

Friday 29th April 2022

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to see so many of you in school earlier in the week. Thank you for taking the time to come and look at books, to wander the school and look at the new timeline. It was good to feel the energy of having parents in school and the excitement and pride that the children had showing their work and taking you on a tour of the school. Thank you also for all the positive comments about the timeline and your thoughts about what else should be up there.

As you know one of the things that we feel is a strength are the trips, events and curriculum enhancements that we put on. At the end of the last term, Y5 visited Greenwich Museum as part of their Exploration learning Journey, Y6 orienteered around Leechpool Woods to put their map reading skills into practice, some of our House Captains visited Arunside school to find out what it's like to be a pupil at Arunside and Arunside House Captains visited us and we had the Welly Walk. Already this term, the choir have sang at the O2 in front of an audience of thousands and Y1 visited Arundel Castle.

Looking forward to events this term, we have our Day of Art for each year group (see over the page for more details); Y5 are visiting the QM music studio to record the lyrics and music they were working on last term; we are visiting the British Wildlife Centre which will be Reception's first Kingslea trip; Y6 are off to Swanage for a week; Y2 are visiting Drusillas; Y5 have 3 days of water sports at Southwater Country Park, Y4 are visiting Maidstone Museum and will also be spending a night camping on the school field.

We will also be taking a group of children to the AMEX to watch England v Norway in the Women's Euro 22 football competition and after the success of last year we will be repeating Mr Conway's 'surprise' event.

Y2 will be working with an artist to help them prepare for taking part in the Horsham Children's Parade on Sunday 3rd July and Y4 will be working with Silvertips Films to write, film and edit their own films.

Parents' Evening will be on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th July. Preference from parents regarding online or in-person meetings has been quite evenly split. Some people prefer online as it's more time efficient and easier to organise, whilst others prefer face-to-face and getting a chance to look at books and coming inside the building. This summer we are going to have one day with online appointments and one day in person, so if you book your appointment in good time you'll be able to choose the type of appointment you prefer.

Sports Day will be on Tuesday 19th July, in the morning, for the whole school, Reception to Y6. Book it in your diaries and start stretching and training for the parent races!

Looking forward to an energised, bust and very positive term, Alexis Conway and the Kingslea Team.



### **Family Link Worker**

During this academic year, along with schools across Horsham and nationally, we have seen an increase in the number of parents asking the school for support for family matters and out of school issues, many of which are Covid/lockdown related. Previously, parents may have been supported by other agencies, for example the NHS, family members or friends, but it seems Covid has impacted on some families more than others and parents are turning to the school for support as they have nowhere else to go. Our class teachers have been asked to be parent relationship mediators, social workers, to give advice on children's poor sleeping habits, medical issues, advice on housing and finances and supporting parent and child home relationships. Many of these issues directly or indirectly impact on the children, but it is often beyond the scope of a class teacher to advise separated parents on how they should communicate with each other or tips on how to ensure their child gets up in the morning.



We are not saying we aren't here to help; we are. We absolutely recognise the pressures many families are facing and the lack of support that there is out there. Rather than the burden fall on class teachers, we have increased our capacity to support those in need. Where issues are home related or ongoing and complex, we have employed a Family Link Worker, Nicola Russell, who is starting with us on Tuesday 3rd May. Nicola has a wealth of experience working with families to support challenges at home, supporting children anxiety, with bedtime issues and a whole host of other issues where you may need some support and advice. If you do want support please do speak to Mrs Barrett who leads the team Mrs Russell is part of.

