



Hookstone Chase Primary School
Hookstone Chase, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 7DJ
Telephone: 01423 886026 Fax: 01423 881453
e-mail: admin@hookstonechase.n-yorks.sch.uk
Headteacher Miss Ann Wheatcroft

8th September 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the Autumn Term and a new school year. I hope that you and your family had a lovely summer holidays and enjoyed some time together. It has been wonderful to see all the children again and hear their news from the summer. Thank you for ensuring that the children look so smart in their school uniform.

A particularly warm welcome to our new children and their families, we have forty six children in Reception as well as a few children across the school. We look forward to working with you all and hope that you will be very happy at Hookstone Chase.

I would also like to welcome Miss Chamberlain who has joined our team as a Teaching Assistant in Horse Chestnut Class. In addition, we send Mr Gray our congratulations on his marriage during the summer holidays.

We have an exciting year planned which will culminate in our 50th Birthday Celebrations in the Summer Term. I have already had some offers of help from various parents which are really appreciated. We are hoping to plan a celebration event for the children in school as well as an occasion for families and past pupils, parents and staff who I am sure will be impressed with the new extension. This will take place on Saturday 30th June, please keep the date free!

I am sure that the children will settle into their new classes and enjoy their new learning. Sometimes it does take a little time which is understandable after a long holiday; but I expect that they will be very tired after this weekend! If you have any concerns please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. Class Teachers' will be sending out Curriculum Newsletters in the next week.

After responses from the Parental Questionnaire, we have revised the Homework Policy which will be placed on the School Website next week. There is a clear focus on reading, spelling and mental arithmetic as well as a termly homework challenge. However, this will be set over a period of 5 weeks, with the half-term holiday in the middle, to give parents more time to work together (especially where there are a number of siblings in a family) and to give a choice whether or not to complete it during the holidays. Homework is an area that always divides opinion, but I hope that we have taken into account parental views from the questionnaire.

Attached to this letter are 'Dates for Diary 2017 – 2018' which I hope that you will find useful for forward planning. Copies of all letters sent home are put on to the school website for your information and spare paper copies placed in the letter rack in the main entrance.

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Holidays During Term Time

As explained at the end of last term, holidays during term-time should not be taken and parents may be fined and issued with penalty notices if their child is absent for 10 or more sessions during the year (1 session is half a day) for unexplained or unauthorised absences.

Year 6 Test Week is from Monday 14th May to Thursday 17th May. It is essential that all Year 6 children attend school during this week.

I look forward to working together this year and thank you for your continued support. Please let us know if circumstances at home have changed which may affect your child's wellbeing. It is through working in partnership that we can make the very best provision for the children.

Wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely

Ann L Wheatcroft
Headteacher