that the school will soon be using a new payment system called Parent Mail. Once this system is fully set up we will no longer be accepting money in school for trips or dinner money. This will allow us to greatly streamline our systems, freeing up staff to focus more fully on other areas of their role. If you have not yet completed the appropriate paperwork please do so as soon as possible.

## **And finally...**

I would like to thank you all for your on-going support.

Anthony

## Term Five - Important Dates

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	School Begins for Pupils
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 Swimming
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	End of Key Stage One Statutory Assessments – Year Two
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	End of Key Stage Two Statutory Assessments – Year Six
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	No school led clubs due to joint school training
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Kent Test Meeting for Parents 15:15 to 16:00
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Last Day of Term 5