### **Day Of Art**

Last year we ran a number of Days of Art where family members spent the afternoon taking part in art activities with their child/grandchild outside. It was such a lovely afternoon that we are running them again this term. We aim to run them outside; however, if the weather is poor they will take place inside. Exact times will be sent out nearer the time but most will start between 1.15pm –1.45pm.

| Year group | Date                            |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| Reception  | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> July     |
| Year 1     | Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June   |
| Year 2     | Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June  |
| Year 3     | Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> June    |
| Year 4     | Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June    |
| Year 5     | Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June |
| Year 6     | Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> June   |

### **Cost of Living**

We are aware that financial pressures on families have increased significantly in recent times and pressures will remain for sometime. We do think carefully about events that we put on and the contributions that we ask parents for. We have always run clubs at no cost as we want them to be open to all children. We also think carefully about trips and visitors that we have and price them at the minimum we possibly can. The school doesn't make any profit on trips or visitors, but you can imagine that prices, particularly where a coach is involved, are going up. Whilst payment for trips is voluntary, we appreciate the fact that all parents do pay (unless eligible for free school meals) which means trips can go ahead. However, if you are struggling, please contact Mr Conway or the school office as we are happy for parents to pay in installments or we can be flexible with payments dates to coincide with pay day. Next year, we will look at sending out a trips/visits overview for the year so you can see what contributions we will be asking for across the whole year.

## **Safeguarding**



If you have any concerns about a child, be it in school or out of school, you are able to report your concerns to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads. These are Mrs Barrett, Mrs Howard and Miss Nicholls. You can either approach us directly or ask to speak to us via the office. Whilst something might seem quite minor to you, it could be one piece of information that is part of a bigger picture.

## **Parent Governor Vacancy**

As per my previous newsletter, we currently have a vacancy on our governing body for a Parent Governor and we are particularly looking for someone who has an interest in finance, premises or auditing. We have one parent who is interested in the role. If anyone else is interested please contact Mr Conway by Wednesday 4th May. If we have more than one person who would like to stand we will hold an election.

## **September 2022 Starters**

Places for Reception children starting in September 2022 have been allocated and we look forward to meeting our new families over the next few months. We have transition visits booked in, as well as a parent meeting. As usual, we were oversubscribed; however, as predicted, the number of 3/4 year olds in our catchment has decreased, which has meant that all children in catchment have been offered a place, as well as out-of-catchment siblings and a number of out-of-catchment children. This is good news for families living locally, as we know our catchment area isn't particularly well devised.

## **Holiday Absence**

As you are aware, we do not authorise term-time holidays, and with the amount of time children have missed of school (due to lockdowns and having Covid), we would not be encouraging anyone to go on holiday during term-time. Going on holiday in term time impacts on your child, for the time they are away and when they return—as they are unable to fully participate in the learning as they have missed previous input. It also impacts on other children in the class as the teacher may try to find the time to spend going over missed learning with the child who was on holiday at the expense of the rest of the class, although this often isn't possible.

## **Packed Lunches**

The vast majority of children's pack lunches are balanced and thank you for thinking about what your child has each day and over the week. Some of our pack lunches even have notes in them from parents—telling a joke and a lovely message. Please limit 'snacks' and too many sugary products as we do see the impact of too much of these foods in your children's energy levels and concentration.

## **Experienced Teaching Assistant required**

We are looking for an experienced TA to join us in September 2022. If you are interested in the role please contact Mr Conway.

## ***Notes from the School Office***

### ***Lost Property***

*We do feel rather like a broken record (if anyone remembers them), but we cannot emphasise enough the need for all items that come to school to be clearly named. Following the parents' visits on Tuesday we disposed of a huge black bin bag of unnamed items from last term. Any good quality uniform is passed to KLASS for resale, however there were literally carrier bags with entire uniforms with nothing named and other items which have just been thrown away.*

*In the times of rising prices no one can afford to replace entire sets of uniform simply due to not putting a name in.*

