

☎ 01622 859261  
Fax: 01622 859372  
Email: [office@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk)  
[headteacher@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.harrietsham.kent.sch.uk](http://www.harrietsham.kent.sch.uk)

Headteacher Mrs Jackie Chambers



Harrietsham Church of England  
Primary School  
West Street  
Harrietsham  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME17 1JZ

*Nurtured We Flourish*

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## Important Information for September

Dear Families,

We have a some very important updates for you all, which I am including within this letter. I **urge you to please read this letter carefully** and ask if you have any questions.

Contents:

- School Day in September
- School Uniform in September
- Term Dates for September
- September classes (including staffing changes and transition information)

Mrs Chambers  
Headteacher

### **School Day in September**

The Government advise that every child should be entitled to a minimum of 32.5 hours a week primary education. This equates to 6.5 hours a day. Our school day currently runs 5 minutes short of this requirement each day, which amounts to 25 minutes a week. For this reason, and as per guidance, we are extending our school day by 5 minutes from September 2024.

Our new school day times will be as follows:

Gates Open: 8:30am  
Gates Close: 8:50am  
End of Day: 3:20pm

You will see that although we are closing the gates 5 minutes earlier, to meet the Government requirement, the period of time that the gates will remain open will be longer, and so we are hopeful that this will help with traffic outside of school during the morning drop-off.



Silver



## School Uniform in September

Thank you to all families who completed our Active Uniform Survey. We have considered all responses and comments. It was clear that with 79% of all entrants voting for active uniform in some of our year groups, this is something that you as families really value. We also can see the benefits of Active Uniform to promote independence and resilience for our younger children.

For this reason, we have decided that from September 2024 all children in Years R, 1 and 2 will have the option to wear Active Uniform. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will need to wear our standard school uniform.

Please see below for further details of our school uniform for next year:

### Optional Active Uniform for Years R, 1 and 2 next year (no separate PE kit is needed):

**\*\* Please note Reception children are able to wear our traditional school uniform if they wish to.**

- Plain black leggings or jogging bottoms (unbranded) / sports shorts for the summer.
- Plain / Harrietsham emblem (optional) white polo shirt.
- Maroon sweatshirt / cardigan **with Harrietsham emblem**.
- Plain black trainers / plimsols / suitable shoes every day.
- White, black or grey socks.
- Book Bag (Harrietsham emblem optional – no ruck-sacks please).

#### **PE Kit:**

- House coloured PE T-Shirt for PE days.



### Traditional Uniform for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 next year:

- Grey school trousers, long shorts, skirt or pinafore.
- Plain / Harrietsham emblem (optional) white polo shirt.
- Maroon sweatshirt / cardigan **with Harrietsham emblem**.
- Red and white checked summer dress (optional - Terms 1, 5 and 6)
- Plain black school shoes.
- White, black or grey socks or tights.
- Book Bag (Harrietsham emblem optional).

#### **PE Kit:**

- House coloured PE T-Shirt.
- Plain black sports shorts.
- Plain black leggings / joggers.
- Plain black or white trainers.



Next year, school uniform with logo's will be supplied by Monkhouse and Brigade. More details can be found on our website here: [Uniform | Harrietsham Church of England Primary School](#)

## **Term Dates next year**

Our INSET days next year will fall as follows:

2.9.24

25.10.24

6.1.25

2.6.25

4.7.25

Inclusive of INSET Days, next year's term dates are as follows:

Term	Start Date	End Date
1	<b>3.9.24</b> (INSET Day: 2.9.24)	<b>24.10.24</b> (INSET Day: 25.10.24)
2	<b>4.11.24</b>	<b>20.12.24</b>
3	<b>7.1.25</b> (INSET Day: 6.1.25)	<b>14.2.25</b>
4	<b>24.2.25</b>	<b>4.4.25</b>
5	<b>22.4.25</b>	<b>23.5.25</b>
6	<b>3.6.25</b> (INSET Day: 2.6.24)	<b>22.7.25</b> (INSET Day: 4.7.25)

## **Staffing in September**

We have a few exciting staffing changes to make you all aware of for September.

With the appointments of Mrs Evans to the Inclusion Leader post and Mrs Masterson to the Business Leader post, our Leadership Team next year will consist of:

**Mrs Chambers**  
**Headteacher**

**Mr Gambell**  
**Deputy**

**Mrs Griffin**  
**Pastoral Leader**

**Mrs Evans**  
**Inclusion Leader**

**Mrs Masterson**  
**Business Leader**

Sadly, this means we will say goodbye to Mrs Powell, who has been an amazing Interim Deputy Headteacher at the school for half of this year, and who has done a great job of covering the SEN Leader role in more recent times. Mrs Powell is moving on to become an Acting Headteacher and we wish her all the very best for the future.

### **We also have a few 'Goodbyes' to say to some of our teaching team:**

Mrs Turnlund is moving on to teach in a new school. Mrs Turnlund will certainly be missed by us all: she has had a positive impact teaching in Butterflies. Although sad to be leaving, she is exploring pastures new in the private teaching sector.

