

Newsletter 3 - Friday 20th September 2019

Dear Families,

Another week has whizzed by and the children continue to settle in well to the new school year. Phonics teaching is well underway in both classes, with the Reception children enjoying meeting Fred the Frog who helps them learn the sounds! It was so nice to see lots of parents at our Read Write Inc drop in session for Reception parents yesterday to find out how we teach Phonics. This is the scheme of work that we use to teach early reading and it is hugely successful as well as lots of fun for the children. If you were unable to make the sessions, please do speak to Miss Jack about when is a good time and she can go through it with you then. The session is only 10-15 minutes long.

The children continue to make new friends each lunchtime. It's so lovely to see them waving to each other as the Year 1 children come in for their lunch each day. They really are having a great time together which is what school is all about...as well as learning lots of course!

Eco-Schools - Silver Award: This week we were so excited to receive our Silver Award to recognise our work towards a sustainable lifestyle. We really are brilliant at recycling and composting at this school! We're already well on the way to gaining enough evidence for our Green Flag which is the highest award you can receive. Meanwhile, Mr Parker has been busy making some containers to store our Eco books in - see below. He has separated them into the ten different Eco areas. If you have any books that relate to any of these areas or see any when you are out and about, we would love to add them to our growing collection! We were also grateful to receive a donation of fruit trees for our fruit orchard from Argos yesterday; we are so fortunate to have such great links with our local community businesses! Watch our orchard grow!

Childhood Flu Vaccination Programme: Next week an envelope containing information about this will be sent home, please do look out for it and return within the 7 days. Please note that the vaccine contains porcine gelatine which means it will be unsuitable for some children. There are websites detailed in the envelope for you to find out more about it. The date of the immunisations is the 7th November as per the 'Dates for your Diary'.

Macmillan Coffee Morning: Next Friday, we will be hosting our second Macmillan Coffee Morning. It was a huge success last year, so I am sure it will be even more successful with more people to attend and supply delicious cakes! When you have dropped the children off, please make your way round to the front office to sign in and join us in the hall. You will be able to help yourself to cakes and drinks whilst we wait for the children to come and show us some of the things they have been learning in class since we started back. Reception Class have been learning a great 'days of the week' song and Class 1 have been learning the story of Super Worm to share with us! I can't wait! If any parents could help set up the refreshments before school on the Friday and help to serve drinks, we would be very grateful indeed. If you could donate cakes either made or shop bought that would be fantastic. These can be handed into the school office on Thursday or Friday morning. We will also be holding a raffle so any donations for this would be greatly received too. We look forward to seeing you there!

Getting involved in school life: A parent recently asked me how parents can get involved in school so I thought it would be good to share what some of the ways are. Please see below:

- **Community Partnership (sometimes called the Parent Teacher Association or The Friends of ...)** - this is a way of getting our school's family members and local community to get together to put on events that help to provide great activities for the children and hopefully raise some money for the school. These are events like Christmas and Summer Fayres, discos, family bingo evenings, quizzes and cinema nights to name just a few. Usually a committee is formed to help coordinate

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these events but also lots of parents that aren't able to sign up to the committee, help out at the events. The committee meetings are usually once a half term and can be either during school time or an evening. Please could parents return the attached slip indicating when would be the best day or time to hold the meetings. We will then go with the majority and set a date for just after half term.

- **Parent Governor** -We have a vacant parent governor position and are looking to fill this before half term. You do not have to have any previous experience in being a governor or any experience in education, just a passion for investing in our school and ensuring it is the best that it can be! The application form and more information about this will be coming out next week.
- **Volunteering in school or coming on school trips** - More details will follow shortly regarding opportunities for volunteering in school. With school trips, we will ask for volunteers at the time the letter about the trip goes out. There are limited places for this due to coach sizes etc so we will try and share it out so that all parents have an opportunity to come on a trip over the time their child is in school should they want to or are able to.

I hope this give you an idea of how you can get involved in the life of the school. We are keen to have our parents as partners and contributing as much as they are able.

Parking: Just a quick reminder about not reversing onto our neighbour's drives. There are lots of places to turn around further up Henhurst Ridge. Also, please do not park over driveways even if someone is still in the car. Finally, there has been an increase in litter in the local area. In my assembly on Monday, I will be reminding the children of the importance of not littering. It would be great if you could reinforce this at home too. Many thanks for your support with this.

Harrier Award: This week, the teaching staff in Reception Class have chosen Lacey Gilbert for how she has been working together by sharing at lunchtime. She gave up the bike she was on without being asked for one of her classmates who was a bit upset at the time - what a lovely thing to do Lacey! In Class One, Patrick Stefan has been awarded the Harrier Award due to great teamwork at playtimes. He has been taking other people's ideas and working together to turn them into a game. Fantastic Patrick! With children like this on our playground, we are going to have happy times playing together!

With very best wishes for a wonderful weekend,
Mrs Hopkins.



The 10 Eco Topics are:

- Global Citizenship
- Healthy Living
- Energy
- Litter
- Marine Life
- School Grounds
- Transport
- Water
- Waste
- Biodiversity

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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

Please tick which day and time you think is best to hold meetings for the Community Partnership:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
DAY					
	Before school	In the morning during school time	In the afternoon during school time	Straight After school	Evening
TIME					



HENHURST
RIDGE

PRIMARY ACADEMY

PROVIDING THE ROOTS TO GROW AND THE WINGS TO FLY

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