


Dear Parents and Carers

Hello / 

Welcome back to the new term, didn't the holidays fly by and now we are in a heat wave! Rest assured we have done everything in our capacity to ensure the children are safe whilst they are in school with the soaring temperatures. The children have been sensible and drinking water and sitting in the shady areas of the school grounds. **Mr Walker** who works with the **junior children**, has been teaching **Key stage 2 [KS2]** at lunchtime how to throw javelins rather than run around chasing a ball. Although I know the **Year 6** children will be excited to know that football will commence next week.


Meanwhile in the **Early Years**, we welcome our new **Preschool children** and **Reception children** to the Hartford Community. How wonderful it has been to see them eagerly attend their induction sessions. They have all been extremely brave to come into school independently and explore their new surroundings. I hope that you were able to see our Facebook reels showcasing the environments across both schools earlier this week. If you want to see **click here**.

Next week, we have organised the SchoolCloud '**Meet the Teacher**' meetings, these are an *extra* parent consultation that we offer in the Hartford Schools above the usual meetings in Autumn and Spring and the annual reports. This is an opportunity for *you* as the parent and first educator to share pertinent information with the new class teacher, similar to the Home School visits that Reception and Preschool children have had. We look forward to hearing about your child's strengths and barriers and how we can continue to work in partnership with you to bring out the best in your child.

School appreciates that some of you were disappointed that these were not face to face meetings however, I have a duty of care to look after the wellbeing of all staff, scheduling 30 ten minute sessions after a busy school day can be best facilitated when they can work from home which School Cloud allows them and then they are able to see their families and meet with you. However, we are interested in your opinions, so please [click here](#) to tell us more about your thoughts on future **Parent Consultations**.

I am immensely proud of the children and grateful to the staff for a positive first week. Have a lovely weekend.
Best wishes Rae Lee [Headteacher]

This month we are learning to use **Makaton** signs to communicate key words to each other. We learnt 'school' this week. Ask your child if they can share the action. Alternatively infant children can rewatch the [Assembly video](#) on the school [YouTube channel](#).

Food / 

A reminder to **everyone** that across both schools including the Preschool we have a **NO NUTS IN SCHOOL** policy. Due to severe reactions that many of our children have we must stress the importance of no nut products being brought in to school in any capacity.


Please ensure that all children in **KS2 [Year 3, 4, 5 and 6]** bring only **fruit** or **vegetables** as a **healthy snack** to eat at break time. We are sourcing some free fruit for the children but currently can only offer free fruit to the **infant children** and **bagels** across all schools.

Please only send your child in with **fresh water**, **not** flavoured or juice. We do monitor the children but have had incidents where a child has accidentally drank from another child's container. Due to allergies and being a Healthy School which follow the NHS Guidelines we implore you to support us. Many of you say your child doesn't like plain water, I can assure you that this week the taps across the schools have been regularly used to fill up bottles and cups for those that have not brought in a bottle. **Trust us and support us please to keep everyone safe.**

Physical Education [PE]/



Each week the children will have a **PE Session** in the **Infant School** and at least 2 sessions in the **Junior School** [1 of these this half term for **Year 4 children** will be a swimming lesson]. Please ensure your child comes to school appropriately dressed for their active lesson that could take place outside on the field or playground. School expects all children to wear the following:

Indoor	Outdoor [in addition to the Indoor Kit]	Jewellery
White/dark blue or black T-shirt (plain, no logo) Black/Blue shorts (plain, no logo) Black , white or grey socks Black or white trainers (plain colours only)	Black or dark blue tracksuit trousers Plain, dark, single coloured sweatshirt (black , navy , grey).	Please ensure that long hair is tied back for health and safety reasons and earrings and other jewellery are removed. Staff cannot take earrings out of children's ear lobes. If your child can't take their earrings out independently, please provide a head band so that their ears are covered. 

Please note, **hoodies** are **not** acceptable for school uniform or PE uniform.

We expect all pupils to dress according to the **uniform policy** in the **Infant** and **Junior** School. We encourage our **Preschool** children to wear our uniform too.

Please see the respective school websites [[click here for infant](#) and [click here for junior](#)] for the **uniform policy**. The children have all looked smart this week and it has helped across the schools for them all to feel a part of the team. Please ensure that all left over Summer nail varnish, temporary tattoos,

Staff /



We are excited to welcome new staff to our school. We are delighted that **Miss Gill Vierstraete** [AKA 'Miss V'] has started teaching in **Willow Class** in **Year 4**. In the **Infant School** we welcome **Mrs Betsy Hammond** in **Year 2** supporting the class in their learning each day.

We have an abundance of **vacancies** across both schools. Please [click here](#) to find out more information. We would welcome qualified, enthusiastic members of our community to apply and join our teams. **Please we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share in this commitment. The successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced DBS check and two positive references.**

Elsewhere we are looking for **volunteers** and have tried to speed up our induction for people to be able to work with the children in school. If you would like to hear children read, offer a club or help out at the **Infant school Forest School Sessions**, do come and find me on the playground for next steps. How exciting!

We are also very chuffed that **Mrs Sarah Everett** in **Year 3 [Chestnut Class]** has recently been appointed as **The Cam Trust Diversity Lead**.

