



Hardwick Community Primary School Newsletter

3rd October 2008

Dear Parents,

An enjoyable start to the year has been had by both children and adults alike, however we have received the news, as many of you have, about Amy Gaze. For those of you who don't know her, she was a pupil here until last year. It does now appear that this news is not as bad as first feared, but it will be a long course of treatment for her and a long recovery period too. The doctors are very confident that she will make a full recovery. Our thoughts are with Amy and her family during this time. Indeed many of you have expressed a desire to do something as a gesture of support for Amy and the Gaze family. A collection is currently being organised by some parents and you can contribute to this by speaking to Jo Lans on 01954 210129.
Andy Matthews & Ruth French (Co-Headteachers)

Reception news

The children have settled in to full-time school life exceptionally well. They have been busy in the classroom and begun PE lessons in the gym and hall. Please can you make sure your child has a PE kit which is left in school. The children have also joined in with whole school playtimes and assemblies. Each day the children have a phonics session where we have been teaching them individual letter sounds, rather than letter names, as well as the correct formation for writing them. Soon the children will be sent home with a phonics book. It will show the letters we have been practising in school. We hope you can find time to share these with your child and practise writing and sounding out the letters (they should be able to help you with the action and sound!). We will give further information on this at the parent consultations which will happen next week. Please sign up for a time on the sheets, which will be on your child's classroom door from Monday 6th October.



Having fun in the water tray!



We have all enjoyed dressing up!

Year 1/2 news

We have now finished our pirates topic, culminating in our eventful pirate day. We discovered treasure buried in Hardwick and followed a treasure maths trail around the school. Many thanks to all of you who provided wonderful costumes and treasure chests for the children (you surpassed yourselves again). We are now moving into our topic of toys and are busy welcoming into class many of the children's favourite toys. I wonder what they will get up to!! We will also shortly send home a toys questionnaire for you to fill in with your children. We also need more junk, this time we are needing small boxes such as toothpaste boxes, yogurt containers and other small containers for building furniture for our class dolls houses.



A motley crew indeed!



Digging up treasure in Hardwick

Year 3/4 news

We all had a brilliant trip to not-so-Sunny Hunny. Children learnt lots about seaside animals and their habitats. They enjoyed learning about rescuing seals and how to avoid a shark attack!

We are starting our new topic on Rainforests next week so if you have anything that you think might be useful please do let us know. We are having an arts week the week before half term and if you would like to come in and help with any of our activities we would be very grateful- please sign up on the rota in Mrs Sanders classroom.

As the weather is changing, please can we remind children to have coats in school and warm outdoor PE kit. We are finding mountains of unnamed jumpers that children are reluctant to claim- please name everything!



Sea life on show



Children learning about life under the waves

Year 5/6 news

Victorian Experience

We are looking forward to our visit to the Victorian Experience at the Colne Valley Railway at Castle Hedingham. The children have been learning some Music Hall songs for the day. Do look at their website for some information: www.colnevalleyrailway.co.uk

A reminder that children can bring their costumes in on Monday for checking. We will leave school promptly on Thursday and be back by 4.30 or thereabouts. Could pupils please try to bring a simple packed lunch in paper bags, with their names on as we will put these into our group hampers. In particular no modern packaging please. Water is available at the site.



Production of What the Dickens to KS2

Victorian Activity week – October 20th

We need old T shirts which we can cut up for making rag rugs. If you have any please send them in next week. Also any lace, ribbon, or wool we could use for other crafts. The children also need to collect some pictures from magazines of things they like (e.g. hobbies / sports / fashion/also flower catalogues and unwanted family photos which you don't need back!) so that they can practise the art of decoupage. Also any old -fashioned Christmas cards would be useful. They will need to bring these in at the beginning of the Activity week.

Get the enhanced E-Newsletter

If you would like the e-newsletter emailed to you please email hardwickprimary@hotmail.co.uk. This will be an enhanced newsletter containing colour pictures of curriculum experiences and events. The paper newsletter will continue, however it will not contain the photographs due to high printing costs.

Walking Bus

The walking bus currently runs every Friday morning with two routes from different ends of Limes Road. We would like to do this more often and encourage more people to join. If you are interested in either helping or in using the service please contact Amanda Purse via the school office.

Diary Dates for the rest of this term

October

9th Year 5/6 Victorian trip to Colne Valley Railway

20th Year 5/6 Victorian Activity week starts

22nd Drug awareness evening for parents

November

3rd-7th Parent consultations

December

8th Victorian Christmas Celebration

(an opportunity to view and share some of our Year 5/6 Victorian topic work)

Half term 27th to 31st October

End of term 19th December

More dates will be added during the term.

