

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back!

Charles Darwin once said that it was not the strongest or the most intelligent of the species that survived, but the one that is most adaptable to change. Here at Hunsdon we've enjoyed 14 fantastic years with Jo McGregor at the helm but last summer through tears and laughter we had to wish her well for her retirement and say goodbye. Jo leaves as her legacy a completely full, well-resourced and thriving school that I feel incredibly honoured and proud to now be the Head teacher of. There will of course be some change, it would be impossible to stay frozen in the moment but the things that are important; the ethos of the school, the certainty that this school serves the people who make up our community and the overriding knowledge that everything that we do is for the good of the children in our care will remain exactly the same. Evolution not revolution!

So I would like to thank you for the warmth of your well wishes, ask your forgiveness for when I make rookie errors and welcome you aboard the good ship Hunsdon as we set sail on yet another exciting adventure together.

STAFF CHANGES - This term we warmly welcome three new members of staff to Hunsdon. Mrs. Haynes and Mr. Gosbee are joining me in teaching Cedar for this term and Mrs. Madsen who is working as a Learning Support Assistant in our Oak class. I am sure they will be very positive additions to our already excellent staff. Also, having shadowed Mrs. McGregor for a year, Miss Park is developing her role and has become our new SENCo.

NEW WEBSITE – Please take a look at our brand new website for dates and information, it's a work in progress and will be updated regularly throughout the term.

WEBSITE PHOTOGRAPHS – On occasions photographs will be taken of children and be placed on our school website or perhaps published in the local paper. We do not name individual children, however, if you do not wish your child to appear on the website or in the local paper please inform the office in writing.

HOMEWORK – Homework for Years 1 - 3 will focus mainly on reading, learning their spellings and tables, Years 4 – 6 will also in addition to the above have work relating to literacy, numeracy or topic subjects. Please support the school in ensuring your child completes their homework and returns it to their class teacher on time. **Reading with your child on a regular, preferably daily basis is essential and makes all the difference in terms of their progress and also hopefully encourages a lifelong enjoyment of reading. We would appreciate your support with this and ask that you fill in their reading record book, which we will be checking.** Updated curriculum plans will be on the school website shortly.

FRIDAY “SHARE & TELL” ASSEMBLIES – All parents are invited to attend these assemblies that begin again next week, **Friday 12th September** at 2.45pm.

JEANS FOR GENES – Bring a pound, pull on a pair of jeans and support the 1 in 25 children who inherit a genetic disorder that makes their life difficult.

‘MEET THE TEACHER’ – **Tuesday 23rd September for Reception, Years 1, 3 & 5 Tuesday 30th September for Years 2, 4 & 6** – This is an opportunity to see how your child has settled in to their class after the Summer break. Appointment times to be sent out nearer the time. These are set dates, and due to high numbers of children, teachers will be unable to make alternative appointments.

MACMILLAN COFFEE EVENT – Friday 26th September – Following the successful launch last year we have decided to support this event again. Cedar Class are organising this for the whole school and all parents and carers are very welcome. Please help us in supporting this worthwhile cause by joining us on the morning and sending in cakes and biscuits for us to sell.

HARVEST ASSEMBLY – Monday 13th October 9:00 am – This year our Harvest Assembly will be to support the charity 'Farm Africa'; who are asking people to help African farming families by walking in wellies! Consequently, I would like to invite you all to arrive at school wearing your wellies (decorated to your personal taste) and take part in the Great Welly Walk around the school grounds before gathering in the school hall for our Harvest Assembly. Sponsorship forms for the children will be strolling towards you next week!

REMEMBRANCE DAY – Tuesday 11th November – Our Topic this term is Remembrance focusing in particular on the First World War. We are going to celebrate and remember the centenary in typical Hunsdon fashion by dressing up and sharing activities, food and experiences. More details to follow!

YEAR 6-MOVING ON- Just a reminder to Year 6 parents that this is the time to be thinking about Secondary Schools. Please do attend the open evenings and ensure your application is in on time. If you would like to discuss this matter, please contact the office and make an appointment to see me. See www.hertsdirect.org for more details.

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS-These were given to your children earlier this week, please amend if necessary and return as soon as possible. Please ensure that there is an emergency number for us to call for your child.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – We are pleased to be offer a good range of lunch and after-school clubs. See attached or look on our Website for details.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Millward
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12/09/14	2.45pm	-	"Share & Tell" assemblies begin
19/09/14		-	Jeans for Genes
23/09/14	3.30pm – 6.30pm	-	'Meet the Teacher' – Reception, Years 1, 3 & 5
26/09/14	9.00am	-	Macmillan Coffee Event
30/09/14	3.30pm – 6.30pm	-	'Meet the Teacher' – Years 2, 4 & 6
01/10/14	12.45 – 4.15	-	Cedar trip to Haileybury 'Trench Trail'
13/10/14	9.00am	-	Harvest Festival
25/10/14		-	Half Term.
03/11/14		-	Inset Day
11/11/14		-	Remembrance Day
08/12/14	2pm	-	Infant Dress Rehearsal
10/12/14	2pm	-	Infant Christmas Play with Junior Choir
11/12/14	7pm	-	Infant Christmas Play with Junior Choir
19/12/14	1.40pm	-	Christmas Service
19/12/14		-	Term ends 2.30pm
05/01/14		-	Inset Day
06/01/14		-	First day of Spring Term starts 9am