



## HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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### OUR SCHOOL VALUES: RESPECT - UNDERSTANDING – PEACE – HONESTY – RESPONSIBILITY - TEAMWORK

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Headteacher: Mrs Rosie Phillips

'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 13:34

16<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents

This half term's value is **Honesty**

#### **Spring Term Newsletter No. 1**

Welcome back to a very rainy term so far. Please remember to send your children in with waterproof coats (with a hood) even if the weather is fine first thing in the morning.

#### **Fire Alarm**

You will be aware that the fire alarm went off last Friday at a rather inconvenient time! This was NOT a fire drill and although I quickly ascertained that the school was safe and there was not a fire, there was a problem disarming the alarm which was extremely loud in school. An engineer was called immediately but was not able to visit until later on into Friday evening. Although this was not a drill, it was a helpful exercise as it tested our procedures at an unusual time of the day and I am pleased to say that they were shown to be robust. Please be aware that if the alarm goes off again near the end of the school day, the staff have been told NOT to let children go home until they have been given the all clear by myself or a member of Senior Leadership Team. Thank you for your support with this important health and safety matter.

#### **Film Club**

Our next film night is on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> January. As always this should be paid for online and the permission slip sent to school so that we have an emergency contact number for your child. Look out for the letter which will come out very soon!

#### **Music Lessons**

Just a reminder that we have a number of music lessons in school run by peripatetic teachers from Amersham Music Centre, which is part of Buckinghamshire Music Trust. Their website is:-  
<https://www.bucksmusic.org/music-centres/>

At the moment we have a woodwind teacher (flute, clarinet), a string teacher (violin, viola) and a brass teacher (trumpet, trombone, horn). If you would like any of these lessons, please speak to Amersham Music Centre initially, or if you have further queries the office can speak to the relevant music teacher for you, when they come into school to teach.

#### **Nativity DVD**

We still have a handful of Nativity DVDs left, so if you would like to buy one for £5, please speak to the school office.

#### **School Library**

If any parents would like to help run the school library on a Friday afternoon, please contact the school office. There will be a rota, so you can choose the dates you are able to help. Thank you very much.

**Crisp Packets**

Last term Mrs Hughes ran the empty crisp packet collection for charity. We are now on the hunt for someone to take over, so if any parent would like to collect the empty crisp packets from school on a weekly basis and take them to a shop that recycles them we would be most grateful. A charity shop we know takes part is the Florence Nightingale Hospice Shop in Wendover. However, they may be taken to any charity shop which participates.

**Mud, mud and more mud!**

The persistent rain experienced over the last few months is making our already fairly muddy site even muddier. This has been exacerbated for KS2 by the issues we have with the 'new' pathway which is not currently meeting our needs. The company which fitted the path have been contacted and we are working on a plan to both improve and widen the path. Although this is a priority it will take some time to arrange, so please bear with us.

The children are given access to the school playing field and playground at break times, but are not allowed on the field without wellies or specific outdoor trainers. We have allowed the children use of the full space for over a year now and it has made a big difference to both the children's enjoyment of playtimes and the amount of accidents. Staff do speak to children who they see deliberately 'enjoying' the mud and puddles to the extent that it is making them very wet and muddy and there are consequences for them when that happens. I am sure you are re-enforcing that message with them at home. The good news is that our site does drain quite quickly and better weather is forecast for next week! Let's pray that the fine weather lasts long enough for the ground conditions to improve quickly.

**End of the day**

The foul weather seems to be timing itself particularly for pick up times, which is particularly unpleasant for those of you with children in both KS1 and KS2 in particular. KS2 staff are mindful of this and will endeavour to release the children dead on 3.15pm. They do teach until this point and as you know some classes have quite a long walk to the playground. Some children are quicker at the long walk than others and I am sure you will also be joining us in urging the children to walk smartly but speedily to meet you as soon as they possibly can.

Finally, let's hope for some better weather soon and meanwhile, a spare pair of socks or tights in your child's PE bag might be handy as a backup for those rainy days!

Kind regards  
Mrs R Phillips  
Headteacher