



THE HERON

The newsletter of North Mundham Primary School

5th September 2017

Dear Parents, Carers Children and Governors,



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Welcome back to the new school year 2017 – 2018. I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer break and had some relaxing and some fun times whether that was at home or away. A particular welcome to new children and families joining us this term. We look forward to many happy years of learning together.

There was a lot to do in school during the summer holidays and we are grateful to Mr Edwards and Miss Holt for all their work in getting the school ready for the new year.

Attached to this Heron is a list of dates so far for this term for you to put in your diary or on your calendar. More details of events are sent out nearer to the date.



Our Learning and Class Newsletters

Two important aspects of our school development this year are:

1. Boys Writing

In school we try to choose motivating topics and a variety of styles of writing and most of our boys are enthusiastic to write. However a few in each class find the 'nitty gritty' of writing tricky and we will be working hard to find ways to support these pupils.

2. Attendance

If you need to take your child out of school to attend a GP appointment etc, the least disruptive times for the school day are between 11.30am and 1pm and after 2.30pm. Please remember to book within these times if at all possible. Please arrange an appointment to see Mrs Carey before you plan any holiday during school time to discuss the impact of this on your child's education.

Over the next few days you will receive a class newsletter. (Some classes have received them today!) Please look out for this in your child's reading folder as the newsletters contain lots of information about what your child is learning this term. Also there will be a 'Meet the teacher' time for each class, further details to follow.

Clubs

A letter is attached with details of all the clubs on offer this term. Numbers are often limited so please return these asap. Clubs start week commencing 18th September. **Please call in at the school office if you would like a paper copy.**



Our before school and after school Care Club runs every day that school is open. Please see Mrs Cross or Miss Hearn if this may be useful to your family and you would like an information pack.

Before School Care Club is every day from 8.00am – 8.35am. Staff will deliver your child to class after the club. Again – please book through the office.

PTA News

The Annual General Meeting of the PTA will be on Wednesday 20th September at 7.30pm in the school hall. The PTA would be delighted to welcome new parents and carers across the school and also welcome new ideas for activities and fundraising.

Helping in Class

There are all sorts of ways that parents, carers and grandparents can help in class or around the school. Please see your child's class teacher or Mrs Carey if you have some free time and would like to help. New helpers will need DBS clearance, please see Mrs Cross in the office for details. Even half an hour once a week can be really helpful. Mrs Gill will hold a training session for helping with reading on Monday 25th September at 2.45pm. Please book a place by contacting the office. If this date doesn't work for you please let the office know and Mrs Gill will arrange an alternative date.

Some very important reminders for the new school year...

Arrival at school

Please ensure that children arrive in school between 8.35am and 8.50am. From 8.35am children may come in to the classroom where a quiet sitting down activity will be provided. Children in Years 3 – 6 may come out to the playground where I or Mr Murray will be on duty. Children in Reception, Class 1 and Class 2 stay in the classrooms where table top activities will be set out. **Please remember that we are not responsible for your child before this time.** Sadly schools in West Sussex are advised that children should not play on the Adventure Trail at this time or after school **even** if their parents/carers are supervising them. I have reminded the children about this in assembly today. Please keep pre-school children closely supervised at pick-up times too.

Children arriving after 8.50am will be marked in the register as late. If your child is absent please contact the school office on 01243 785502. The office will need to record the reason that your child is absent. The office is open from 8.00am.

Dropping off your child

If you bring your child into school in the morning please park in the playing fields car park. This will keep the turning circle free for families who are 'dropping off' their child and then driving away.



Water Bottles

All children have been provided with a new water bottle. These will come home on Fridays to be washed at home and brought back to school on Mondays.

PE Bags and Book Bags

Please make sure your child has these in school each day. PE Kit and new book bags are available from the school office.

Red PE shorts £5.00

PE T shirt £6.00

PE bag £4.00

Black joggers £8.00

Book Bags £4.00

Naming Things

Please check that **all** your child's belongings and clothes are clearly named.

Food

If your child wants a snack at morning break please send fruit or vegetables cut up ready to eat in a food bag or named container.

Please name children's lunch boxes as there are often several children with the same design! No fizzy drinks or sweets please. The weather forecast suggests that the warm weather is set to continue so a cold pack in your child's lunchbox is recommended.

The children all have the opportunity to wash their hands before lunch but you may wish to consider putting a small gel hand wash in your child's lunchbox. Please write their name on the container.

Fruity Friday



The first date for Fruity Friday is Friday 8th September. Fruity Friday encourages children in KS2 to have a piece of fruit at break time. (KS1 children get fruit every day!) If your KS2 child would like to be part of our 'Fruity Friday' scheme, we would like to ask that they bring £2.50 to school in a named envelope which will allow them to choose a piece of fruit each Friday until the end of the autumn term.

Home Time

Please ensure that your child's class teacher knows who is to collect your child each day. If arrangements change during the day please contact the school office to inform us of any changes. We cannot let your child go home, even with an adult they know well, unless we formally know that you have given your consent for this. **This is very important and we appreciate your support.** If you want your older children to walk home alone – please inform the class teacher or school office.

Free School Meals

An important element of our school budget is determined by the number of families who are eligible for free school meals. There is no stigma attached to this and the children are not treated any differently or read out on a separate list etc. Your child/children do not even have to eat the hot meal on a daily basis, they can still bring their own packed lunch, but by registering for Free School Meals it will ensure that we receive all the government funding to which we are entitled. This funding will also enable your child to receive additional support so it is really important to apply if you may be eligible.

Even if your child is in Year R, 1 or 2 and receives the new Universal Free School Meal, we still need you to register with us.

Chartwells Hot School Meals

If you order hot meals through Chartwells, please could you check the next time you make an order that your child/children's "School Year" box is correct and showing the current year that your child is in and update accordingly.

And finally, but importantly...

We are looking forward to a busy, successful term. There are lots of exciting learning opportunities planned. As always please arrange to see your child's class teacher or me as soon as possible if there are concerns to discuss or if we can help in any way. We want the children to be happy and confident in school. After school is often a good time for a quick word or please phone the school office for an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Julia Carey

Julia Carey
Headteacher