
HARFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Term 1A – September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are excited to welcome you and your child/ren to the 2024-25 school year! A special welcome to our New Nursery Parents.

We are looking forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and discovery through adopting growth mind-sets

As a school, we have been reflecting on our outcomes from last year and begun conversations as to how we will proceed this year to further raise attainment and progress for all of our pupils.

As a result, we want to place a major focus on reading following a recent webinar, which highlighted current trends and provided evidenced based strategies to use for improvement. You will be informed of our proposed enhanced Reading Strategy, during our Back to School evening. On Friday, we recognised International Book Day and every class read a book in their Guided Reading sessions.

Reading Champions

To encourage more reading at home, we will be continuing our Reading Champions initiative, whereby children are encouraged to **read four or more days per week at home and their reading record signed by an adult to say that they have read**. These signatures will be counted and recorded each week. The week for this initiative, runs from Friday to the following Thursday. If the record shows that your child has met this target, it will be acknowledged in their reading record with a small sticker. Your child will also be given a 'point' in school. If your child can maintain being a Reading Champion throughout the whole academic year they will receive an award, entitled the '**Ethel Benjamin Reading Champion**' in memory of an outstanding teacher, with English as a particular strength, who passed away in 2013.

For new parents, please be aware that, our main avenue for rewards is through our **Merit Points system**. Through this system, pupils are awarded for effort and achievement in all aspects of school life throughout the school year. When children acquire 30 points they are awarded with a **Certificate of Merit**, 60 points a **Certificate of Excellence** points and 100 points, a **Distinction Certificate and a small trophy**. Do encourage your children to work hard and demonstrate good behaviour, morals, and attitudes in school, in order to progress through the system.

Roald Dahl Day

In line with our Reading Strategy for the year, we will be celebrating Roald Dahl day on Friday, 13th September. The purpose of the day will be to instil a love of reading through this well-loved and very famous author. To add to the ambience of the day we would like everyone, staff and pupils to come dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character. This is optional, but we would appreciate if everyone could make an effort.

World Poetry Day

Fuelled by the success of the last one, we will once again be celebrating World Poetry Day. This will be held on Thursday, October 3rd. The day was started by UNESCO in 1999 with the aim of promoting the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry around the world. The day is also used as a reminder to encourage people to write and recite poetry. As part of the day we are looking for some volunteers to come and recite some poetry, so if you would like to do this, we would be happy to hear from you.

Staff / Pupil movements

We welcome to the school our new Nursery pupils. They are:

Alexa Henry

Gianna Benjamin
Jadon Plato
Madison Thomas
Marlon – James Stroud
Na'eem Gangat

We are pleased to report that they have all settled in well.

Scott and Oscar Constantine will join the school in a temporary capacity, from Ascension Island on Monday, 15th September 2024.

As you are aware from experience, our staffing situation is always transient and this year is no different. Mrs Adele Plato who is currently our Year 4 teacher, will be leaving the school in Term 1B to teach Art in Prince Andrew School. She will be replaced by Miss Sinead Green. However, Mrs Plato will continue to teach the Year 6 Jean Beadon Art. We wish Mrs Plato all the best in her new venture and thank her for her input into Harford Primary over the years.

Mrs Debbie Augustus will leave this week for a holiday abroad and return to the school on Monday, 7th October. Have a good holiday Debbie!

Back to School evening / AGM

Our Back to School evening this year will be coupled with our PTA AGM and will take place on Tuesday, 23rd September, at 7.00 pm.

The Back to School part of the evening will focus mainly on our Reading strategy for the year. However, there will be some time during the evening to speak to your child's class teacher regarding other elements of your child's education.

Our PTA Annual General Meeting will take place the same evening. At this meeting, a roundup of the year will be given by the Chairperson and the accounts for the year presented. The election of a new committee will follow. I know that some of you shy away from this meeting because you do

not wish to be elected but please be assured, that we would not force anyone to become part of the committee. However, if you have the time and could commit to being a member, then we would be happy to hear from you. I hope if any of you feel that you are able to manage being a committee member, that you will offer yourself for election. We will need a full committee to function.

