



HARTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL
HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
29th September 2023



Dear Parents/Carers and Families,

As we reach the end of the fourth week, the nights are growing longer and we are beginning to feel Autumn creeping in. The weather is unpredictable as always, so please keep bringing those raincoats in – even if it's sunny! We've had another lovely week with lots going on, and lots to look forward to:

The Library Bus

On Tuesday we had a visit from The Library Bus! This travelling library spent the whole afternoon at our school, and a representative from each class was given the opportunity to get on board and browse the collection. Each class took away 20 borrowed books for their classroom reading corners – we are very grateful for such a wonderful opportunity!

Harvest Collection for the Mid-Cheshire Foodbank

If you were here last year, you may remember our hugely successful collection for the Mid-Cheshire Food Bank over Harvest. We made a massive donation of essentials, thanks to the good will of all our families, and once again, the food bank have made a call for help.

Between April 2022 and March 2023, Mid-Cheshire Food Bank supplied 3,457 food parcels. 52% of the households accepting these were accessing the food bank for the first time. Each parcel had at least 5 days of food, including fresh fruit and veg, bread and eggs – that is 44,650 days' worth of food, 133,950 meals, or enough food to feed 1 person for 122 years! Every weekday, they distribute 480kg of food - equivalent to the weight of a Highland Cow. These figures are not reducing, and inevitably, the donations received are barely keeping pace with the demand as the cost of living bites into household budgets. The generosity of the community at times like Harvest are vital for the food bank, ensuring they can meet the ongoing demand for help.

We have decided once again to hold a collection at school. This will take place during the last two weeks of term, from Monday 6th October to Thursday 19th October. Attached to this email is a list of items that the food bank currently requires the most, as these are the items that they are short of. We will have trolleys available during the collection times for you to drop off donations; please avoid bringing items into the office or into school before the collection window opens.

Early Years: Come Dine With Us!

Today was an important day for Early Years as we put on our annual Come Dine With Us event. Parents and carers have been into school to share lunch with the children and to get a taste of what lunchtime life is like for our youngest cohort.

Parent Governor Elections

Following nominations for our two Parent Governor vacancies, which closed on Wed at 9.30am, we now have two new Governors. I'm very happy to welcome Mr. Paul Taylor and Mrs. Laura Williams to our team; I am sure they will be a wonderful addition to Hartford Primary.

Church Visit

From Monday 9th October, our Key Stage 2 classes will be visiting St. John's Church for their new immersive experience, "Imagining Eternity". This interactive exhibit uses art, poetry, textiles and music to encourage children to reflect on the beauty of creation and their hopes for the future. A letter was sent home last week with dates and times for each class's visit; please make sure that you have given authorisation via ParentPay before Monday 9th October. No payment is needed; this is a free visit.

Theatre Visit

This week, an email has been sent home regarding the KS2 Winter trip to the New Vic Theatre to see The Nutcracker on the 23rd November. Please make sure you have read this and respond before the deadline.

Unsupervised Children Before School

Once again this week, we have had a number of unsupervised children in the car park before school. Please remind your children that if they are here before 8.45am, the area is not supervised and they must wait safely and quietly by the gate. Running through the car park and between cars is dangerous and we cannot guarantee the safety of children when adults are not present.

Early Years Stay and Play

Our next Stay and Play session in Early Years is on Monday 2nd October. Please speak to Mrs Rowland or Miss Marsh if you would like more details.

Midday Assistant Vacancy

We currently have two vacancies for a Midday Assistant to join our school team. The midday shift runs between 11.45am and 1.30pm, 5 days a week, 8.75 hours a week; it involves ensuring the safety and welfare of all children during the lunchtime period, in addition to helping maintain a safe and fun environment in the dinner hall and outside play areas. The person will also be involved in setting up the lunch hall and supervising the behaviour of the children.

If you would like some more information about the roles, and how to apply, please contact our School Business Manager, Mrs Kerry Parr on admin@hartfordprimary.cheshire.sch.uk. Closing date for applications is Thursday 5th October.

Bangers & Burgers Day

It's already almost time for our first census day meal of the year and it's a great one – Bangers & Burgers Day takes place on the 5th October! In a change to our usual menu, children will be able to choose from the following, served with fries and sweetcorn/beans:

- Chicken or veggie burger in a bun with salad and mayo, or
- Posh dog or Quorn sausage in a roll with ketchup

For dessert, children will be able to choose from a butterscotch biscuit or fresh fruit salad.

We encourage all children to have a school lunch on census day as this is tied to our funding allocation; even if your child normally eats a packed lunch, we encourage you to select a meal.

Meet the Teacher

Following our Meet the Teacher sessions, all of the documents and presentations are now available to read on our website. Just head to the menu, select 'classes' and your chosen year group, and you will be able to see two buttons – one for the Meet the Teacher slides, and one for the curriculum map for the year.

Queen's School Chester Open Day

Please find attached information regarding an upcoming Open Day at Queen's School in Chester.



From Our PTA

Winter Wonderlights

This year's Winter Wonderlights extravaganza is taking place on Friday 8th December and we have an absolute ball planned for our families, friends and neighbours! Following last year's event, we have moved the majority of the evening outside for 2023. Not only will we have the usual stalls and events, but we now have a brilliant laser light show planned that will take your breath away. Ticket details will follow shortly but are bound to sell out quickly so keep your eye on your emails! See attached poster for more information.

Bags2School

Bags2School used clothing collection is back and earlier this year to have a clear out ready for the winter months. We have a collection date of Tuesday 17th October and welcome any bags of used clothing that you would like to donate in order to raise funds for our school.

Film Nights!

We have our first film night slots for the year – Wednesday 18th October for Years 5/6 and Thursday 19th October for years 3/4 – film details will be released shortly. These after-school screenings allow the children to experience a cinema-style movie with popcorn, drink and friends at a low cost. Tickets will be sold via ParentPay very soon.

Have a great weekend and we will see you on Monday.

Warm regards,

S L Cade

Mrs L Cade

Headteacher

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