Dates for the Diary/



'Meet the Teacher' Meetings	All schools except Preschool and YR	Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th September	For all Parents/Carers of Key Stage 1 [Years 1 and 2] and Key Stage 2 [Years 3-6] children. A chance to talk to the new class teacher via School Cloud about your child's strengths and barriers. Click here to School Cloud to book your appointment in the Junior School. Click here to School Cloud to book your appointment in the Infant School.
Swimming	Year 4	Wednesday 13th September	Year 4 [Willow and Holly Classes] will be embarking on their swimming sessions, every Wednesday afternoon this half term.
Year R Full Time	Infant school	Monday 18th September	We welcome all Year R children [Class 1 and 2] to attend school full time.
'Park Life' Walk	Key Stage 1 [Years 1 and 2]	Tuesday 19th September	All KS1 children will walk to the local park as part of their Sparky Start about the community in which they live. We always welcome adults from home to accompany us on this morning adventure [9.15am - 11.30am]. Please see your child's class teacher to register an interest in walking with us.
Bikeability	Year 5	Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th September	All Year 5 children who have registered for this exciting opportunity will be practising their skills.
Harvest Festival	All Schools	Wk beg Monday 9th October	We invite all families to contribute to our Harvest Festival.
Individual Photographs	All Schools	Monday 9th October	All children will have a photograph and the opportunity for family photographs with siblings.
Disco	All Schools	Thursday 19th October	Our PATHS [Parents and teachers of the Hartford Schools] will organise a disco in the school hall. PLEASE NOTE THIS WILL BE A TICKETED EVENT.
Half Term	All Schools	Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October	All children have earned a break from school, we only ask that you keep up the reading with them.
Kingswood	Year 6	Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November	Our Year 6 [Pine and Sycamore Classes] will be off to Kingswood in Norfolk for the week. Please look out for more information about Parent Meetings and forms to complete.
End of Term	All schools	Thursday 21st December	End of the Autumn Term from 3.15pm.
Spring Term	All schools	Monday 8th January	All children in Year R through to Year 6 start at 8.45am

Sendiass /



We are excited to share the following information with you: **Tiff Christian** who is the **Parents' School Preference Adviser** for Cambridgeshire, as part of the **SENDIASS** team, has recently been appointed after a long period of vacancy and would be happy for you to contact them:

Choosinaschool@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Preschool

This week, **preschool** have opened their doors for the new term, teachers were very excited to meet the new children and they have all been amazing! We explored the classroom and have been getting to know each other, the click clack car tracks, mud kitchen and sand tray were a big hit! They also enjoyed playing with some frozen sea creatures inside, the children explored ways of getting the creatures out and made a start on learning new vocabulary for example 'frozen' 'melting'. **Next week**, we will look at our five core songs and our first core book 'Dear Zoo'.

Reception

This week in **Class 1 and 2**, we have been welcoming the children into school for their first sessions. They have enjoyed exploring the classroom and gardens and getting to know the children and adults in our setting. We have shared stories, sang songs and rhymes and had fun getting used to new routines together! **Next week**, we will be building up to full days in school, exploring the rest of the school site and beginning some phonics and maths sessions together as whole classes!

Year 1

What a busy and amazing week in **Class 3 and Class 4!** We have investigated our new classrooms and the garden area. The children have been learning classroom routines and becoming familiar with lessons which will continue with a more structured timetable. **Next week**, we are also excited about PE and Forest School:

Class 3: Forest School Wednesday & PE Thursday

Class 4: PE Wednesday and Forest School Thursday

Year 2

This week, in **Class 5 and 6**, the children have been busy showing us all about them. This has included self-portraits, sentence writing and pictograms. They have learnt how to spell numbers as words up to 100. It has been lovely getting to know them and lots of numbers in boxes have been given as they have followed the Golden Rules. Well done Year Two! **Next week**, we look forward to seeing them bright and early on Monday ready to start our new text in English 'The Journey' and place value in Maths.

Class 5: Forest School Friday & PE Monday

Class 6: PE Friday and Forest School Monday

Year 3

This week in **Beech and Chestnut Classes**, the Year 3's settled in well and are starting to get use to the routines at junior school. In English, we started our class novel, 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe'. In science, we started our unit animals including humans and focused on eating habits and discussing the pros and cons of sugar in our diets. In singing assembly, the children sat and sang beautifully, giving their best efforts. **Next week**, we will be starting PE which will be **Monday and Friday for Beech class and Thursday and Friday for Chestnut**. A polite reminder to make sure your child brings in a healthy snack, labelled uniform items and a labelled water bottle.

Year 4

This week in **Holly and Willow Classes** we have begun perimeter work in maths. We loved measuring the perimeter of different shapes using our feet! In English we have been exploring the features of recounts and reading 'Boy Overboard', which is set in a country very different to ours. **Next week**, we will be going **swimming on Wednesday**, please ensure your child has their swimming kit at school and no earrings on that day please. (One piece swimsuit or trunks, towel, cap, goggles if your child uses them). We will also be planning our own recount and extending our understanding of perimeter.

Year 5

This week **Oak and Ash Classes** have had a great start to the new school year. 'The Nowhere Emporium' is our class book and we met the characters. In maths we have looked at negative numbers; what do they mean and how to read them on scales/number lines. We have spent time thinking about how we can be the best versions of ourselves. **Next week** we will have **PE on Wednesday and Thursday**. Most children have library books now so please can they read at home. Practising times tables is always very helpful and the children have had paper copies of spelling words.

Year 6

This week in **Pine and Sycamore Classes**, we have enjoyed learning about our new responsibilities as Year 6's. We started to read the 'Secret Garden' in English, and next week will start our writing based on a film unit. In maths, we have begun to look at algebraic structures, exploring the relationships between parts and wholes. We have enjoyed our first humanities lessons, looking at California in geography and the ancient city of Baghdad in history. Finally, in science we began our topic on light and will apply this knowledge next week to our first experiment. The children have shown real maturity this week – what a wonderful start to their last year at Hartford. Our **PE sessions are Tuesday and Wednesday**.

Hartford Infant and Preschool & Hartford Junior Newsletter 1 8.9.2023