Transport, Tea, and refreshments will be provided for the meeting.

This meeting is a very important event in the life of the school and I am asking that you all make a special effort to attend.

A big thank you to the outgoing PTA Committee for their commitment, passion and drive over the last year. They are:

Mrs Charmaine Buckley-Thomas (Chairperson)
Mrs Kerry Peters (Vice Chairperson)
Miss Charlotte Williams (Treasurer)
Miss Candice Thomas (Secretary)

Members

Miss Paula Moyce
Miss Sherrilee Phillips
Mr Simon Isaac
Mr Tom Wortley
Mr Mario Coleman
Mrs Justine Green
Miss Charlotte Williams
Miss Kelly Clingham
Mrs Mercy Chiseya
Miss Emma Thomas
Mrs Maureen Plato

Mrs Carlean Crowie (ex officio member)

Thank you all for your tenure, and for being such a proactive Committee.

Harvest Assembly

As is customary, we will be having a Harvest Assembly for parents on the morning of Friday, 18th October at 9.30 am in the school hall. Transport on this occasion will be provided for Levelwood parents only. There will be a 'Harvest Table' and pupils are asked to bring in some produce for this, in the form of fruit or vegetable, bread, cake or candy etc. on the morning of the

assembly. They can then give this to an older or vulnerable person in the community, identified by them, beforehand. It would be useful for distribution purposes, if pupils could label their produce to say who they would like to give it to.

Refreshments will be provided for parents after the assembly.

It has been decided to have a 'Bring and Share' Lunch for staff and pupils at lunchtime. Please could you give your children a small something to share with their class.

School Council

The new Student Council election will take place on Wednesday 2nd October 2024.

For new parents, the Student Council is the pupil voice for the school. It consists of a Head Girl and Boy from Year 6 and a boy and girl class rep from Year 1 – Year 6. Voting is carried out by secret ballot.

Dental Screening

Whole school Dental Screening will take place at the school on Tuesday, 8th October.

Teacher Appreciation Day

Teacher Appreciation Day is on Saturday, October 5th. This year as this is a Saturday, it will be celebrated in schools on Friday, October 4th 2024. It is well documented that a teacher's work is never done and this day is an opportunity for parents and pupils to show their appreciation for the hard work teachers do and the long hours many of them put in. There are many ways appreciation can be shown and this does not have to be expensive if you wish to appreciate your teachers, I am sure a thank you note, card or phone call would be much appreciated.

Updated Parents Handbook

Our Parents Handbook has been updated and you should all receive a copy very shortly. We hope you will find it useful.

Swimming

Swimming lessons is set to resume in Term 1B pending the weather. Further details will be given

when they become available. It is anticipated that the annual Inter Primary Swimming Gala, will take place at the end of Term 1B this year, on Friday December 6th 2024.

Advanced Dates for your Diary

Term 1B

Tuesday, 5th November – Guy Fawkes Theme Day.

Friday, 6th December – Inter Primary School Swimming Gala.

Tuesday, December, 10th – School Christmas Production at St Mathews Church, at 7.00 pm.

Thursday, December 12th - School Christmas Party

Friday, December 13th - Yr 6 Carolling in front of the Canister.

Communication is Key!

In ending, I would like to stress the importance of communication. We believe in building a strong partnership with parents. You can expect regular updates through this newsletter, as well as communication from teachers via curriculum letters and Home to School books, so you should always know, what's happening in your child's class and our school community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to teachers or administration / leadership if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to support your child and ensure they have a successful year.

Finally, thank you for your trust and support as we embark on this exciting new school year. Together, we can make this a fantastic year for your child. We look forward to seeing them thrive and grow!

See you all, at our '**Back to School / Annual General Meeting on Monday, 23rd**

September at 7.00 pm. I hope you all will make an effort to attend.

Yours Sincerely

Carlean Crowie (Mrs)

Headteacher