Drug awareness evening for parents

During the week of the 20th October we will have the Life Education Bus on the school grounds. All the children in the school will be carrying out activities during that week with a focus on drug awareness, the work being tailored to the ages of the children throughout the school. On the evening of the Wednesday 22nd October the bus will be open to parents as part of a wider drug awareness evening at the school, starting at 7.30pm. More information will follow soon.

PTA news

The school PTA held their AGM on 24th September where the following committee members were elected.
Chair - Amanda Purse
Secretary - Jane Humphries
Treasurer - Alison Davison
Committee Members - Andy Matthews, Alison Berkeley, Jackie Hamilton, Becky Young, Kath Kitson, Rachael Collett, Karen Frost, and we welcomed Anne Campbell and Nathan Smith.

Diary of forthcoming Events:-

17 th October -	Plant delivery
15 th November -	Photographer (Family Portraits), £10 per sitting. Contact Amanda Purse for a time slot.
22 nd November -	Hardwick Christmas Bazaar
3 rd December -	Bingo Night
6 th December -	Comberton Christmas Bazaar

Recycle your old mobile phones - Foneclub is an initiative that allows schools to raise money by recycling mobile phones with the minimum of effort and at no cost to you. For every phone received regardless of age or condition the PTA receives £2.50, so if you have a phone you would like to recycle please place it in the box in the reception area of the school and we will do the rest.

Phoenix Cards - If anybody would like a catalogue, please contact any member of the PTA. Sandra Jordan will kindly donate 10% of any orders received.

Tombola Prizes - The PTA would like to ask for donations for the Christmas tombola prizes. Please take them into the school office and place them in the box provided.

How the money raised by the PTA (including profits from the Uniform shop) is spent

Over the last financial year the PTA have bought digital cameras for each year group, T-shirts for sports day and the choir, dictionaries for Yr 6 leavers, donated money to Book Week and subsidised school trips.

The school's wish list for the next school year includes:- Reading books for KS1, developing the outside area including a school allotment, supporting Maths week which will be held in the Spring Term, and further subsidising of school trips, so please come and support our events.

Next Meeting - 12th November 2008 at 8pm in the Staff Room. All welcome.

Governors news

At our first full governing body meeting in September we volunteered for specific governor posts, such as Special Educational Needs, Gifted and Talented and Health and Safety, and we volunteered for the sub-committees of Finance, Personnel, Curriculum and Premises. We reviewed our governor code of practice, looked at training opportunities for governors, and set dates for meetings throughout the year. We were very pleased to welcome Vanessa Marlow as a new staff governor. We were sorry to say goodbye to Neil Blair, who has made a very valuable contribution as a parent governor over the past 4 years. We would all like to thank him for his hard work.

As Neil's term of office comes to an end in October, we will very shortly be holding elections for a new parent governor, and we do hope that some of you will consider standing for this rewarding role. Any parent who has a child at the school is eligible to stand, and no previous experience or knowledge is required, just an enthusiasm to make Hardwick School the best environment for our children and a willingness to spend time attending meetings and helping with some of our work. Please do contact the school and ask Jane Cadwalladr to call you if you'd like more information, or speak to any of the governors who are regularly in the playground for an informal chat (Michael Chandler, April Considine, Jo Coupar, Matthew Creighton, Judy Cyzlok, Keith Matthews, Frederik Tilman or Emma Yardley).

We're going to put the minutes from each full governing body meeting in the school foyer, and on the website, once they have been approved at the subsequent meeting, so this term's minutes will be on public display in January.

Car parking

Please do not park anywhere in the school car park apart from in a parking space, especially in front of the school entrance or around the gates on the pavements! At the moment we have the coach from Cambridge parking in front of the school every day and other cars being present will create danger for the children coming on and off the bus. Please do not use the car park, unless you do not live in walking distance of the school.

Contact sheets/Consent forms

Could we please remind any of you who have not sent back your contact/consent forms that we do need them back in school as soon as possible. Without them the management of documents containing pictures, trips and medical emergencies becomes much more difficult for us.

Great North Run

Carey Horton, who moves at the speed of light around the school office already, is running in the Great North Run in October, to raise money for Arthur Rank House. Do pop and see her in the office if you'd like to sponsor her!

Dinner Money

The cost of school dinners for the this half term is as follows:

<u>Daily</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Half Term</u>
£1.90	£9.50	£72.20

