



## End of Term 3 Newsletter February 2020



### Fairtrade Fortnight 24<sup>th</sup> February – 8<sup>th</sup> March and World Book Day 5<sup>th</sup> March

We learn about Fairtrade in school, as part of our Rights Respecting Schools programme. Fairtrade ensures that all farmers are paid fairly for their work and are able to earn a living income. The focus of Fairtrade Fortnight this year is cocoa and sharing the personal stories of women who work in the chocolate industry. We will be learning how chocolate is produced and how Fairtrade supports the rights of farmers.

During Fairtrade fortnight, pupils and students will be sharing Michael Rosen's "Chocolate Cake" poem and creating some of their own poems, songs or raps, about chocolate. These will be shared in World Book Day assemblies on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Classes will also have the opportunity to visit "Sarah's Fairtrade Chocolate Shop", to purchase ingredients to make their own chocolate cake.

### Parking



Can we please ask that parents do not park along Newlands Lane when dropping off or picking up their children. Parking on this road causes obstructions to the nearby Royal Harbour Academy and is not a safe place for adults or children to exit or enter a vehicle.

On a similar note, can we remind parents not to walk across the minibus entrance to drop off or pick up their children. This entrance is used by minibuses, taxis and delivery lorries therefore is not a safe pedestrian entrance. Using this entrance does not set a good example to our children.

Please ensure, whilst on the school grounds, that you and your child are using the footpaths and zebra crossings, which are manned by school staff at the beginning and end of each day, in order to prevent any accidents or injuries.



## **NHS Change4life Healthier Lunchboxes**

We are trying to promote healthier lunchboxes for our pupils. As parents ourselves we know how busy modern life is and how easy it is to end up putting the same convenience foods into our children's packed lunches; crisps, biscuits, chocolate, sausage rolls and cakes. Adding to the stress of modern life is the fact that many of our children have specific dietary requirements, may have sensory needs that make accessing some food types difficult, and have rigid eating behaviours linked to their SEN. It's not always easy putting together a healthy lunch that your child will eat!



This is why we would like to extend an open invitation to any parent looking for support in this area to meet with Jeremy Edwards and our health and therapy team. We have close links with many NHS services including school nursing and dieticians, and within the staff body many years of encouraging pupils who are reluctant to eat fruit or vegetables.

We would like to draw your attention to the NHS Change4Life website below which has some fantastic ideas for putting together a healthier lunchbox. The site has tips for lunchbox swaps, recipes and tips for cutting back on fat, and on keeping food fresh.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

## **Communication**

Over the past couple of years, we have endeavoured to improve communication with our parents and carers. This has included the introduction of ClassDojo, the app which allows direct messages to mobile phones.

We have continued to send home end of term newsletters – such as this one – as well as monthly newsletters.

It has however, been noted that much of the information in the monthly newsletters is repeated in the end of term newsletter and on ClassDojo. We have, therefore, decided to stop the monthly newsletters. We will continue with the termly newsletter which will include important information and dates for your diary. We will also utilise the school website (see below).

## **Absence/Lateness**

Could I ask that all parents/carers ensure they phone into the main office at 8.00am to report a child's absence.

In the event that a child is late for school, they need to be brought to the main reception where classroom staff will be contacted to collect the child.

It is important that every effort is made to ensure pupils arrive on time in order that they are prepared for the school day.

## Website Update

We have recently met with website developers and have decided to give our school website a makeover. We will be making it even more user friendly and will have enhanced pages to provide more information.

We hope that this will be ready to launch before the end of the academic year.



## School Council News

The School Council have been working towards the Eco-Schools Award. They have completed an environmental review and identified 3 projects that will improve the school environment:

1. We need to look at ways of saving energy
2. We need to look at ways of recycling more materials
3. We need to reduce the amount of single use plastic in school.



Solar panels are currently being fitted to the roof and the School Council are going to interview the installation team to find out how the panels will save energy and how much money that will save school!

## Shelley Furlong

It was a sad day on Friday 31st January as we said goodbye to Shelley Furlong, our School Business Manager. Shelley was outstanding in her role and will be missed by the whole school community. She was instrumental in securing a smooth transition from our old school buildings in Broadstairs to our new Ramsgate site.

Shelley has taken up the post of School Business Manager at Royal Harbour Academy though will remain on our Governing Body, within the Resources Team, so we will still see her within school.



We would also like to welcome Shelley's replacement, Karen Glover, who is currently working 2 days a week and will start full time during Term 4. We all look forward to working with Karen.

## School Holidays

At this time of year, people often start thinking of booking their holiday. Please be aware that time off for holidays during term time will not normally be granted. Headteachers are not permitted to agree leave of absence during term time unless they are satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.



Where leave of absence is not agreed, and the pupil or student is out of school or an application has not been made in advance, the absence is recorded as unauthorised. Please ensure that any request for leave of absence is made at least 2 weeks in advance. Please note, retrospective approval cannot be granted.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/pru-inclusion-and-attendance-service-pias/attendance/absence-during-term-time>



We are pleased to welcome 2 new teachers to our school. Sophie Pressley and Hiver Bourton have joined the Juniors team and will each be working 2 days a week.

Sarah-Jane Stewart will be leaving us during Term 5. We wish her all the luck in her new venture.

## Dates for your Diary

**Fair Trade Fortnight – Mon 24<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

**World Book Day – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

**Infant Curriculum Event – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**Science Week – 9<sup>th</sup> March – 13<sup>th</sup> March**

**Sports Relief Day – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

**Down Syndrome Awareness Day – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

(Specific details on the above will be sent separately nearer the time)

Enjoy the break and please remember that the first day of Term 4 is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

*Adrian*