

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello

Can you believe that we have been in school now for 3 weeks, the new **Reception children** have had their first full week in school together and we are very proud of how well they have settled in. In the **Junior School**, Year 3 children have transitioned seamlessly from the Infant School and are enjoying their Key Stage 2 classrooms and curriculum, well done children.

It was lovely to see parents in the **Junior School** on Thursday for the 'Meet the Teacher' event. I hope that the recent 'Learner Profile Calls' in the **Infant School** have given you the opportunity to talk candidly about your child's strengths and weaknesses. As we all know, a strong partnership between home and school is fruitful for bringing out the best in all children.

Thank you to the parents that supported the **Sparky Start** in the **Infant School**, the Park Life walk was fabulous with the children talking candidly about their community as we walked to and back from Coneygear Park. See pictures on the last page of all the activities they engaged with.

As always, we welcome feedback and would love to know how well your child has settled into school. Please would you engage with [Parent View](#) for both schools if you have a child in any of the different Key Stages. The more responses we receive the better it will enable us to access the results and reflect on our practice.

Best wishes, Rae Lee [Headteacher]

We would appreciate any **Harvest donations** over the next few weeks for our upcoming celebrations in both schools.

Photographs

On **Monday 10th October**, the children will have an **individual photograph** in school [preschool, infant and junior] taken. There is no obligation to buy the photograph although school benefits from every purchase. There will be the opportunity for siblings across the preschool, infant and junior school to have a photograph together but not with any other schools that older siblings may attend. If your child does not attend preschool on a Monday we can allocate a time in the morning for you to attend. **Please see forms in books bags.**

Fruit and Bagels

In the **Infant School** are provided with **free fruit** everyday to eat in at break times. Whilst in the **Junior School**, children must bring in their **own snack daily**. We would recommend that this is a piece of fresh fruit. In the next few weeks, all the children in the Junior School will be offered a bagel each morning as part of The National Breakfast Programme, just like the infant school children currently have access to.

Can pupils participate in PE if they wear ear jewellery?

Recently we have been asked this question and have sought advice. The **national guidance** has always been that no jewellery should be worn in PE and that includes swimming. It is also not safe to cover earrings/studs/sleepers with tape. The reason is both because of the potential tearing of the ear lobe, but also the very slim chance that the post of the ear-ring could damage the neck which is where the brachial nerve is running directly to the brain. Where an item of jewellery cannot be removed then it is the adult teaching's responsibility to try to establish a safe situation to enable participation by considering how, or if, the context can be made safe by amending the task, conditioning the activity or creating some other management strategy to make participation safe. Where safe participation cannot be assured then the pupil cannot take part in that element of the lesson. Low risk is where children can work and be secure in their own personal space. This could be warming up, skills practices, observing and analysing, officiating, coaching. Higher risk is where that personal space could be compromised, this could be by other participants or by equipment. For example, this could be games activities where there are elements of 'scrimmage', gymnastics where children are close to each other or where the floor and/or equipment could come close to the ears etc. School has a duty of care and cannot be put in the situation of looking after a child without exercising that duty of care, we are dictated by national guidance and must comply. It is not just making the wearer of the earring safe, so a parental disclaimer is inconsequential and would not stand up in law. **Thank you for your support.**

Flower Festival All Saints Hartford

Reverend Geoff Boucher from **All Saints Church Hartford**, contacted us to ask if the children from both schools would create a floral display for their **Autumn Flower Festival**. Mrs Orledge with the help of the **Treehouse Club** children has produced a gorgeous display showcasing the children's artistic skills. The flower display is scheduled for Saturday 24th September and everyone is welcome to visit the church to see the display [see our last page for a photograph].

PreSchool

This week the children have enjoyed, 'Dear Zoo' we would love to see pictures on Tapestry from home visits to zoos. Next week, we will start our phonic group sessions.

Year 1

This week began with our Sparky Start visit to Coneygear Park where we all had fun. Once back in the classroom we used the phonics we know to read and write words from our story. In our COOL time we have been investigating sunflower heads and were excited to begin our science lessons about plants. Next week, we will be ordering numbers on a number line and comparing groups. YEAR 1 DESPERATELY NEED HELPERS FOR FOREST SCHOOL. Please contact us if you or a family member can come and help out.

Reception

This week, we have started our phonics and have been learning the phonemes 's', 'a' and 't'. We have also been practising blending sounds together. In maths we have been thinking about the number '2'. The children also enjoyed their first P.E and Forest School sessions. Next week, we will be retelling the story of 'Peace At Last' and will have a go at programming a Bee-Bot! PLEASE REMEMBER WELLIES FOR FOREST SCHOOL. Thank you for your support.

Year 3

This week, we have been working on number bonds to 10 and making the connection to number bonds to 100 (eg.7+3=10, 70+30=100). In science, we looked at the 5 food groups and what is needed in our diets to be healthy. We have been enjoying PE and music and our class book, 'The Iron Man'. Next week, we will be focusing on Maths fluency, using Rekenreks which provides a visual model that encourages children to build numbers in groups of five and ten, we will use this with doubling and halving strategies, and to count-on from known relationships to solve addition and subtraction problems. In Art we will be continuing sketching to create our botanical drawings.

Year 2

This week, during our enquiry lesson, we looked at an aerial map of our school and the surrounding area so that we could identify human and physical features. We learnt how to compare 2-digit numbers using the inequality symbols greater, less and equal to. In English we used our phonics to segment the phonemes in words. Next week in maths, we will learn how to count efficiently in 2s, 5s and 10s. In English we will use the conjunctions 'and' and 'but' to join 2 simple sentences.

Year 5

This week we have been enjoying the 'Nowhere Emporium' and getting to know some of the characters in more detail. Next week, we'll be looking at figurative language and using this in our own writing. In maths, we have started to explore negative numbers and will continue into next week. In Science we have been learning all about parts of a flower and plant reproduction. We enjoyed taking a flower apart and trying to label the various parts! Geography has been an exploration of the river Rhine and key cities along it, whilst in History we have been learning all about the Punic wars. Next week, we will turn our attention to how the river Rhine changes as it flows through various countries in Europe, and in RE we will be learning about Mary and Joseph and the structure of the Bible.

Year 4

This week, in history we have been learning about the Romans and how they became a Republic and their system for ruling. In Maths, we have learnt different methods for calculating the perimeter of polygons. Next week in science we will be investigating which materials are conductors and which are insulators.

Year 6

This week, in Science we have continued our investigation into light and how it reflects. We made periscopes using different materials to see which worked better and why. In English, we are starting to see how the character, Mary, from 'The Secret Garden' changes and how she starts to have feelings which are new to her. We will be continuing our learning on the Roman Empire next week discovering more about the Punic Wars.

Hartford Infant and Preschool & Hartford Junior Newsletter 3 23.9.2022



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