

## *Haversham Village School*

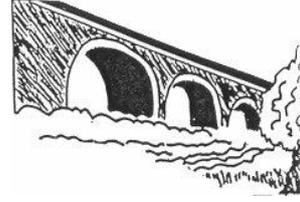
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Headteacher Mrs Alison Mears BA (Hons) NPQH



## *Parents' Newsletter*

September 2017

Dear Parents,

I am very pleased to be able to let you know that the children are settling into the new academic year really well. We have been impressed by each age group, but are amazed particularly at how confidently some of our New Entrants are already coming into school.

### **SCHOOL EXPANSION**

Thank you for being flexible, patient and considerate of each other, as places in the car-park are limited. I do apologise for any inconvenience, but we are pleased that the work is proceeding quickly. Once the extension to the car-park has been completed the welfare unit will be moved and there will be a little more space for parents to park. However, we have a few weeks to wait for this.

Could I please reiterate my recent request for everybody to take great care when parking to bring or collect children from school. Unfortunately whilst most of you are being careful, we had another incident yesterday, when a member of staff had her car scratched and dented. This really is unacceptable and more care needs to be taken by everybody when parking. You wouldn't like it if it happened to you !

### **OPEN AFTERNOON**

**WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1.15 - 4.30 PM**

Please see our separate posters and letter about this. We hope to see many of you then.

### **BREAKFAST AND AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB**

Both Breakfast Club and After-school Club are proving very popular at the moment. This is lovely, but there are now days when we are full. Occasionally, we have actually exceeded our recommended ratio of staff. We have consequently re-checked the regulations. Legally the requirements are only 1:30 per adult. However, the Governors and I believe we should not exceed 20 per

session, as the room is small, with two members of staff. When the Hall is available the staff can use it and weather permitting, they can use any of our outside area - but obviously there are some times when this is difficult, and with the building work, space will be somewhat limited for a while.

Therefore, if you require your child to attend Breakfast Club and / or After-school Club, it is absolutely vital that you send your booking form and payment in **a named envelope** to Reception by **Thursday each week** to guarantee a place. It is always possible to make a booking on a half-termly or monthly basis, but we cannot exceed our limit. We do need payment for anything to be made in a named, sealed envelope in order that money isn't lost.

### DATES FOR THE YEAR

Attached to this newsletter are the key dates for events and activities for this Autumn Term. I am also enclosing provisional dates for the rest of the year. If there are any changes to these we will let you know.

### PARENTAL SURVEY

Thank you to all of you who completed our annual Parent Survey in July. I enclose a summary of the analysis of the results of the Parental Survey for you.

### Parents' Questionnaire Summary - July 2017

Number of questionnaires sent out - 66 (including families with 2 or more children in school)

Number of questionnaires returned - 40 (60.6% response rate) 30% of responses were from people living in Haversham, 70% from those living outside Haversham.

|   | Strongly agree<br>1 | 2   | 3  | Strongly disagree<br>4 | Doesn't apply |
|---|---------------------|-----|----|------------------------|---------------|
| <b>The children's experience at Haversham</b>                         |                     |     |    |                        |               |
| 1. My child is generally happy at school                              | 95%                 | 5%  |    |                        |               |
| 2. I feel my child is making good progress                            | 80%                 | 18% | 2% |                        |               |
| 3. I feel my child is expected to work hard and achieves his/her best | 85%                 | 15% |    |                        |               |
| 4. The children are usually well behaved                              | 65%                 | 33% | 2% |                        |               |

