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Learning Together, Believing Together

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Friday 18th September 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is really fantastic to have all the children in school; especially our wonderful new Hedgehog children. A warm welcome once again to Lily-May, Millie, Alfred, Sylvia, Joshua, Susannah, Edith, Phoebe, Scarlett, Seb, Beatrice, Mollie, Ciaran, Albert and Violet who have joined Hedgehog Class. George who has joined Badgers Class, Cara and Luca who have joined Foxes Class and George who has joined Owls Class

Harvest Festival

On Thursday 24th September we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival; weather permitting at St. Mary's Church. The service will start at 9am and the children will walk back to school after the service. It would be wonderful if as many families as possible could join us and help the children celebrate the importance of Harvest. The theme for this year's Harvest Celebration is 'Wisdom'. The Class Teachers will need help chaperoning the children across the fields back to school after the service. **If you are able to help with this please speak to your child's Class Teacher by Monday 21st September. All children need to be dropped off at St Mary's Church at 8.45am ready for the start of the service. No children are to come straight to school as all teachers will be at the church.**

This year the school and the church are collecting donations of non-perishable foods. Any generous donations will be divided between the Lewes and Uckfield Food Banks. All next week there will be a box in the reception area for the collection of these items; please give generously.

Take One Picture

The children have started the school year with the learning journey 'Take One Picture'. The children are currently studying the painting by Thomas Gainsborough and the younger children have been digitally recreating it! The current literacy focus is highwaymen due to the age of the painting and the clothing worn by Mr Andrews. The children in Key Stage Two will be visiting The National Gallery to view the painting in November. We will also be inviting parents into the school on Friday 23rd October to help us celebrate the children's learning throughout the learning journey.

Learning To Read Following A Phonics Approach

On Thursday 1st October Miss Stocker and Miss Eaglen will be leading a phonics workshop to demonstrate to parents how the school teaches children to read using the phonics approach. They will also be showing some really useful tips to help your child with their reading development at home. Reading is essential for a child's literacy development and is the foundation for writing.

Timings of the School Day

The school gate is open to children from 8.35hrs every day and the school doors open at 08.45hrs; **children must not arrive earlier than 8.35hrs as the school cannot be responsible for them before this time.**

It is expected that your child arrives at school on time every day.

School Dinners

School dinners now cost **£2.03** per day; please ensure that your child has sufficient money in their **named** container if they are having a school lunch. Your child may be entitled to a free school meal; please see our office staff to confirm if you are eligible. **Please remember all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two are all entitled to free school meals as part of the new government initiative.**

Break time Snacks

Due to a lack of demand we will only be providing bagels on Thursday mornings.

School Uniform

Thank you for getting your children ready for the new school year. They look very smart in their uniforms. Please can I remind you that, as stated in our prospectus, we ask that our children wear sensible, dark coloured shoes to school; **trainers are to be worn for PE sessions only.** It would be helpful; too, if you could ensure that all items of clothing are marked with your children's names. In addition to their PE kit all children should be provided with an art shirt/apron.

PTA

The PTA are really keen to find more parents who would like to get involved and support the school with fun fundraising opportunities. If you are a parent of a child new to the school or someone who now has a little more time; please contact Mrs Hatchard on 01273 410990.

Job Vacancy

The school kitchen is looking for a part time General Assistant. The hours are 10.15 am to 1.45 pm, Monday to Friday (term time only). If you are interested in applying, please pick up an application form from the school office. The closing date is Friday 25th September.

Potential Housing Development - Have Your Say!

If you live in Barcombe you will have received a questionnaire about housing with the September Parish Magazine. Your responses to this will affect the way in which Barcombe develops in the future. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey - the Parish Council would like as many individuals as possible to participate - as a parent/carer of a child at this school your views are important.

Additional copies of the questionnaire can be found at the village shop. Alternatively you can complete it on-line - by clicking on the following link. <http://www.barcombe.net/bpc2/>

Best Wishes.

Mr S James
Head Teacher

