



*Be the Best You Can Be!*

Newsletter: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

I can hardly believe that we are through term 1 already – where did that time go! Everyone has settled in really well to the school year and all are working productively. The half term break will bring welcome refreshment to all.

### **Eco conference at HCC**

Six of our school councillors in years 4/5/6 travelled to Heathfield Community College for an eco-conference along with about 10 other schools from the Heathfield area. They spent most of the day there with Mrs Fordham as the chair of the council. The children had guest speakers, workshops and opportunities to share their views on the damage we are doing to our environment. The conference delegates then discussed and put together a plan of how each school could start on a small scale to take action and put things right. We will be able to share the plan with you soon. At the end of the year the delegates will return to celebrate the difference they have made in their local schools and share the impact of the initiatives with the other schools.

### **Coats at lunch play**

Just a reminder that during terms 2, 3, and 4 we expect pupils to come to school with an outerwear coat to go over their school uniform to keep it clean and neat from Wintery splashes. Ideally this would be a waterproof, thick winter coat or very thick fleecy jacket. These will be done up

by the pupils to keep themselves warm and dry. In unseasonably warmer weather in terms 2, 3 and 4 pupils can take their jumpers off before going outside but the 'coats on' rule still applies to maintain compliance and reduce unnecessary arguments with staff members. Thank you for helping the school to maintain its rules.

### **Healthy Eating**

Our staff sometimes notice that pupils are not eating lunch that has either been ordered for them or they have brought in from home. We would like to pass this information on to parents. Staff will never force a child to eat, only encourage them, and sometimes this means that the child has not had a good start to the afternoon and is still hungry. We would suggest that when booking school dinners online, that your child sits with you and selects with you to avoid disappointment when they come to be served at lunch time. We would also like to remind parents that we follow the government's healthy eating guidelines and ask that no chocolate, sweets or nuts are consumed at school. See our Healthy Eating policy on the website for more detail.

### **Cross country 2<sup>nd</sup> round**

Mack and Jimmy did very well to be selected for the second round of the Cross Country event and ran very well. Well done to both of them.

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Resilience	Enjoyment	Curiosity

### **Year 5/6 football event**

Our pupils did exceptionally well to battle it out in this event with many other HASP schools, and enjoyed representing the school.

### **Our next sporting event is Year 5 and 6 netball**

### **Be the best you can be board**

You may have noticed some beautiful autumn leaves that Mrs Fordham has bought for our 'Be the best you can be' tree. We would like to invite pupils to bring in recent achievement photos for activities they gain awards for outside of school so we can put them up on the tree. If you have such a photo, please bring in a printed copy for us to put up.

### **It's all normal**

We had a great day when John McCorkell visited from the charity 'It's all normal'. John led an assembly to the whole school and took questions from the pupils and staff about all the things that he was able to do. Years 1 to 6 then had a series of workshops where they experimented with losing various senses and gaining others in order to carry out tasks. The richness of discussion between the pupils was wonderful to hear. These activities help to break down pre-conceptions about disabilities and stop barriers forming as pupils gain a deeper understanding of inclusion and accessibility in our society.

### **Free School Meals**

Does your family have income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance, support under part VI of the immigration and asylum act 1999 or the

guaranteed element of state pension credit, child tax credit, working tax credit or universal credit? Then you may be able to register for 'free school meals' and the school will **receive funding towards additional educational opportunities for your child.** This is called the pupil premium grant. Once granted the funding last for six years of your child's school life in primary and/or secondary school even if you are no longer eligible for the allowances. It is available for all pupils from reception to year 6 if your family fits the criteria above.

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 get free school meals regardless of your household income, but the school may also be eligible for the pupil premium funding described above. Please let us know if your family are eligible as it makes a huge difference to our budget and how we can support your child.

### **Parent Teacher Association events**

A huge thank you to Gemma and Lucy for organising a wonderful Halloween disco enjoyed by the children this evening. The room looked amazing, the costumes were sizzling and the pumpkins were glowing! Thank you to the team that supported the event and thank you to parents who were able to raise funds for the school while providing fun for the children. Next events are an Autumn adults-only event and a whole school Christmas fair – more details to follow.

### **Jamie Crawford, our new patron of reading**

We are organising a series of mini federation days, and the year 5 and 6 trip to Broad Oak School to hear story teller Jamie Crawford was one of those events.

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The day was a huge success with pupils becoming entertaining story tellers and learning the skills and tricks to enthral an audience. The pupils will continue to develop their story telling back at their own schools and will begin to record their stories for others to read. Mrs Kinsella, head of school at Broad Oak, wrote:

*It has been a pleasure to welcome Dallington and Punnetts Town to Broad Oak today. Broad Oak has been buzzing! The fullness of the school has been a joy to work in. The staff have slotted in and worked amazingly with Jamie Crawford who has equally been excellent. As always staff have shown flexibility and initiative throughout the day. The children have been charming. I have popped into sessions, greeted on the door, been around at lunch time and all pupils have behaved impeccably. They have been willing to share their learning and answer random questions that I have asked. They have mixed well when they have all come together and have simply adapted to a different venue without fuss. It just shows how well these children are equipped for the future.*

#### **Harvest NSPCC collection**

The NSPCC have written to us about our donation to them: *'We're so grateful you've chosen to help children by making a donation of £51.70. Thank you for standing up for children, your gift will help change children's lives.'* **Craig Pollard**  
NSPCC Supporter Experience Manager

#### **Parent Forum Dates**

We will be continuing with our parent forum so that parents can have their say about issues that are important to them, and help us all to work together to build the school to be the best it can be. The dates of meetings that the parent representatives go to are:  
12<sup>th</sup> November in Maple at 2.45 pm  
5<sup>th</sup> March in Maple at 2.45 pm  
11<sup>th</sup> June in Maple at 2.45 pm  
Agenda items should be in one week before hand (5/11/19, 27/2/20, 4/6/19) to the parent representatives (Ms Conyers – Silverthorn, Mr Piper, Ms Lovett, Ms Crilly) who will then pass them on to me before we meet. Please get in touch any time with your representatives if you would like to raise an issue or pass on an idea for discussion.

#### **Online safety agreement parents and pupils**

Attached to this parent mail are our online safety agreements that we would like to draw your attention to. We take online safety (previously called e-safety) very seriously at school and we teach pupils how to keep safe online. To do this really well we would like every parent/carer and every child to sign the agreement attached to the parentmail. Please return your child's completed agreements to your class teacher and your adult agreement to the office. Thank you for your diligence in keeping your child safe.

Have a wonderful half term, see you all back on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

With best wishes  
*Inez Morse*

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