



HARTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL
HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
8th September 2023



Dear Parents/Carers and Families,

Welcome back! We've had a wonderful start to this term; it's been lovely hearing all of the stories about Summer and to see the children so excited about returning to their classes. Everyone is settling in well and I am looking forward to the coming weeks; in addition to this, the school building is looking great. We have lots of news for you already – so please read on to see what we've been up to:

Meet the Teacher

Our annual Meet the Teacher dates are now in our calendar! These evening sessions give all parents and carers a chance to come into school, meet the staff who work with the children, and ask questions about the coming year.

You do not need to book to attend – just come into the front office just before 5.30pm, where we will be able to direct you to the correct classroom. If you are unable to attend, all of the relevant presentations will be uploaded to the school website following the evening, so you will still be able to access all of the relevant information. The dates for the evening sessions are as follows (all begin at 5.30pm):

Early Years: 20th September

Year 1: 21st September

Year 2: 18th September

Year 3: 19th September

Year 4: 12th September

Year 5: 13th September

Year 6: 14th September

Early Years 2024 Open Afternoon

Our first Open Afternoon for prospective new starters is being held on Thursday 21st September at 2pm. Please contact the front office if you would like to book a place. A further Open Morning is taking place on Weds 11th October at 10am and there is a final Open Afternoon on Monday 13th November at 2pm; again, places are bookable by contacting the front office.

Healthy Snack Policy

With the start of the new year, we are taking the opportunity to refresh our healthy snack and drink policy across all of our classes and to remind all of our children, parents and carers of our expectations regarding snacks brought into school. First of all, a reminder that we remain a nut- and kiwi-free school. No snacks containing these ingredients should be brought in – this includes any birthday cake and thank-you cakes or biscuits.

I would like to also remind all parents that we are a healthy-eating school. In the last few weeks of last year, I noticed an increasing number of children bringing in cake, crisps, chocolate and biscuits; this is not in-line with our policy and from next week, any snacks of this kind will be taken by the teacher and the child offered fruit or vegetables as a substitute. We have found that the children are often quite happy to eat these!

I've provided some examples of the snacks we are happy for children to bring, alongside any that we would no longer like to see – these are attached to this newsletter.

Water Bottles in School

This week, I met with the teaching staff to discuss the number of children bringing juice into school instead of water. We talked at length about whether it was appropriate to allow children to drink juice as well as water but on reflection, we have made the decision to keep our current rule of water only. This is because of the sugar/sweetener content of juice making spills harder to clean and more likely to create bad smells in addition to being a magnet for wasps and ants in the classroom.

The children have full access to drinking water fountains at all times and we allow them to top up their water bottles throughout the day. If your child is reluctant to drink water, please speak to their teacher – we often find that with a little encouragement, they are very happy to drink it in school; we are very happy to help with this!

PE Update from Mr Cairns

The School Sport Organising Crew are a group of Year 6 children who help in all aspects of PE and sport at Hartford. This year, one of their key aims is to promote healthy eating in school. In the next few weeks, they will be organising our very first Healthy Snack Week! More details are to follow about the week, with lots of notice given to allow parents to supply fruit, vegetables and healthy snacks. I am very proud of the Year 6 team for wanting to take on such a big challenge and I am sure they will have our full support.

If you've been into school for drop-off or pick-up, you might have noticed that the new pens look amazing! This is down to the work of our fantastic PTA and the support of our parents and children in all of the brilliant fundraising activities across the last few months. Now, our main aim is to keep the pens looking beautiful – to ensure this, and so the children get the absolute most out of them, we have asked children not to eat, ride bikes or scooters or play in the pens after school. In addition to this, we ask for no studded soles to be used on the surface as these can cause tears in the astroturf. We would really appreciate it if you could reinforce this message at home – a huge thank you for all your support with this.

Early Years Scooter Collection: A Message from Mrs Rowland

As part of our redesign in Early Years, we have unfortunately had to dispose of 4 scooters and 1 bike, as we were unable to make them safe for the children. We have serviced, fixed and cleaned up the remaining ones but we are now in need of more for the children who do not own a bike or scooter of their own. We currently require:

- 3 more scooters, 2- or 3-wheeled;
- At least 1 balance bike

We will of course welcome more. If you are able to donate any old scooters or bikes in good working condition, please feel free to bring them in to Early Years during drop-off/pick-up or leave at the front office who will get them across to us.

Scooters in the Playground

After our first plea last year, we have now made the decision to ask children not to use their scooters on the playground during the start and end of the day. Unfortunately, there is too much risk of an accident and we cannot guarantee the safety of the children at busy drop-off and pick-up times. We appreciate your support in this as we work to keep our playground safe for all.

Hartford FC Early Years Academy

Please find attached a flyer with information regarding the new Hartford FC Early Years Academy, open to children in Reception and Year 1.

Weaverham High School Open Evening

Year 5 and 6 parents and carers – please see attached details for the first Open Evening of the year at Weaverham High School, taking place on Tuesday 19th September.



A Message From the PTA

Firstly, a huge welcome from us to our new Early Years families – it was so nice to meet some of you during the meet and greet! We hope your little packages didn't make you cry too much.

Our PTA is volunteer-run, and we are always available to talk you through any questions you might have around how we fundraise at the school along with any other queries including uniform. Please feel free to email us on pta@hartfordprimary.cheshire.sch.uk any time – we welcome all ideas and offers of assistance and will always respond to your questions.

We also have lots of pre-loved uniform still available in exchange for a small donation to the PTA. Please email us if you would like to come and have a look and grab a bargain or make a donation of uniform to the collection!

The 2023 Summer Reading Challenge

There is still time to enter our PTA Summer Reading Challenge! We are looking for pictures of the children enjoying their books in the most unusual places. So far, we've seen a really wide and imaginative range of photographs, including treehouses, forest dens, back garden paddling pools and more.

The closing date is Monday 11th September at 3pm. Please email your entries to pta@hartfordprimary.cheshire.sch.uk

Have a great weekend and we will see you on Monday.

Warm regards,

S L Cade

Mrs L Cade

Headteacher