



# Hoo St Werburgh Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we begin the second term of the 2015 -2016 academic year, there have been some lovely photos of our pupils in the local papers, both in the 'First Class' section and a front cover and 2 page spread about our Rainbow Harvest. These will be up in the entrance hall in the usual place, so if your child spots themselves and wants a copy, we are happy to do this. To further celebrate the school values and school community, an additional school prospectus made entirely from photos and comments by the children has been created. They are very proud of their efforts, as are we. If you would like to view a PDF, please go to the school's website.

Year 1 – 6 are now all working on the new national curriculum and Y2 and Y6 sat their first 'new style' SATs assessments at the end of last term. Despite these changes, our teaching will remain creative and engaging, with pupils having an input into their learning journeys to foster their curiosity. Your support is always invaluable and some of the family artefacts that have been shared as part of the Y6 WWI & WWII theme have been very moving. Thank you for your continued support for our creative curriculum and family learning projects.

We have so much to squeeze in before the countdown to Christmas begins, starting with One World Week next week. Following last year's success pupils will be working in house groups again for part of the week, so they will hopefully make some new friends and have some interesting facts to tell you.

Kind regards

Tara Deevoy  
(Head of School)

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## NOTE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

I hope everyone had a good break and managed to get some quality family time. I can't believe we are starting term 2 already, where did last term go?

This is a busy term with the Christmas celebrations at the end but as a school we will still ensure that learning continues and the education of the children progresses as usual. In support of this, the school looks forward to continuing to work with you as parents.



Schools are busy places and during this term with the Christmas celebrations, as Chair, I hope governors will have the opportunity to meet with you and celebrate the great work which is being undertaken throughout the school.

Ian Chappell (JP)

## STAFFING

Goodbye

We said goodbye to Mrs Speirs, a TA in Y1 last term. The pupils made some lovely cards and she has promised to keep in touch and come and see them in their Christmas production. Having been in class and supporting Mrs Weddle in delivering some of our Speech and Language programmes, Mrs Speirs is off to a new role in a different school and we wish her all the best.

Miss Perkins who joined us as a trainee in September to help in Y4 has also moved on, but is going slightly further afield to Barcelona. Whilst we are a friendly bunch and Miss Perkins has loved her short time with us, we can't really compete with year round sunshine!



 In a similar fashion, Miss Spicer, who has been teaching art across the school, has completed her NQT year with us and is now travelling round New Zealand. Mrs Cassetari, a long serving member of staff who was our Art leader before she retired, has returned from her travels around Italy and is now working part-time teaching Art in KS2. Welcome back!

We can't wait to see how our rainbow room and art gallery develop following our successful pop-up event at the end of term.

Some new faces have joined us to make sure that we are still able to have an extra adult in each class to provide additional focused teaching and support. Mr Stacey has replaced Miss Perkins in Y4 as the TA for Ocelots. Mrs Jefferys has joined us from Cuxton Primary School and is based with the Y5 team to provide additional support to pupils in this year group. Mrs Blanchard, who is a familiar face to many of you, will be joining Y1 in a couple of weeks to work with Rabbits and Hedgehogs class. KS1 TAs will continue to work across the classes as usual in the meantime.

Hello!  
☺

## LATEST MURALS



The children have been putting in their requests for murals from our artist Jane Raggett. The latest was a suggestion from the fine diners that the 'fine dining' area be turned into a posh restaurant complete with life sized waiters. This is now finished and has added an air of sophistication to the Friday lunchtime 'fine dining' experience for pupils whose good table manners have earned them a 'golden ticket' invitation.

Our canteen cupboard has also had a make-over and the water dispenser has been cleverly disguised. The rainbow idea came from our harvest theme with pupils trying to find healthy foods in as many colours as possible.

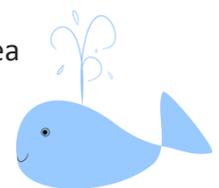


## SPELLING

We teach phonics and reading very successfully at Hoo and our results are well above the national average in foundation stage and key stage 1 and level with national in key stage 2. Good spelling is a natural progression from this, but some pupils are yet to make that step, and remain stuck at the 'choosing the right letter pattern' stage. For example, pupils spelling the word 'saw' as 'sor' and 'was' as 'wos'.

Alongside daily spelling sessions with their usual teacher, we have launched weekly 'Deep Sea' spelling sessions with Y2 – Y6 to make spelling more engaging for pupils and ensure that they learn to spell the common words expected for their age using a range of fun activities to practise. So if your child tells you they were making playdough words, getting the felt tips out or saying words backwards and forwards to learn their spellings, it is all true!

