



**Together We Achieve**

# Newsletter

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016

## Dates for your diary

**24<sup>th</sup> March**

Break up for Easter

**11<sup>th</sup> April**

Training Day – school closed

**12<sup>th</sup> April**

School re-opens for children

**19<sup>th</sup> April**

Class photographs

**26<sup>th</sup> April**

Year 3 Tudor Visitor – Master David

**27<sup>th</sup> April**

Reception and Year 6 National Heights and Weights

**2<sup>nd</sup> May**

Bank holiday

**9<sup>th</sup> May**

Year 6 SATs Week!

**27<sup>th</sup> May**

Break up for half term

**6<sup>th</sup> June**

School re-opens

**9<sup>th</sup> June**

Y6 Art and DT Transition Day to Driffeld School

**13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June**

Year 6 Residential

**15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June**

Fathers Day Secret Shop

## What a crazy few weeks!

This has been one of the busiest half terms I think we have ever had. Four weeks and four days is really not long enough to go through the curriculum, sporting events, testing, Easter celebrations, World Book Week, class trips, art...the list goes on! I am truly thankful as always for the hard work that our school staff put into making this school not only function superbly well, but to remain cheerful, upbeat and driven when we are at our busiest.

Feedback received from our parents evenings is always good, and this time we managed to combine feedback with a questionnaire on the school website. The results are further in the newsletter. This half term alone we have had visitors from Wilberfoss Primary, Melbourne, Beverley Minster, Pocklington Juniors and Newport who have all commented on the independence and enthusiasm for learning our children show, and they have all remarked on the quality of displays and work. It is a real privilege sharing our successes with other schools, and most recently a National Leader of Education, and Regional Director of Wakefield City Academies Trust, Anne Butel paid a visit. She emailed that night to say she was 'bowled over' by her experience in our school. We are still very focused on our journey to becoming a truly 'great' school, and I hope your children are coming home enthused by their learning and keen to tell you all about it!

## Sporting Success Continues – part 2!

After collecting bronze medals on the Level 2 event in Beverley for the Sportshall Athletics, we have since qualified for a Level 2 event for finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in Tag Rugby, and most recently won the Driffeld Cluster Netball tournament. No Tuesday we played the Level 2 event at South Holderness against the East Riding Finalists, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and retuning with silver medals. Amazing achievements this term for a school that is 2, 3 or 4 times smaller than some of the others!



## Happy Puzzle Company

The Happy Puzzle Company visited school on Tuesday, with lots of practical and fun maths challenges on offer for all children in the school. One of the areas we are seeking to develop is the using and applying aspects of maths – problem solving and putting maths into real life contexts. This was a really fantastic day that all children enjoyed.

Thank you so much to the Friends of the School for funding the event. I hope you all enjoyed the Easter Bingo last Friday, and please do keep volunteering to help out if you can with the Friends' – the money raised is an invaluable way to enrich the curriculum.

If you would like to volunteer your services, please email Claire Reed – [reedyc@icould.com](mailto:reedyc@icould.com) or pop into school and we can pass on your contact details.

### Swimming

Year 3 children will start a 10 week swimming lesson cycle on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April – our first day back at school after the Easter break.

Please remember to send in costumes, towels etc. each week.

### New Governors appointed!

We are delighted to announce that we now have a full compliment of 12 school governors!

Jonathan Fry has been appointed as a co-opted governor, Anne Lilley as a Local Authority governor and Paula Stabler has been appointed as a Parent Governor.

### Parent Lunches

We are always delighted to welcome parents and other adults into school for lunches. Due to the popularity, we are asking if you could please let us know the day before if you intend to join your child for a school dinner.

This allows Diane in the kitchen the opportunity to forward plan a little bit better – thank you for your help.

These people add a great deal of experience to our already strong governing body, and people that are already attached to the school and care for the future direction we are taking.

In response to the parent questionnaire, we will seek to further boost the profile of our governors. They already have a section on the website, but we will be featuring a governor each month in one of these newsletters so that you get to know them that little bit more.

