

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back! I hope that you've all had lovely summer holidays and are ready for an 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 - Mrs. Rosalind Davies, and a returning member of staff - Mrs. Jennifer Bone to our ranks. Mrs. Davies will be working in our new Cherry Classroom teaching the Year 2s, and Mrs. Bone will be resuming her role as SENCo as well as teaching Maple class. I am sure they will be very positive additions to our already excellent staff.

**CHERRY CLASSROOM** – We had some very special visitors this morning who joined us to open Cherry Classroom. Chris Martin (Of East Herts Planning fame rather than Coldplay), Eric Buckmaster, Frank O'Shea, Carole Page, Mark Dunstan, Karen Osterley and Mike Newman all attended, and particular thanks must go to Julie Marson MP, who spoke to the children about the importance of education, cut the ribbon and declared the room officially open.

**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](http://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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. **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.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**FRIDAY "SHARE & TELL" ASSEMBLIES** – I'm delighted to say that we are going to be able to invite you all along again for our whole school assembly. All parents are invited to attend these assemblies that begin again next week, **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September** at 2.45pm. I would ask that, if you have been unwell, or show any symptoms associated with Covid, that you give the assembly a miss unless you have a negative test result. I'm not going to be asking to see evidence of any results, but I'm sure that you'll agree that it's in all our interests not to have an influx of cases!

**MACMILLAN COFFEE EVENT – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 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’ – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October for Years Rec, 1, 3, & 5 and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October for Years Reception, 1, 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.

**HARVEST ASSEMBLY – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 9:10am** – This year our Harvest Assembly will be to support the charity ‘Save the Children’; who are asking people to help them to help children all around the world, but particularly in Afghanistan. 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 For Others** around the school grounds following our Harvest Assembly, which will take place in the school hall. 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/>

**NASAL FLU VACCINATIONS – Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> October** – You will be receiving more information and permission forms about this vaccination. Please remember to hand your forms back to the office.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff a massive thank you for the cards and presents you were kind enough to give us at the end of the summer term. We were truly overwhelmed by your generosity and consider ourselves very lucky to work with such amazing families!

Yours sincerely,



Jon Millward  
Headteacher