|   |     |     |    |  |     |
|---|-----|-----|----|--|-----|
| 5. My child enjoys his/her work at school   | 75% | 25% |    |  |     |
| <b>School and parents working together</b>  |     |     |    |  |     |
| 6. I feel the school encourages parents to play an active part in my child's education                                      | 80% | 20% |    |  |     |
| 7. I feel that teachers and parents work well together if there are concerns about my child                                 | 75% | 17% |    |  | 8%  |
| 8. I feel that I can approach the school staff or governors with questions or concerns                                      | 90% | 10% |    |  |     |
| 9. I feel the school is well organised and runs smoothly  | 90% | 10% |    |  |     |
| 10. I feel the school gives me the information I need   | 73% | 27% |    |  |     |
| 11. In general, the newsletter and notes home keep me well informed   | 73% | 25% | 2% |  |     |
| 12. Bearing in mind that this is a small school, I feel the school provides a good range of activities outside school hours | 75% | 23% | 2% |  |     |
| 13. I feel that the Breakfast Club has extended the childcare facilities at the school                                      | 78% | 12% |    |  | 10% |
| 14. I feel that the school offers a wide range of activities  | 80% | 18% | 2% |  |     |
| 15. Parentmail has been a good addition to the school communication system.   | 78% | 22% |    |  |     |

We are delighted with the generally very positive responses from you all, and appreciate the many lovely comments, which were really heartwarming. However, we are always keen to further improve, so we will be considering some suggestions made very carefully.

A couple of parents asked for earlier notice for events parents can attend, such as our Superstars Assembly. I have consequently attached the key dates for

the year to this newsletter and hope this will help. We have discussed Superstars Assemblies with the staff and we all agreed that the idea of informing parents at the beginning of a half-term defeats the idea of us responding to the children's efforts and particular achievements in a half-term. Therefore, we feel we can't bring the circulation of invitations to this event too early. However, we will send parents notice two weeks ahead to inform them if their child is a superstar, instead of one week. If you are a parent who really does need longer notice, please let us know and we will accommodate you in a different way.

I know through careful and regular observations that behaviour of children in class is very good, and often 'excellent'. For the majority of time children's behaviour is also very good at lunchtimes and playtimes, but these are times we have to monitor carefully. We work on this regularly in school. In my previous Newsletter I mentioned our concern about some behaviour before and after school day begins. We are, therefore, really delighted with the improvement of the behaviour of children outside school first thing in the morning and at the end of the day. We will continue to monitor this carefully throughout the year with the aim of continuing to have high standards of behaviour throughout the school day and on our school premises. Thank you for your support with this.

#### **PARENTMAIL**

A high percentage (91 %) of parents have signed up for this service and we have received feedback that this is a helpful system improving communication. However, as part of the system Mrs Gregory can see who has read their emails and we are staggered by the number and high percentage of parents who are not reading their parentmail messages. Please understand - it is vital that you do check them regularly, otherwise you will miss out on information which is often vital to your child. Therefore, if we send a parentmail message out we assume you have received the information. It is for this reason and because there is a need for a response that some letters come home in a hard copy form. Occasionally, we will send reminders of special events, but we need you to note down important dates as well.

Following requests we will be asking and exploring with ParentMail if we can establish an easier / alternative payment system for clubs and / or Breakfast and After-school Club.

A couple of parents asked if we could have more trips. We will consider this carefully, hopefully planning a local trip, for each year group alongside a trip further afield. There is obviously an issue of cost if we do more trips, so we have to be careful not to do too many as this would be difficult for some parents to afford.

With reference to keeping parents informed about what is going on in the school day, we will be sending out a half-termly newsletter for each year group. In Foundation the children have a Learning Diary, which we know you appreciate. However, there is much more marking of children's work in Key Stage 1 (Class 2 and 3), so it really is not possible to continue the Diary. Instead, they have their HSSP (Home School Spelling Partnership) Book with spellings to learn weekly, and Maths Homework fortnightly.

### **FINALLY**

The academic year has started extremely well and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our **HARVEST ASSEMBLY** on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 2.15 pm. Further details about Harvest Assembly will be sent out nearer the time.

Meanwhile, please feel free to contact me, via the office or speak to me directly if you have any concerns.

Best wishes,

Mrs Alison Mears  
Headteacher