### Twitter – please follow us!

We have had a school twitter account (@HuttonCran) for about a year now, and it is a really useful way of sharing information, but also for instant updates on activities that are happening across the school day. Each of our teachers also have an account – please follow them:

@MrsB\_HCPS

@NevetMr

@MrsH\_HCPS

@MissM\_HCPS

@MissA\_HCPS

@MrsL\_HCPS

@HCPS\_Head

### Lunchtime Updates

Mrs Smith leaves our lunchtime supervisory team today, but we are pleased to welcome back Mrs Halligan to the team, and an additional lunchtime supervisor in the form of Mrs Richardson. This takes our lunchtime staffing ratio well over average and puts us into the high staff to children ratio, which is quite unusual for the schools in our area.

Ali McClarron from Drifffield Rugby Club has spent time working with our Year 5 children to train them up to become Play Leaders. We hope this will allow even more activities to happen at lunchtime, and the additional staffing will allow our newly trained Play Leaders the opportunity to lead games for the rest of the children in school.

## Staffing Update

As you are aware, Mrs Hoyle and Miss Kaufmann were both employed on temporary contracts for this academic year to cover the maternity leaves of Mrs Hatton and Mrs Lewer. Mrs Lewer is now fully back in the swing and is teaching Year 2 four days a week, with Miss Kaufmann teaching one day and covering management time and teacher PPA time. It is great having Mrs Lewer back in school, and I have already heard great things from children and parents alike!

We recently interviewed for one permanent teaching position for September 2016. We had nearly 30 applicants, with some truly exceptional candidates. We felt it had to be the right decision for the school moving forwards, and for the staff team. We are absolutely delighted to announce that Mrs Hoyle will be staying with us permanently at Hutton Cranswick! She is a very strong teacher who has grown throughout her first year of teaching, and I have spoken to several Year 3 parents who believe their children have flourished in her class this year. Well done Mrs Hoyle!

## Parent Questionnaire 2015/16

Thank you to all parents for taking the time to complete this parent and carer questionnaire. A total of 44 responses were received by parents this year, which is an increase of 9 on the last questionnaire (October 2014.)

	Strongly Agree/Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
My child enjoys school and has a good experience overall	98%(-2%)	2% (1 person)
The school keeps my child safe	98%(+1%)	2%
The school communicates effectively about my child's progress	100%(+10%)	-
I am happy with the standard of teaching in my child's year group	100%(+3%)	-
The school helps me to support my child's learning, through workshops, discussions and letters	100% (+3%)	-
The school helps my child have and understand a healthy lifestyle	98% (-2%)	2%
My child does not complain to me about bullying	89% (+6%)	11%
The school, to the best of my knowledge, deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	93% (+6%)	7%
The school meets my child's particular needs	100%	-
The school takes into account my suggestions or concerns	93% (-1%)	7%
The school leadership team is effective (Mr Henderson, Miss Burkinshaw, Miss Midgley, Miss Anderson and Mrs Longden)	98%(+1%)	2%
The Headteacher is involved in the life of the school, engaging in pupil activities and with parents	98% (+5%)	2%
The Headteacher is accessible to parents/carers if needed	98% (+9%)	2%
Governors are accessible to parents/carers if needed	76% (-10%)	24%

Unfortunately, many of the negative responses were nameless, so it is hard to tackle the problems that may be occurring on a personal level. I will attempt to address points raised below. Any named parents with concerns will get a personal letter from me explaining our school viewpoint, and inviting them to come and share their thoughts and allow the opportunity to change practice. We see this as an opportunity to grow – we do not always do everything perfectly, and we always want to learn and become even better.

Here are the comments from parents. My response is in italics, and where 'I' is used, it is coming from me, Mr Henderson.

I have found that even if my child does well at a competition, it is the same few children who get the rewards particularly in the Bulletin and egg competitions. It seems that the children of the governor's have an unfair advantage over other children in that respect.

*It is a shame that you hold this view. I can talk very strongly from a school perspective that no governor's children are favoured in any way for any competition. Is there a chance governor's children will get picked for events or for prizes? Absolutely. Is there a chance they have been picked for an ulterior motive? Absolutely, categorically not! Every decision is on merit, and in fact for the egg competitions they have been judged externally – this year Miles Salter judged the competition. Work in the Bulletin is also on merit, chosen by the class teacher as good examples of work, not on who writes it.*

I would like to see staff members taking full responsibility for their actions to ensure that matters are fully resolved. Ignoring serious issues doesn't make them disappear - it merely makes children and parents alike unhappy.