Miss James has an exciting future ahead of her as she is going to travel the world! We are all very excited for her, but we will miss her lots, and we are sure that she will move back into schools again on her return, hopefully as a SENCO. We thank Miss James for her impact in school through her leadership of Maths and for her work with inclusion.

Mrs Love has been a great temporary teacher for Year 4, Badgers, this term and we will miss her cheery face around school. We wish Mrs Love all the very best for the future.

Mrs Bott has also got an exciting year ahead of her as she welcomes the birth of her 4<sup>th</sup> child – a little boy this time. We look forward to seeing Mrs Bott back with baby in tow very soon.

### **With all sad 'Goodbyes' come some exciting 'Hellos' amongst our teaching team too:**

We are very excited to welcome Mrs Giannini, Miss Spain and Miss Niblett-West back from maternity leave. Mrs Giannini has already begun her return, Miss Spain will be returning later this term, and Miss Niblett-West is hoping to return in November, in time for Term 2.

We are also very excited to welcome three new wonderful teachers to our team in September. Miss Pittam, Mrs Pickering and Miss Frazier will all be joining our team in September and we are so excited to welcome them to the various transition events this term too.

## Planned transition for next year

We are getting very excited within school currently and looking forward to our next school year. We wish to ensure that your children are well prepared for this important transition.







Please see below for details of the transition programme which we intend to put into place for your child:

- Teacher and LSA Meeting time for teachers and LSAs to hand over key information about children to the next teacher.
- Pastoral and SEND handovers with the Pastoral and Inclusion teams.
- Transition booklets created for all children.
- Pre-transition, informal visits from new teacher for children with specific needs.
- **Whole school transition days:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July.  
For these days, all children will attend their new classes with their new teachers and LSAs. Drop off and pick up will be from the children's new classrooms.
- **Open Classrooms for parents to meet new teachers:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

## New Class Names next year

We have reviewed, as a team, our class names for next year. As you know, our school Biblical story is the story of the mustard seed (Matthew 13, 31-32) *'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches'*. In light of this, we thought it would be pertinent for our classes to be named after British birds.

Next year, our classes will be named as follows:

<p><b>Year R:</b></p>  <p>Ducklings</p>  <p>Cygnets</p>	<p><b>Year 1:</b></p>  <p>Wrens</p>  <p>Kingfishers</p>
<p><b>Year 2:</b></p>  <p>Sparrows</p>  <p>Jays</p>	<p><b>Year 3:</b></p>  <p>Woodpeckers</p>  <p>Robins</p>
<p><b>Year 4:</b></p>  <p>Nightingales</p>  <p>Swallows</p>	<p><b>Year 5:</b></p>  <p>Eagles</p>  <p>Kestrels</p>
<p><b>Year 6:</b></p>  <p>Herons</p>  <p>Hawks</p>	

## New classes for September

Please see below table for information about your child's new year group:

### EYFS and Key Stage One:

Your child's current Class	New Class Name	New Classroom	New Teacher	New Year Group	New Year Group LSAs
	Ducklings	Old Ladybirds room	Mrs Smith (Thursday + Friday) Miss Spain (Monday – Wednesday)	<b>R</b>	Mrs Tipple Mrs Morris Ms Ward
	Cygnets	Old Butterflies room	Miss Ashwood		
Butterflies	Wrens	Old Squirrels room	Miss Thorne	<b>1</b>	Mrs Jones Mon – Thurs Mrs Jackson Mrs Humphreys
Ladybirds	Kingfishers	Old Hedgehogs room	Mrs Walker (Monday – Thursday) Miss Niblett-West (Friday)		
Hedgehogs	Sparrows	Old Dormice room	Miss Frazier	<b>2</b>	Mrs Manser
Squirrels	Jays	Old Rabbits room	Ms Kelly (Monday – Thursday) Mrs Frost (Friday)		

### Key Stage Two:

Your child's current Class	New Class Name	New Classroom	New Teacher	New Year Group	New Year Group LSAs
Dormice	Woodpeckers	Old Robins room	Mr Saye (Thursday + Friday) Mrs Giannini (Monday – Wednesday)	<b>3</b>	Miss O'Donnell Miss Glenday Mrs Nichols/ Mrs Kent
Rabbits	Robins	Old Dragonflies room	Miss Pittam		
Robins	Nightingales	Old Foxes room	Miss Roberts	<b>4</b>	Miss Parker
Dragonflies	Swallows	Old Adders room	Mrs Wells		
Badgers	Eagles	Old Kestrels room	Mrs Stroud	<b>5</b>	Mrs Keggans Mrs Bullet
Foxes	Kestrels	Old Badgers room	Mr Walker		
Lizards	Hérons	Old Owls room	Mrs Pickering	<b>6</b>	Mrs Finch
Adders	Hawks	Old Lizards room	Mr Hyder		