The children have all been assessed and grouped according to their gaps in learning. Pupils should aim to learn all the word lists for their group to move to the next 'sea creature' and ultimately to the 'Blue Whale' group. If you would like a list of the words your child should know how to spell by the end of the year, please ask your child's class teacher. However, we will continue to send home termly lists for learning that will be covered in class, so you can help your child each week.



## PE KIT and UNIFORM



Please ensure all uniform **is named** including PE kit. We currently have only unnamed items in our lost property area in KS2 due to the new officers doing a great job at reuniting belonging with their owners on a daily basis.

However, the unnamed items include 2 brand new, logoed sweatshirts and 31 unlogoed jumpers, sweatshirts or cardigans. This is just from term one!

We have many options for uniform to cater for all preferences and comfort, so pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times. This includes **plain black school shoes. All black trainer style shoes and black ankle boots are also acceptable.**

Please remember that only small plain stud earrings are allowed in school and pupils must be able to remove these themselves for PE.

If you are having difficulty financing the purchase of uniform please contact Mrs Haskins or the office.

## VOLUNTEERS



Thank you to all parents, carers & grandparents who came forward offering to volunteer. We have quite a bit of extra help for reading and in-class activities now, but are still looking for anyone interested in running an extra-curricular

activity with small groups of children.

## PLAYTIMES

To save scuffing school shoes, we have agreed that pupils can bring in trainers to change into at lunchtime *if they wish* but this must be done on the playground and school shoes put back on before the end of play.

Following requests from several pupils, we have looked at our wet-playtime arrangements. As a trial, staff will be available to supervise pupils outside when it is only lightly raining as well as having the usual staff on duty indoors. Pupils will be able to choose if they go out or stay in on these occasions. For this to happen, pupils **MUST HAVE A SUITABLE SHOWER PROOF COAT**. Children without coats will not be allowed to play outside in the rain.

## CHILDREN IN NEED

**FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup>  
NOVEMBER**



We will be supporting Children in Need as usual. This event is being led by our school council again who have decided that 'Bring a Bear' is their fund-raising choice this year.

On Friday, please bring in your pound and **ANY STUFFED TOY**.

Please don't bring in someone too precious as we can't guarantee they will return in the same condition!

### Other Events

**Movie Night**

20<sup>th</sup> Nov

(PTA fundraiser)

**Wrong Trousers Day**

4<sup>th</sup> Dec

(PTA fundraiser)

**Christmas Jumper day &**

**Christmas dinner**

8<sup>th</sup> December **TBC**

(charity & just for fun!)

## SCHOOL EVENTS AND INFORMATION SHARING

Thank you to everyone who visited school last term either for the cake sale, the book fair, a class assembly, the pop-up art display, for parents' evening or as a volunteer. Pop-up events are spontaneous, based on what the children have worked on, so there will not be much notice, but if you miss one, please don't worry, we are encouraging classes to put these on throughout the year, so you'll have plenty of chances. All the usual events are on the key dates sheet.

If you haven't downloaded the new parentmail app to your phone or given us an updated mobile number & e-mail address, please do this as soon as possible, so you can be informed immediately of anything going on in school. Feedback so far from this system has been very good following the blip with Y1 class names and parents' evening! This system is designed to save the school time and money, allowing us to focus more efforts and funds on learning. Our aim is to be virtually paper free by the end of this academic year. The PTA will also be using parentmail from now on to send out letters so that more of their fundraising efforts can be passed on for the benefit of pupils.



We are also now on twitter, so you can follow us @HSWprimary. We won't be tweeting everyday, but will put up talking points, useful links from our work in school and photos of any special events.

Each class also now has their own page on our website in addition to their DB primary area where you can access homework and letters without having to login.

Look out for the new PTA facebook page which should be coming soon.



**Enjoy the term and wrap up warm as the weather gets cooler.  
We'll still be out and about around the school grounds learning!**



### **\*GENERAL\*** **\*REMINDERS\***

Every child should come to school with a **filled** water bottle. This can be refilled at break and lunchtime.

Pupils in Y1 – Y6 need to be lined up by 8.45am when the bell is rung, so please make sure they are on the playground by this time. The Wake up Shake up team run daily sessions in the KS2 hall from 8.30am



Please make sure that contact books or planners are in school every-day.

Please park responsibly. Our local PCSO is now issuing reminders and parking tickets to those parents who continue to endanger the lives of our children by parking dangerously.

Your registration number will be photographed and referred.