*I certainly agree with the sentiment attached to this comment. Any member of staff involved in our school stakes their own personal volition to be here because they know what we stand for. Our school vision statement, agreed by all parents, children and staff is still: Aspire, Believe, Succeed – Together We Achieve. We are a team, and, try as we may, we do sometimes make mistakes. Any mistakes that are made can leave members of staff very upset as they personally feel like they have let people down – no one that works here ignores a serious issue. Things can sometimes get confused, or situations can arise, but never from a position of a staff member ignoring or not taking responsibility. I am sorry that in your case it feels like this has happened, but I hope you have spoken to us about it and feel like things are now moving forward. If not, I implore you to get back in touch with me and we will ensure things are moving forwards.*

Continuous bullying/unfair play on the playground especially when playing football -affects my child and others too.

*There are always members of staff on the playground to address issues, and football is generally very well managed, as it is on a rota basis for the ball court. Of course it can raise tensions, as can any competitive sport, and it can cause arguments between players, especially on the losing team. No one has complained to me about bullying in relation to football, and we have had no children tell teachers they are being bullied when playing football. If there is a long-standing conflict between children, and it isn't resolved, it is often because I haven't been told. This can occasionally result in an angry parent coming into school and saying, "I have had enough of my child saying this." When I ask why you didn't tell me or a teacher there was an issue, the usual response is, "We didn't want to...we thought it would go away," or something along these lines. If a child has been harassed and a parent has contacted me, I always ask parents to re-contact me if there is a reoccurrence, and I often ring them up periodically just to check in. If a child bullies he or she has broken the school rules and will face the consequences, but there has to be a rebuilding of relationships to ensure repetition does not occur.*

We are really pleased with the progress that the school is making, as well as that of our child. Thank you!

Great school!

Can't wait for my youngest to start – other 2 love it!

Great vibe when you're in this school, enjoy coming in. Like new emphasis on sport too and getting newsletters emailed to me is bonus - thanks all staff for your hard work, and Mr Henderson for pushing school forward even more.

So good – it just feels like a nice community to be involved in.

I have been in for school dinner three times – really enjoy coming in.

My child absolutely loves it – has come on lots since last school.

Fab!

We are currently allowing all of our pupils to complete their questionnaire too. When we have the full set of these results we will publish them for you to see. The children in KS2 have already completed it and the response so far is extremely positive. However children always point out things that adults miss. We are very keen to work with children, and with the school council, to address any issues they raise before the summer holidays.

Together with the governing body, we will attempt to ensure that governors are as accessible as possible, and that you all know who the governors are. There is a governor page on the website currently, and in our newsletters we will focus on a governor each time, allowing them the opportunity to talk about themselves so that you can begin to build up an idea of their role, who they are and what their responsibilities are.

As for the questionnaire results in general, you can see that the vast majority of areas have improved in terms of your opinions of the work we do. It is particularly pleasing to see that all parents that responded feel the standard of teaching, communication, support and individual needs being catered for is consistently excellent. We will always strive to reach the highest possible percentage, but we do view it as a partnership. We cannot be an amazing school without your help. As I mentioned in one of the responses above, we are all human. Sometimes things happen that we could have done better, but we always try our very hardest to make sure that the same mistake is never repeated. We are learning all of the time, and the fact that the positive response (with a larger proportion of parental responses) is generally growing, I believe means we are building together the foundations of the 'great' school we aspire to be.

## Christmas Production

I realise it seems like years ago now, but we have not forgotten the filmed performance of the Christmas production. We have had a few technical difficulties to put it lightly, and our issue with DVDs seems fixable but not immediate. What I would like to suggest, for those that would like the film sooner rather than later, is that you send in a USB stick that has the capacity to take on a file that is 1.2GB in size. We will transfer the film and this will allow you to access it on your home computer, and to transfer to DVD should you wish to do so. We still have to cover the cost of the license and filming fees, so getting your edited copy of the film would still require a fee, however this can be done this way for around £2 per copy, which is slightly cheaper than having a DVD.

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Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

**I enclose a USB stick to transfer the Christmas production to, and £2 to cover the cost of filming and license fee.**

**I agree and understand that the video is not for posting online – it is only for personal/family use.**

Signed (parent): \_\_\_\_\_

## Enjoy some family time

From everyone here at school, we hope you enjoy some family time over the Easter period, and that everyone has a safe and happy holiday. See you on April 12<sup>th</sup>!

