



Hoo St Werburgh Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas with family and friends. The New Year has started with a bang at Hoo St Werburgh with pupils working in teams to tackle the 'Times Table challenge' that many of you may have seen in the news over the Christmas break - 12x12 off by heart, at speed, by the end of year 4 with a national timed tested online in Y6. As always our focus is on robust teaching of skills, but in an accessible and fun way for pupils. In this case a Star Wars themed assembly. This challenge is nothing new but we have used it as an opportunity to look again at what we do in school.

It was lovely to see so many pupils wearing their green badges with pride over the last few days and I have already had a few who tell me that they are definitely going to be getting one at the end of this term! After talking with the pupils, we have made a few changes to our rewards system. Please see the later section in this newsletter for details.

All that remains is for me to wish you a happy New Year!

Kind regards

Tara Deevoy
(Head of School)

NOTE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear All

I hope you had a good Christmas and on behalf of the governors may I wish you a happy new year for 2016. Although the weather really doesn't make it

COURAGE

CONFIDENCE

RESPECT

BELONGING

Contents

**Note from Chair
of Governors**

Staffing

Volunteers

Dates for diary

**PE Kits &
Uniform**

Playtimes

**Good to be
Green**

**Non-school
uniform**

Take a break

**General
reminders**



feel the time of year it is, let's hope we don't have a serious cold snap.

As in all terms we have much work to do to continue what has been done over the past 2 terms, building on the children's learning.

We have a couple of staff changes which, as governors, we are confident will further support the great work being undertaken throughout the school.

Whilst the weather is not normal for this time of year, the daylight situation still is, so please take care traveling to and from school during this term.

Ian Chappell JP

STAFFING

Goodbye

We said goodbye to Mrs Haywood, a TA in Y1 last term. Mrs Haywood has been at the school for several years and felt it was time for a new challenge. Mr Etheridge, Tiger class teacher, also left having secured promotion to a vice principal position. We are sure that his new Y6 class will enjoy having him as their maths teacher. Miss Jones, a TA in Y2, has also left us for a short time to complete her teacher training, but she will be back at Easter, which the children are looking forward to.

Mrs Blanchard worked alongside Mrs Haywood for a while before she left and has settled into Rabbits class well as the TA. Mrs Poigiter has also joined us in Y1 as a TA in Hedgehogs class. Both come with a wealth of Early Years experience.

Hello!


We have appointed Mrs Brenchley as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, following the long term vacancy of this position. Mrs Brenchley will be based in Y2, to provide additional capacity for small group teaching, but will work across the school as well when needed using her numicon expertise.

Mr Gower, an experienced teacher from Kent has joined the Y6 team to allow teaching in smaller groups as our Y6 pupils prepare to transfer to secondary school. Y6 are the first year to sit the new SATs with no levels, so we are doing everything we can to help them be successful.

VOLUNTEERS



Our Beanstalk reading volunteers are now up and running in school and we have 5 adults who come in twice a week to hear pupils read. However, as spring approaches we do need help with gardening and planting out the class raised beds (the main grounds are maintained under contract). We have drafted in some green fingered staff but it's a rather large job!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

FRIDAY 5TH FEBRUARY - PTA DISCO

FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY – POP UP ART GALLERY 2.45PM

PLAYTIMES

The trial of allowing trainers for break has worked well so this will continue. To save scuffing school shoes, 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, so no shoes go missing!

Likewise the trial of the new wet-play arrangements has proved very popular and will continue. Staff now 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.

CHRISTMAS PLAY

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the FS and KS1 Xmas play. We raised a great deal of money for Winston's Wish our nominated Charity for children who suffer the loss of a parent. I think the staff and pupils did a fantastic job. Thank you for filling out the comments slips. These will be shared with the children when they are all typed up as they do like to hear your feedback on their performance!

GOOD TO BE GREEN

Good to be Green has settled in well and the first term has been a success. We have had very few red consequence cards which shows that the high standard of behaviour in class has been maintained. Yellow warning cards reduced towards the end of term as pupils got used to the system and understood that disrupting the learning of others will not be tolerated. All pupils are aiming for green all term but to support those who may have a small hiccup we are introducing a weekly reward for those who are green all week. These pupils will get a short afternoon playtime of 10 mins on a Friday. This fits with the ethos of good to be green that everyone starts the day or week on a clean slate and always has something to work towards. You will continue to get a slip that lets you know if your child has been green all week so you can congratulate them at home as well.

NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM

Non-school uniform was the reward of choice from the school council so we have introduced a range of ways that pupils can earn a non-school uniform day. These rewards are for a range of academic and non academic areas so that ***every child has something to aspire to***.

House points are given for general attitude, good manners, kindness and showing the school values. Any

PE KIT and UNIFORM

Please ensure all uniform **is named** including PE kit.

School shoes should be **plain black**.

All black trainers and black ankle boots are also acceptable.

If your child needs to wear coloured shoes until a new pair is purchased please put a note in their contact book or planner.

Please remember that only small plain stud earrings are allowed in school and pupils must be able to remove these themselves for PE. If your child arrives at school with hooped hearings, they will be asked to remove them.

If you are having difficulty financing the purchase of uniform please contact Mrs Haskins or the office or come along to the new to you stall run by the PTA on the playground at the end of each term. See key dates sheet for dates and times.

child who achieves 50 house points can earn a non-school uniform day. We have a handful of pupils who have already achieved this milestone and many pupils are very near their 50 point certificate! Well done!

100% attendance is another way to recognise pupils who may not otherwise get a reward. We understand that some pupils with medical conditions or whose parents choose to take them out of school in term time have no control over this, but this should not stop us from recognising those who have come in every day and this element is simply one of many ways pupils can earn this reward.

Button afternoon menus have had non-school uniform added to the activities list so classes can opt for this as their joint reward. It might make a change from DVDs and onesies, which seems to be the popular choice at the moment!

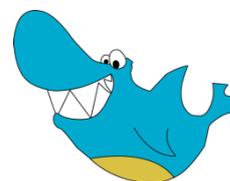
NON SCHOOL UNIFORM ON FRIDAY

Less than half of the children have achieved this reward at the moment (but we expect everyone to manage it at some point in the year). You will have received a slip or parent mail alert if your child has achieved a non-school uniform pass on Friday. ***Please send your child in full uniform if they haven't got there yet.*** If they have a brother or sister in non-school uniform please reassure them that they will get their chance. If any child comes in non-school uniform who hasn't achieved their house points or attendance, you will get a phone call and they won't be able to take part when they do achieve the reward as they will have already had it, which would be a shame. For those whose attendance was a near miss this time and for those who've been on holiday, we have set everything back to zero so please have a go for this term. For those who are close to their 50 house points, all the staff have house points at the ready for good manners so keep it up!

TAKE A BREAK

 We have noticed a continual decline in pupils coming to Take a Break which is really good news. Pupils are sent to take a break when they have broken a school rule on the playground and it gives them a chance to tell their side of the story and then discuss how to put things right. It is not detention, which seems to be the current impression, but we do record each incident and monitor this closely. You will receive a letter if your child has 3 Take a Breaks, so that we can work together to improve their playground behaviour.

Sharks Class need a special mention as they have worked hard as a team to support each other on the playground and have not received a single Take a Break for the whole term. **Well done Sharks!**



PROPOSAL

Another school council proposal was for non-school uniform on birthdays (Mondays after a birthday if it is weekend or holiday). Comments on this and suggestions for other rewards are welcome.

Enjoy the term as we all look forward to longer days and warmer weather.