



HALLING

Primary School

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15th October 2021

Important Information – Whole School Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow – already we are at the end of our first full term back at Halling and what a term of fun, laughter and learning we have all had! It was great to see so many of you at our Open Classroom last week and we know the children enjoyed sharing their learning and classroom spaces with you.

Today we had our usual Friday Celebration Assembly and it was so great to see our youngest children – Owlets and Ducklings – joining us for this special celebration. It's hard to believe they have only been with us at Halling for a few weeks; already they are settled and happy in their day-to-day learning!

PTA – Thank you! 😊

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to our PTA for organising last night's **disco** for the children. The children all had a great time and, fantastic news, almost £800 was raised at this event to benefit our children at Halling.

PTA Prize Donations

Do you know of a local business or do you own a business? If so, our PTA are kindly asking for donations of prizes/vouchers for our Christmas Fair. Please do spread the word within the local community! Thank you.

School Dinners

As you know, we are delighted that our hot meals have now been brought 'in-house'. Donna, Janice and Debbie are simply amazing, but they really do need your help please! If your child is having a school dinner, it must be **booked on School Comms by 08:00** please in order for your child be able to choose from the menu. If your child is not booked for a dinner on School Comms by 08:00 and they do not bring a packed lunch to school then, unfortunately, they will be only be able to be served what is left on that particular day. Thank you in advance for supporting Donna and her team. The menu can be found on the school website: [MENU](#)

Staffing Update

It is Mrs French's last day at Halling today and she will be very much missed by us all. This morning in assembly, we all wished Mrs French good luck on her next adventure and gave her three very loud cheers!

Next term, we have three new members of staff joining 'Team Halling'. Mrs Katie Fielden and Mrs Lisa Stephen will be our new Teaching Assistants and Mrs Shannon Hayes will be working as part of our Lunchtime Team. We would like to say 'Welcome' to you all!

Events Next Term

So as not to bombard you all today, on the first day back next term, a letter will be sent updating you on a number of special events next term as well as our diary dates, including our Christmas events.

'Have Your Say' Meeting

Thank you again to all those people who attended the 'Have Your Say' meeting recently! I have attached the minutes of the meeting which do include some important updates and information – so please make sure you have a read!

Compassion • Integrity • Thankfulness • Respect • Resilience

Parent Survey

After a busy few months, I thought it would be beneficial for us as a school to gain some insight into your views about various aspects of the school at this moment in time. I have therefore organised for a parent survey to be sent out today at 4pm. The new system will send an email to the main address we have on our system for you to complete. It only takes a matter of minutes, but also gives you an opportunity to leave any comments. The surveys are anonymous, but if you would like to add your name then please do! (More information on the surveys can be found in the minutes of the 'Have Your Say' meeting)

BBC Children in Need

On Friday 12th November, children may come to school in their own clothes for a donation on the gate and Miss Stoner is organising a Bake Sale as follows:

After the success of our NHS rainbow bake sale we are excited to announce on **Friday the 12th November** we will be holding a **Children in Need Bake Sale**. If you would like to bake the theme this year is **ANIMALS** as chosen by the children. Like last time, there will be small prizes to be won and we can't wait to see your designs! To ensure you don't miss out on any information please read the FAQ's below:

Frequently asked questions:

I would like to bake what do I need to know? Like Paul Hollywood we are looking for 12 individual cupcakes/brownies/biscuits or flapjacks with no soggy bottoms! As much as we love big cakes it is hard for us to cut up and serve quickly on the day so individual small cakes are best. Please remember we are a **no NUT/SEEDS school**.

Where shall I bring my contribution to in the morning? Please bring your cakes in a disposable named container with your child's name and class name on to the school hall (breakfast club) at drop off on 12th November.

Where can I buy cakes at the end of the school day? You can buy cakes in the school hall once you have collected your child/ren please make your way through our one-way system at the breakfast/after school club entrance buy your goodies and exit out the school hall.

How much will cakes cost? Cakes will vary from **50p to £1** each. We ask that you please bring in exact money to help out our student volunteers.

How can I help? We would love it if you would like to support us on the day - if you feel that this is something you can do please speak to myself Debbie Stoner (Pastoral Lead) either on the school gate or drop me an email to the office. Teachers will bring your children round to the hall at home time so you don't have to worry about pick up! We will need adults in from 2pm to help us set up.

We look forward to seeing your cakes and thank you for your support in advance.

Thanks Debbie Stoner (Pastoral Lead)

Parent Consultations

Following the October Break, formal parent consultation meetings with your child's class teacher will be scheduled after school on Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th November. Further details will be sent during the first week back and an online booking system will be set up.

