

CAGE GREEN NEWSLETTER

"FOR EVERY CHILD TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL"

September 2016



Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Welcome back to a new school year—I hope you all had a wonderful summer break. I'm sure you would agree it has been a very busy summer especially on the sporting front. The achievement of our Olympians in Rio was exceptional - to out perform a country thirty times bigger than ourselves and pip China to second place in the medal table was quite unexpected. As I discussed with the children on Monday in assembly, this is a clear example of how our futures depend on the choices that we make each day.

I would like to offer a warm welcome to all our new parents who are now starting what I trust, will be a rewarding association with the school.

The school year started in earnest for a selection of our Year 6 children who sat the Grammar school selection test on Thursday - it was a very intense day and I wish all the children the best of luck come results day. Once the results have been published on Thursday 13 October (letters to arrive Friday 14 October) parents/carers then have up to 31 October 2016 to complete the Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) naming up to four secondary schools in order of preference. The SCAF can be found online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola. Can I please ask that all Year 6 parents/carers complete a SCAF otherwise your child will be left without a secondary school come national offer day. Wednesday 1 March 2017 is national offer day and online applicants will receive an email stating the school your child has a place at - paper applicants will receive a letter the following day. I will be available if parents/carers would like to discuss any issue they have with the process.

I know many of you are aware that Mr Hall has been unwell over the last term and we were hoping he would return in September. Unfortunately his health hasn't allowed him to be with us but we are hoping he will return on the 1 October. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Mr Hall a speedy recovery.

One other change this academic year will be the introduction of four Acting Assistant Headteachers - Mrs Cole, Mrs Creed, Miss Russell and Miss Wilson will become part of the Senior Leadership Team who will ensure the school continues to move forward. Attached to the newsletter is a flyer that introduces you to members of our Pastoral Team. Further information relating to the pastoral support team will follow soon. I feel this service is quite unique to Cage Green and feel very proud that we are able to support parents in this way.

Free School Meals

As you may or may not know all children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal regardless of income or eligibility for benefits. By receiving free school meals you can save over £400 a year as well as your child eating a healthy, balanced meal every day. With this in mind could I please encourage parents/carers in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to sign up for a school meal even if after a week you and your child decide to revert back to packed lunches. Children who are now in Year 3 will only receive free school meals if they meet the criteria and register. Please check with the school office. Otherwise lunches need to be paid for at £2.20 per day.

Pupil Premium

In this financial year, schools will receive £1320 extra for every primary-aged pupil registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years. Even though all infants receive a free school meal as detailed above, parents/carers still need to make an application for Free School Meals. Children don't have to take our meals if they don't want to but, if they are on our Free School Meals register, then they qualify for all sorts of other financial benefits throughout the year.

When a child is on our Free School Meals register, the school receives extra money for that child which has to be spent on raising achievement of free school meals children. This extra money is called the 'Pupil Premium' and its purpose is to ensure that children from low income families, service children and adopted children are not at a financial disadvantage during their education as a result of home circumstances.

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"FOR EVERY CHILD TO

Page 2

How to register for Free School Meals

In order to register your child to receive Pupil Premium you will need to go to the following website and follow the instructions:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals> or www.cage-green.kent.sch.uk (Home page/Register for free school meals from the left hand menu.)



Alternatively, you can print a paper registration form from the website or collect one from the School Office. If you would like assistance or advice the school will be happy to assist.

'Meet the Teacher'

The first opportunity to meet your child's class teacher will be at 3.30 pm on Monday 19 September for Years 1 and 2, Wednesday 21 September for Years 4, 5 and 6 and Thursday 22 September for the Phoenix Centre. This is an informal meeting to give parents/carers the opportunity to see the child's classroom and discuss any issues. The class teacher will also be explaining the expectations, curriculum and timetables for the forthcoming year. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will supervise the children on the playground at this time.



Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be held in early October. **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6's** performance will take place on **Friday 7 October** at **St Peter and St Paul's Church** in Tonbridge. The performance will begin at 10.30 am and can I please ask parents/carers not to enter the church until 10.15 am to allow the children to rehearse. **Years 1 and 2's** performance will take place on **Wednesday 5 October** in the school hall and begin at 9.30 am. Parents/carers are more than welcome to attend both performances. Our Reception children will be singing at Penruddock House and donating Harvest gifts to the elderly residents.



Clubs

A Club Options list for Terms 1 and 2 (this cycle runs from Monday 19 September to Friday 9th December) was sent out on Wednesday. Therefore can I please ask parents/carers to complete the form alongside your child to ensure they are available to attend the club on a regular basis. If your child is successful in gaining a place then we would expect that child to attend most weeks. If for any unexpected reason your child doesn't want to attend anymore, please let the club leader know and the place can be allocated elsewhere. Please note your child can sign up to as many relevant sports clubs as they wish.



As in previous cycles, we have been able to secure a number of specialist coaches who are willing to run a club. Due to the expertise they offer, there is a small charge for these clubs. Payment for these clubs is to made direct with the relevant coach/company (contact details are on the Clubs Form).



Next newsletter will be published on Friday 7 October 2016.

Yours sincerely

G Garthwaite

