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Barns Green Primary School

The Hordens
Barns Green
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Dear Parents & Carers

Newsletter 1 – Autumn Term 2016

What a lovely start to the year – so many smiling faces at the school gate this morning, all eager to come into school!

It is rather a nice change to start the year without any major changes – we are settled in our new build and there are no major initiatives expected. Our goal is to repeat much of what we did last year, but do it better!

Parent Voice

This is important to us. The survey we sent out at the end of last summer was very useful. From it we learned that a number of Parents & Carers wanted to know more about the Governing Body of the school. As a direct result of this, we sent out the first edition of a regular Governor Newsletter. We are also in the process of creating a Governor Board in the school lobby. When complete, this will have photos and profiles of the members of the Governing Body and copies of minutes. We hope this will make it easier for you should you wish to approach a Governor. We are also holding our 2nd Governors meeting for Parents later this term.

We received a few comments that the survey was rather long and that it was difficult to fill in for the whole of the year. To improve on this, we will be sending out a shorter, termly survey form towards the end of each term, focusing on the class. The annual survey will then focus on wider school matters.

We are awaiting delivery of a new white-board which will be fixed to the fence by the school gate. This will allow us to post quick messages & reminders (for example, when clubs are running). We will also post a photo of any of these notices on the school Facebook page.

All of our teachers are available to speak to you at the start of a school day. If they are not by the day they will be supervising pupils once they are in the classroom. If you need a longer discussion, the teachers will have more time for this at the end of a day. You can also request an appointment with a teacher (or myself) via the school office – Mrs Hammond or Mrs Coxon will organise such appointments.

New Curriculum

At the end of last term we reviewed the school's curriculum map, having completed the first run of its 2-year cycle. This will be posted on the school website once we have filled in the last few gaps.

One thing that we have learned over the summer break is that West Sussex schools appeared to be far stricter than the rest of the country when deciding whether a pupil had met the expected level. I will be interested to see if there is a shift in the advice offered by County this year. Personally, I would rather that we set the bar high, but I understand that this does not allow for useful comparisons with schools nationally.

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Merillier Trust

We were fortunate to receive a grant for £3000 this summer. This is to cover part of the cost of astro-turfing Chestnut class' outdoor area. We are still waiting for some quotes on the full cost. As this is a project that is focused on one class only, I feel that it is probably outside the remit of the PTA's fund-raising. If you feel you could contribute time to organise some separate fund-raising activities, please leave your contact details at the school office.

Diary dates

These can be accessed on the school web-site using Google calendar. They are also posted on the noticeboards by the pedestrian gates – handy for checking if you are walking the dog!

We still have to book 1 INSET day. This will depend on the availability of the training providers. As soon as it is confirmed we will update the list and send out email confirmation.

Tuesday 6th September – First day for Y1-Y6 pupils; 3:20 – Welcome to Willows meeting for Parents of children in Willows class

Wednesday 7th September - 3:20 – Welcome to Year 1 Chestnuts meeting for Parents of Year 1 children in Chestnut class (A meeting is being held for parents of Reception children on 21st September)

Thursday 8th September - 3:20 – Welcome to Larch meeting for Parents of children in Larch class

Friday 9th September - 3:20 – Welcome to Lime meeting for Parents of children in Lime class

Wednesday September 21st – 9:30 - Curriculum meeting for EYFS parents.

Tuesday 4th October – Parent Teacher Consultation (late)

Wednesday 5th October – Individual photos

Thursday 6th October – Parent Teacher Consultation (after school)

Wednesday 12th October – Harvest Assembly; Open afternoon for Parents of children due to start school in September 2017

Wednesday 19th October – Open morning for Parents of children due to start school in September 2017

Friday 21st October – INSET Day

Tuesday 13th December – Christmas show (am)

Wednesday 14th December – Christmas show (am)

Friday 16th December – Last day of term – school closes at 1:30

Spring 2017

Tuesday 3rd January – School re-opens

Thursday 16th February – Last day of half-term

Friday 17th February – INSET Day

Monday 27th February – INSET Day

Tuesday 28th February – Children back in school. Parent Teacher Consultations (late); Book Fair opens)

Thursday 2nd March – Parent Teacher Consultations (after school)

Friday 7th April – Last day of term – school closes at 1:30

Summer 2017

Monday 24th April – School re-opens

Monday May 1st – Bank Holiday – school closed

w/c Monday 8th May – Key Stage 2 SATs

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Throughout May Year 2 children will be sitting the Key Stage 1 SATs

Friday 26th May – Last Day of half-term

Monday 5th June – Children back in school

w/c 5th June – Annual Parent & Pupil Surveys sent out

(Wednesday 5th July – Sports Day – provisional – will be confirmed as soon as possible)

Wednesday 12th July – End of Year Performance

Tuesday 25th July – Last day of term – school closes at 1:30

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