



NEWSLETTER

4th September 2009

Number 1

Name

Form

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to the new term and especially to our new parents. Yesterday was definitely the best start ever with all the children settling down quickly and looking very smart in their school uniforms. We welcomed several new members of staff, Mrs K Alderton Mr P Livemore and Mrs H Major. Also joining us, 2 members of staff from Denes and Benjamin Britten High Schools, Mr S Walton as Head of English and Mr J Knight as Head of Music.

We are constantly trying to improve our communication with parents. One of the first tasks will be for subject heads to design our new 'Praise Post Cards'. Look out for these in the post as they will let you know your child has been praised for exceptional work.

This year, Year 8 children have been given the choice to use the year 8 classrooms during the lunch period, we are confident the children will respect this privilege and the responsibility it involves.

Another change which will affect all children is that we are banning sweets from the school premises. This is part of our healthy school drive to encourage children to keep fit and well. We hope you will support us in this by encouraging your children to bring fruit or alternative healthy snacks. We also hope this will improve the amount of litter around the school playground!!

To improve your child's safety we now have in the Year 6 area 2 zebra crossings and a new walkway. The children are enjoying using these and we hope they continue to do so.

Well done to Blue House who achieved the most house points last term and will be rewarded with a non-uniform day (Years 6,7 & 8) next Friday 11th September 2009.

HPV injections will take place for the Year 8 girls next Wednesday 9th September, please return any remaining forms by Monday.

Pupil Information Sheets

Attached with this newsletter you will find a new information sheet. It is vitally important that these are filled in and returned to school next week so we have up-to-date contact numbers in the event that we need to contact you in the case of an emergency.

Club News

Breakfast club takes place every day from 07.45 and will start on Tuesday 15th September.

After School Clubs – details are currently being compiled about the many after-school clubs taking place this term. Clubs will start week beginning 14th September.

Full details for all clubs will be sent out early next week when all details have been finalised.

Making a Difference

It is important that your child attends school each day, making progress, taking part in the many activities on offer and keeping in touch with friends.

We reward 100% attendance

Classes with the highest attendance are rewarded with a non-uniform day. Individuals with 100% attendance over a term are rewarded with pens, pencils and certificates. We also give vouchers for bowling at Potters of Hopton.

How can you help your child attend school regularly?

Make routine appointments during the holidays or after school. If hospital or doctors appointments are necessary, try to bring your child in for morning or afternoon registration and only take them out for the shortest time possible.

We monitor children's attendance closely and if necessary we will contact you. However, if you ever have any concerns about your child's attendance please talk to your form tutor in the first instance, so we can help you and work together to resolve any problems quickly.

We do not encourage family holidays during term time and will have to look closely at each individual request.

Parent-Governors

At present we have 2 vacancies on our School Governing body. If you would like to become more involved with the management of Harris Middle, this is your opportunity. Please contact Mrs Bowmaker at the school if you are interested.

School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on Tuesday 15th September as well as the photographer who is taking the Year 7 photos for their explore cards.

School is not just for kids

Parents can have fun too!

For several years now we have had no PTA (Parent Teacher Association) and I am very keen to restart this. Please would any parents who have any ideas for fun social events and who are prepared to give up a little bit of your time please call in or give us a ring by the end of September. It will be an opportunity to work with others and hopefully have fun too.

J Bowmaker
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 9th September

Friday 11th September

Friday 11th September

Monday 14th September

Tuesday 15th September

Friday 23rd October

Week Beginning 26th October

HPV injections Year 8 Girls

House Non-uniform day for Y 6,7 & 8

1st Nurse Drop in session

Africa Alive trip for Year 6

School photographs

PD day children not in school

Half Term Holiday