Finally, please do go and see the 'scarecrows' on the playground at the end of school today. This is Halling's entry for a local competition which has been created with the help of Mr Harrison, Mr Gillett, Miss Finch and Miss Bahia's Art Club.

Thank you for your support as parents and carers in what has been a truly amazing term. We hope to see you at our Firework Display on Friday 29th October.

Best wishes,



Mr Tim Muggridge
Executive Headteacher



Halling Primary School

“Have Your Say” Meeting

Minutes from 7th October 2021

It was amazing to see so many parents and carers at our first meeting; thank you all so much for giving up your time. We felt the meeting was really productive and the discussions were so valuable. Below are the minutes from our discussion points.

Agenda Items:

- **Car Park: After School**

Parents and carers raised the issue of the safety aspect of cars being in and around our car parks during pick-up time. It was therefore agreed that after half-term, the procedures at the end of the day will mirror those at the beginning of the day: the gates will be shut and supervised by one of the Site Team. Those parents and carers who need to drive into the car park will be issued with a badge to indicate that they have agreed this with the school.

- **New School Uniform Provider**

The issue around the quality and the length it takes to receive goods was raised. It was agreed that we will continue with the same provider. However, we will look into having an additional provider, for example, M&S, so that it gives parents and carers an element of choice.

We will also look into buying the school badges to sew onto uniform, as this may also give parents and carers an alternative way of purchasing uniform, going forward.

The PTA's second-hand uniform stall was also brought up. This was well-received and will be running again. However, it was thought that it might also be beneficial if there were a clothes rack in Main Reception on certain days of the week for parents and carers to come and purchase uniform. We thought that this was a great idea and will therefore be discussing this further with the PTA. We will, of course, let you know the finer details when we have them.

- **Timings of “Have Your Say” Meetings**

The timings of our meetings were discussed. It was agreed that the next meeting would be after drop-off again, but that we would gauge parent and carer thoughts on running an evening meeting in the new year. It was asked if our meetings could be held on different days of the week, as some parents and carers can make some days and not others. This makes perfect sense so we all agreed that this would be the case.

- **Timetable of Events**

It was raised that there are a lot of events coming up so parents and carers need to know of these well in advance. We therefore agreed to draw up a timetable of events to send to parents and carers. The school mobile app will be updated as well as the school website.

- **Social Media**

Parents and carers raised the question of which social media platform we are using. Twitter is our main platform for all things ‘learning’ and regular news updates for parents and carers: @HallingSch

Facebook is now being used by Miss Stoner (Pastoral Lead) to provide updates on safeguarding and wellbeing: [Halling Primary Pastoral Support | Facebook](#)

- **Number of Letters Being Sent Out**

The number of letters that have been sent out recently was discussed. There has been a lot in recent weeks, however this has mainly been down to new initiatives and updates. That being said, it has been agreed that letters will have an initial line informing parents whether the letter is for: General Information, Information About an Event or Club or Important Information. This will hopefully aid parents and carers with prioritising the letters that are sent out.

- **Parent and Carer Survey**

We realise that it has been some time since the school has sent out a parent and carer survey. Therefore, we will be sending out a survey at the end of the week. Going forwards, we will send these out more frequently during the academic year - approximately every three months - to gauge parent and carer views and opinions. It was discussed that when parents and carers do answer the questions, that they should think about how they feel now and not how they have felt in the past. Ideas and suggestions about the future would also be warmly welcomed. The survey will be anonymous, however, if a parent or carer wanted to write their name, they could do so in one of the comment boxes.

Other News:

- **EYFS**

We are investing a large sum of money into our Early Years Foundation Stage - Year R. A new hardstanding canopy is going to be installed, along with a new gate to let the children into the outside area. The area next to the EYFS building has had the container removed and will be developed into an exciting area for the children to explore and learn in.

- **Reading**

We are having a huge push on developing a 'Love of Reading' this year. Each year group has a new reading area which has had any damaged books removed and replaced with new reading books. If parents and carers have any books that they would like to donate, that would be wonderful! These can be dropped into the main office - thank you!

- **Road Crossing**

We have been told that a new road crossing patrol person will be interviewed and in place 'very soon.' As soon as we know any additional information then we will, of course, let you know.

- **Upcoming Events**

We have some really exciting events planned for the remainder of the academic year. Some events will be new and some will be reinvented now that we are able to invite parents and carers back into Halling! First up is our Firework Event. If you haven't got your tickets yet, then I do urge you to do so soon as we do have a limit on how many people can attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our next "Have Your Say" Meeting will be on Monday 6th December 2021 at 09:00 and a reminder will be sent nearer the time.