

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back! I hope that you've all had lovely summer holidays and are ready for another action packed term here at Hunsdon. There's already a lot to look forward to this half term, with some dates and events still to confirm so please look out for updates to the calendar.

STAFF CHANGES – This term we welcome one new member of staff - Mr. Matt Johnson, and a returning member of staff - Mrs. Julia Walker to our ranks. Mr. Johnson will be working in Cedar teaching the children on a Tuesday afternoon and Mrs. Walker will be joining the Oak class team. I am sure they will be very positive additions to our already excellent staff.

FRIENDS – As I'm sure you know, school budgets and especially *small* school budgets are extremely tight at the moment and a strong FRIENDS is more important than ever! The first FRIENDS meeting of this academic year will take place at **9.05am on Monday 10th September in the school hall**, and it would be lovely to have as many parents attend as possible.

WEBSITE – Please take a look at our website for dates and information, it's a labour of love and will be updated regularly throughout the term. 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 – A brief recap at the start of the year!

- Homework for **Years 1 - 3** will focus mainly on reading, learning their spellings and tables.
 - **Years 4 – 6** will have work relating to English, Maths or Topic subjects in addition to the above.
- Please ensure that 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. It 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.

'MOVING ON' – Year Six Secondary Transfer - Just a reminder to Year 6 parents that the online application system for secondary school places is now open. See www.hertsdirect.org for more details. Look up the dates for Open Evenings you want to attend – they start this week. Applications need to be in before 31st October 2018. **Please 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.

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS – The details we hold on record will be given to you to check over at the Parents' Evenings, please amend if necessary and return as soon as possible. Please ensure that there is an up-to-date emergency number in case we need to contact you urgently.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – We are pleased to be offering a wide range of clubs to reflect the interests of as many of our children as possible. These will be running during lunchtimes and after school some led by staff and some by pupils. Timetables will be on the website shortly.

LIVING STREETS CHALLENGE – This year we are going to be taking part in the nationwide 'WOW' challenge which is aimed at encouraging as many children as possible to walk to school. To launch this exciting challenge Sarah Elliott from 'Living Streets' will be visiting and speaking to the children in a special assembly. More information to follow.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY “SHARE & TELL” ASSEMBLIES – All parents are invited to attend these assemblies that begin again next week, **Friday 14th September** at 2.45pm.

FIRE BRIGADE VISIT – Thursday 27th September – Cedar class, and Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Dunstan will have the opportunity to work with some members of our local Fire Brigade. I'm not sure whether it's the teachers or the children who are the more excited by the prospect!

MACMILLAN COFFEE EVENT – Friday 28th September – Cedar class are again organising a coffee morning to support the national fundraiser. 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.

‘MEET THE TEACHER’ – Tuesday 2nd October for Years Rec, 1, 3, & 5 and Tuesday 9th October for Years Reception, 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.

NASAL FLU VACCINATIONS – Tuesday, 9th October for Years R, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 – You will be receiving more information and permission forms about this vaccination. Please remember to hand your forms back to the office.

HARVEST ASSEMBLY – Monday 22nd October 9:10am – 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 – the more flamboyantly decorated the better! Consequently, I would once again like to invite you all to arrive at school wearing your wellies 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! Also, we are continuing to support our local foodbank so could you send any tinned or dried food that you can spare in with your child on the morning of the Harvest Assembly please. For more details about the types of food they so desperately need please see their website: <http://mrct.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely,



Jon Millward
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September 2018

3 rd September		INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED
4 th September	9.00am	Autumn Term starts
10 th September	9.05am	FRIENDS meeting in the school hall
10 th September		Clubs start (Please note that the Alphabake Club starts the first week back.)
14 th September	2.45pm	Sharing Assemblies begin
19 th September	2.45 – 3.15pm	Sarah Elliott's WOW assembly
27 th September	2.00 – 3.15pm	Fire brigade working with Cedar
28 th September	9 – 10.25am	Macmillan's Coffee Morning

October 2018

2 nd October	3.30 – 6.00pm	Parents' Evening Years: Rec, 1, 3 and 3
9 th October	3.30 – 6.00pm	Parents' Evening Years: Rec, 2, 4 and 6
9 th October	1.30pm	Nasal Flu Vaccinations: Rec, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
22 nd October	9.10am	Welly Walk and Harvest Assembly
23 rd October	3.30pm	Kingswood Meeting for Cedar parents and pupils
25 th October		INSET day – school closed
26 th October		Occasional Day – school closed
29 th October – 2 nd November		<i>Half Term</i>

November 2018

9 th November		WWI themed day - Whole school topic event
<i>tbc</i>	5pm	Fireworks Night at Hunsdon
12 th November		Anti-Bullying and Parliament weeks begin
15 th November		CORAM Lifespace – 'Helping Children Make Healthy Choices' with a particular focus on appropriately pitched drug education.
15 th November	3.15 – 4.00pm	Parent workshop with CORAM (<i>Please note that a crèche will be provided for school age children</i>)
16 th November	1.30 – 3.15pm	Anti-Bullying performance (<i>please note that there will be no Sharing Assembly</i>)
20 th November		School Nurse: Year 6
<i>tbc</i>	2.30 – 5.00pm	Christmas Market

December 2016

7 th December	9.30am	Reception and KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal
11 th December	2pm	Reception and KS1 Nativity Performance
12 th December	7pm	Reception and KS1 Nativity Performance
13 th December	1.30pm	Early finish (<i>although crèche will be available</i>)
14 th December	2pm	Christmas Pantomime (<i>please note that there will be no Sharing Assembly</i>)
18 th December	9.10am	Christingle Assembly
18 th December	pm	Reception and KS1 Christmas party
19 th December	pm	Ash class Christmas party
20 th December	pm	Cedar Class Christmas party
21 st December	1.30pm	Autumn Term Final Assembly
21 st December	2.30pm	<i>End of term</i>