



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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

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

31st January 2020

Dear Parents

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

Spring Term Newsletter No. 2

An exciting few weeks ahead! Honey Pots are having their Paddington Party this afternoon and Folly Fields are visiting Tring Museum. KS2 Cross Country is in a couple of weeks, so good luck to all children who are taking part.

Gold Carers' Award

I am delighted to let you know that Hawridge and Cholesbury CE School have achieved the Gold Young Carers in School award. This is a fantastic achievement and is testament to our commitment to young carers at the school. Our young carers group, who have named themselves 'The Fun Club', attended a prestigious presentation event in Amersham. This was an opportunity to share the great work taking place in schools across the county and to meet with other young carers. They were very proud returning to school with their certificate and trophy.

PSA Meeting

All parents are welcome to attend the next PSA meeting on Monday, 10 February 2020 at 7:30pm. It will be in the school hall and we hope many parents are able to attend.

Quiz Night

The PSA are holding a Quiz Night on Friday, 28th February at 7pm. Information regarding how you can take part will be sent out shortly.

Netball

There are still a couple of places for Netball Club, which runs on Thursdays and is for years 4, 5 and 6. Please speak to the office if you would like a form to complete.

School Library

We are so grateful that Mrs Watson has offered to coordinate the library rota again this year. It's such a help when parents volunteer to help in school, so many thanks. If any parents would like to help run the library on a Friday afternoon, please contact the school office.

Library books will be coming out next Friday. The children will be able to keep them for a week and then exchange them every Friday. If your child forgets to bring in their library book on a Friday, then I'm afraid they will not be able to take out another one.

KS1 Parents

Just a quick reminder to KS1 parents, who have a child in KS2, to please leave promptly if possible so that there are car spaces outside for KS2 parents.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on 5th March this year. Further information will be sent out before half term regarding class themes, so look out for the letter!

Crisp Packets

Many thanks to Mrs Sheehy, who has very kindly offered to take the collected 'empty' crisp packets to a charity shop on a weekly basis. It is much appreciated.

Science Week

Another letter to look for is one regarding Science Week, which will start on Monday, 9th March. Look out for further information from Mrs Gale as we would love parents, who have a science-related job, to come into school and let the children know all about it.

Medical Appointments

Just a reminder to please email the office if you need to take your child to a medical appointment during the day. The email or appointment copy will then be filed in your child's attendance file.

Age Limits / Gaming / Social Media

We are having to cope with a few issues in school that have started at home regarding social media. Sites such as TikTok require that users be at least 13 years old to use the app and that anyone under the age of 18 must have approval of a parent. If a younger child wants to use the app, the account should belong to an adult who can monitor what younger users are browsing and sharing. There's also the section of the app that's meant for children under 13 that restricts access to mature content and comments, but since entering a false birthdate is easy, it's still best for older teens.

Please ensure your child is only playing age-appropriate games on electronic devices and computers. If we are informed of a child who is playing a game that is not age-appropriate then we will consider it a safeguarding issue and it will be reported as such in our Safeguarding file.

Backpacks

Just a reminder - no backpacks (except as a special privilege for Y6). If children do bring them in they will be asked to leave them in the teacher's cupboard. There is just not enough space in the cloakrooms and they cause coats to fall on the floor creating a trip hazard.

Reading

Thank you to all the parents who are reading quality books religiously with their children each night. It makes such a difference as shown by research from the National Literacy Trust, which found that (amongst other things) 'Children and young people who read daily are four times more likely to read above the level expected for their age compared with their peers who don't read daily (22.3% vs 5.7%)' (National Literacy Trust). That is an astonishing difference isn't it? Perhaps it explains why we are so keen to see it happen!

I was delighted to share a Christmas tea party with almost 50 children on the last day of term, who are exceeding our expectation of reading five times a week consistently. Whilst this is fantastic, children's reading records show that there are still 44% of our children who are below this expectation! This is clearly suggesting that many of our children are not reading enough at home and it would be great to see that change. Just a reminder that we only know if children have read if their reading record is signed by an adult, so please make sure you do this daily.

We are really excited about today's launch of this year's **Battle of the Books** competition. A crowd of KS2 children came streaming out of the library at lunchtime with their first book to read. Teams will have ten weeks to read ten books. Ask your children all about it!

Finally, a very warm welcome to our new staff Mrs Williams, Mrs Wright, Mrs Bainbridge and Miss Jeanes, who have already settled in brilliantly.

Kind regards
Mrs R Phillips
Headteacher