



## END OF YEAR 2019-20 – TERM 2

### HARCOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although the weather has been rather terrible during the past week we have had a lovely first week back in school, so much is going on and before we know it, it will be Christmas. Please take a look at the Key Dates on the final page to make sure you don't miss any of the events coming up.

I am sure many of you have noticed that we have had a number of visitors visiting the school in the first part of the school year. This has provided the children to continue to gain a wider understanding of the world that they live in. We have been pleased to welcome our Local MP, Mayor of Folkestone, Members of Kent Fire Brigade and a range of different sports coaches.

As a school it is always really pleasing to hear feedback from visitors or other members of our community. In recent weeks I have heard many positive comments about your children's behaviour and manners.

#### **Reception Class 2020 Open Day**

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> of November we will be hosting tours of the school for parents of pupils that are hoping to join the school in September 2020. Please can I ask you to share our Facebook post advertising this and encourage families that you might know to visit us? Full details of this event can be found on our website and Facebook.

#### **Parent Consultations**

Thank you to the 86% of parents that attended our recent parent consultations. We hope that you found them informative. As always we welcome parents making appointments with staff at any time throughout the year to discuss any concerns or support that you might have. Mrs Richards will be in touch in the very near future to arrange an alternative meeting time for the appointments that she had to cancel due to illness.

#### **Knowledge Organisers**

We hope that you are finding our newly introduced Knowledge Organisers useful. By now you should have received a copy of these via ParentMail. These can also be accessed through the school website.

#### **PTFA Disco**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November the PTFA will be hosting their first School Disco of the year. The discos will run slightly differently this year. Please keep an eye on ParentMail this week to reserve and pay for your child's ticket.

#### **NSPCC Workshops and Fundraising**

In the next couple of weeks the children will be participating in a range of workshops, assemblies and fund raising activities for the NSPCC. The school council have decided that they would like to support this very worthwhile cause. Due to our commitment to the NSPCC we will not be fundraising for Children in Need this year.

### **School Attendance and Punctuality**

In the last week I have spent quite a lot of time looking at our attendance figures for the start of the academic year. Despite some rather nasty early winter bugs I have been pleased to see that our attendance figures have remained relatively good. However we continue to have some children that struggle to attend school regularly enough. As a dad myself, I fully appreciate that children pick up bugs but please can I ask you to really consider if you need to keep your child off school. In the next few days I will be writing to parents of pupils whose attendance has dropped below 90% to discuss ways that we can support you. Finally please can I remind you that the children need to be at school by 8.50am?

Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 5	Year 6	All Pupils
96.15%	94.40%	97.14%	94.40%	97.10%	97.4%	96.20%

### **Communication – Facebook and ParentMail**

As discussed in previous newsletters, we are trying to keep all parents up to date with the most up to date information about school events through ParentMail and Facebook. As I am sure you can imagine the cost of printing out 200 letters each time we want to communicate is a great deal. I would therefore ask you to try and ensure you follow our Facebook page and look out for the emails we send.

### **Message from the Governor Body**

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of Term 1, I'd like to share with you what the Governors at Harcourt have been up to this term. Firstly, it has been a delight to welcome our new Deputy Headteacher Mrs Richards into our Harcourt family. Having Mrs Richards working with us will strengthen our leadership team as we all work together to fulfil the school's vision and values for all our school community.

In September we had a visit from Kent's new School Improvement Advisor Mary Priestly. We were all impressed with how well the children engaged in their learning, and their behaviour was impeccable. The children were articulate in talking about their learning and were keen to show us their work.

We have also had Governors monitoring the Early Years, Behaviour and attitudes of pupils and further refinement of the curriculum which is still in its development stage and will be launched later this academic year.

At present we have a vacancy for a Partnership Governor. If any parents know of anyone within the community who they would like to recommend, then please contact me at [lbalcombe@harcourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:lbalcombe@harcourt.kent.sch.uk) with your nomination by Monday 4th November. (This person cannot be a parent/carer of a current Harcourt child).

With the changes to the Ofsted Inspection Framework this year they have updated their Parent View questions to reflect this. The Governors would really appreciate if you would take a few moments to register and complete the questionnaire; <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views> as we value your opinion.

Best Wishes

Lorraine Balcombe  
Chair of Governors

## Term Two Key Dates

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	First Day of Term 2
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2019	School Photographs
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2019	Deputy Headteacher Coffee And Cake
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November to Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	Year 5 Assessment Week
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	Reception Fun Day
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	NSPCC Assemblies
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	NSPCC Workshops
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	Reception Market Place Event at Three Hills
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	Cheriton Lights Switch On
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November to Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	Year 4 Assessment Week
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November to Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019	Year 3 Assessment Week
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019	Road Safety Week
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Harcourt Open Day for Reception Class 2020
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	PTFA Disco
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Tiempo Dance and Fitness Workshop
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2019	Flu Vaccinations (All Year Groups)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Christmas Panto
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Christmas Lunch
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Christmas Fair
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 13.30	EYFS Nativity
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Christmas Parties
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 13.30	KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 14.00	Carols Around the Christmas Tree KS2

As always if you have any comments or concerns please do speak to a member of the leadership team on the school gate. Thank you for your continued support,

Anthony