| Summer Term 2022                                   |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Friday 29th April                                  | 1.30pm 5W to Music Studio   | 4.00pm & 5.30pm Circus   |
| <b>Monday 2nd May</b>                              | <b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>   |  |
| Wednesday 4th May                                  | Y3 Stone Age Workshop   |  |
| Thursday 5th May                                   | 3.45pm Y5&6 Basketball Comp @ Kingslea  |  |
| Friday 6th May                                     | 5H to Music Studio  |  |
| Monday 9th May                                     | Start of Y6 SATs Week   |  |
| Tuesday 10th May                                   | YR British Wildlife Centre Trip   |  |
| Thursday 12th May                                  | 1.30pm Governors Resources  |  |
| Monday 16th May                                    | 9.30am/1.00am/1.30pm New Intake Children Visits   |  |
| Tuesday 17th May                                   | am House Captains x 4 to Heron Way  |  |
| Wednesday 18th May                                 | 9.30am/1.00am/1.30pm New Intake Children Visits 1.30pm Governors Curriculum<br>am Alternative Sports Festival @ Millais |  |
| Thursday 19th May                                  | Y6 Individual & Class Photos  |  |
| Friday 20th May                                    | Platinum Jubilee Celebration Day  |  |
| Monday 23rd May                                    | Y6 Swanage Trip (return Friday 27th)  | Y4 Filming Day (Sivertips Films)<br>pm Y5 Music Festival Rehearsal & Performance @ The Hawth |
| Thursday 26th May                                  | Y2 World Bee Day  |  |
| Friday 27th May                                    | Y3 Bronze/Iron Age Workshop   | pm Y6 Return from Swanage  |
| <b>HALF TERM : MONDAY 30th MAY—FRIDAY 3rd JUNE</b> |   |  |
| Tuesday 7th June                                   | 3.45pm & 7.00pm New Intake Parents' Meeting   |  |
| Thursday 9th June                                  | Y2 Drusillas Trip   | pm Y5 Tom's Talking Reptiles Visit Y6 Day of Art   |
| Friday 10th June                                   | Y4 Camping Night  | 4.00pm Y5&6 Hockey @ Tanbridge   |
| Tuesday 14th June                                  | Y1 Day of Art   |  |
| Wednesday 15th June                                | am Y5&6 Rounders @ Millais  |  |
| Friday 17th June                                   | Y4 Day of Art   | 4.00pm Y5&6 Hockey @ Tanbridge   |
| Wednesday 22nd June                                | Y5 Day of Art   |  |
| Thursday 23rd June                                 | Y2 Day of Art   | 6.00pm Full Governing Body   |
| <b>Friday 24th June</b>                            | <b>INSET DAY</b>  | <b>4.00pm Y5&amp;6 Hockey @ Tanbridge</b>  |
| Monday 27th June                                   | Y3 Day of Art   |  |
| Tuesday 28th June                                  | 4.00pm Country Dancing Festival @ Shelley Primary School  |  |
| Wednesday 29th June                                | Y4 Maidstone Museum Visit   |  |
| Thursday 30th June                                 | Y2 Earth Café   | Y3 Butser Ancient Farm Trip  |
| Friday 1st July                                    | am Y3&4 District Sports A @ The Bridge  | pm Y5&6 District Sports A @ The Bridge   |
| Saturday 2nd July                                  | Kingslea Fest   |  |
| Sunday 3rd July                                    | Horsham Children's Parade (Y2)  |  |
| Monday 4th July                                    | YR Day of Art   |  |
| Wednesday 6th July                                 | Transition Day  |  |
| Thursday 7th July                                  | Y4 Mosque Visit   |  |
| Friday 8th July                                    | am Y3&4 District Sports B @ The Bridge  | pm Y5&6 District Sports B @ The Bridge<br>Mr Conway's Surprise Event                         |
| Monday 11th July                                   | Trip to Women's Euro 2022 match @ The Amex  |  |
| Tuesday 12th July                                  | Cricket Festival @ Kingslea   | 3.30pm-7.00pm Parents' Evening   |
| Wednesday 13th July                                | Y5 to Southwater Watersports  | 3.30pm-7.00pm Parents' Evening   |
| Thursday 14th July                                 | Y5 to Southwater Watersports  |  |
| Friday 15th July                                   | Y5 to Southwater Watersports  |  |
| Tuesday 19th July                                  | Whole School Sports Day (9.00am-12noon)   |  |
| Thursday 21st July                                 | Last Day of Term  |  |