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Barns Green Primary School

The Hordens
Barns Green
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Friday, 10 June 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Summer Term – 2nd half

It doesn't seem possible that it's a full year since we moved into our new premises! It's been a very busy year with the new assessments of a new curriculum and everyone working hard to make the best use of the new facilities. This letter provides you with some information about key dates in the second half of the summer term, followed by an overview of our plans for the next academic year.

Friday 17th June – Den Day. A separate letter has been sent home about this. I was asked if we could participate in this fund-raiser for Save the Children. This will be an off-timetable day and an opportunity for year groups to work together in their team colours. We are asking for a £1 contribution to the Save the Children charity.

Monday 20th June – the start of Bikeability week for Year 6. A series of 5 road safety sessions.

Thursday 23rd June – Mrs Fulkes returns from her maternity leave. Ms Thurley will work alongside Mrs Fulkes for a handover period for 2 weeks.

Thursday 30th June – Church visit for Year 1 & 2 (tbc)

Monday 4th July – Meeting for Parents to explain the new reports.

Wednesday 6th July – Sports Day & Celebration of work. As with previous year's, Mr Meaney from the Weald School will be bringing his Sports Leaders to run the events. Parents are welcome to come & watch. We anticipate we will be starting around 9:30. Parents are welcome to stay for a picnic lunch with children & staff on the field. We will then open up the classrooms for our celebration of work. This is an opportunity for you to come & look through your child(ren)'s work. Class teachers will also be available for short 1-1 meetings should there be anything you wish to discuss. Please contact the school office if you wish to arrange such a meeting. Parents who wish to take their children after the Celebration of work may do so. The rest of the children will leave school at the usual time. As always, we have a number of staff & Governors who are able to look at the work of children if for any reason parents are unable to attend.

Friday 8th July – the new shorter Summer Reports will go out. We have spent a lot of time discussing the best way to provide you with detailed information about your child's learning this year. We will be reporting the results of the Year 1 phonics check, the Year 2 Teacher Assessments and the Year 6 test results. We will be providing a summary of how a child is working within the new standards to follow up on the main report in the Spring term. We will also be providing you with copies of your child's tracking records for Reading, Writing, Maths & Science. These indicate where we have evidence that a child has met a particular objective and where they need to focus.

Wednesday 13th July – Annual end of year performance – morning and evening.

Thursday 14th July – Year 5 & 6 trip – 'Connect with the Countryside'

Friday 15th July – Locality cricket tournament – Year 3 & 4 in the morning, Year 5 & 6 in the afternoon.

Friday 22nd July – Last day of term – school closes at 1:30.

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2016-2017

This year has been an opportunity for us to try new things in our new premises. It's been very rewarding but also very exhausting! Absolutely everything has needed to be reviewed and monitored and re-reviewed, from walking down corridors (we didn't use to have to do this in the old buildings!) to playing together on the field, from teaching a new curriculum to assessing children without levels.

Next year we are planning to do what worked well this year, but do it better.

Our 3 key priorities for school improvement next year are:

- i) To focus on developing the learning of all pupils
- ii) To continue to improve Governance of the school
- iii) To identify & work on 1 area within the school so by year end we meet the Ofsted criteria for 'Outstanding' in that area.

This year in response to parent feedback, we have worked hard to provide a range of before & after school clubs. We will be sending out a questionnaire shortly to identify an area that Parents & Carers would like us to focus on in the coming year.

Staffing

We are fortunate to have a stable staffing situation. With 2 exceptions, all staff are staying in post (& in their current role) for the coming year. Ms Harding & Mrs K Cooper are moving on from their posts as Music Specialist & Caretaker respectively. Both have played an important role in our move into the new building & I would like to thank them for their hard work over the last few years. It has been a privilege to work with them.

Classes for next year then, are:

Chestnuts (Reception & Year 1) – Mrs Thorne & Mrs Rogers, EYFS Teaching Assistant – Mrs A Cooper

Larch class – (Year 1 & 2) – Mrs Davies & Mrs Fulkes – Teaching Assistant – Ms Hall

Willows class – (Year 3 & 4) – Mrs Aitken – Teaching Assistant – Mrs Kriel

Lime class – (Year 5 & 6) – Mrs Maurice – Teaching Assistant – Mrs Duncan

Mrs Williams will provide PE for Years 3-4 on a Monday afternoon.

Mrs Sands will continue to provide Learning Mentor support for pupils on a Tuesday.

The Teaching Assistants will continue to provide the various intervention strategies we run in the afternoons.

Our Bursar Mrs Coxon will become a School Business Manager having passed a Level 4 Diploma in School Business Management. She will still be in the office with Mrs Hammond our Admin Assistant, to help with queries.

Branston the dog will continue to provide 1-1 reading for pupils.

If you have any questions about the above please do not hesitate to contact us.

Simon Simmons Headteacher

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