



# Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Jackie Chambers  
Deputy: Mr Jon Gambell  
Chair of Governors: Mrs Rebecca Emson



*Nurtured We Flourish*

☎ 01622 859261

Email: [office@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk)

Website: [www.harrietsham.kent.sch.uk](http://www.harrietsham.kent.sch.uk)

## September 2024 – Welcome Back

Dear Families,

I hope that you have all enjoyed a lovely summer holiday and this glorious weather that we have been having.

The staff at school have been busy tidying and sorting classrooms, organising resources and planning fun lessons for your children's return.

Within this letter, I have included some key pieces of information for you all which I wanted to share ahead of our return to school. The links contain important information, which we hope you will find useful.

### **Welcome Back Video for the Children:**

The staff have prepared a 'Welcome Back' video for your children to enjoy. Please do share this link with them...

[Welcome Back Video: September 2024 | Harrietsham Church of England Primary School \(secure-primariesite.net\)](#)

### **School Day in September:**

Please be reminded that our school day will start 5 minutes earlier in September. New times are as follows:

Gates Open: 8:30am

Gates Close: 8:50am

End of Day: 3:20pm

### **Term Dates:**

Term dates for the year can be found here: [Term Dates | Harrietsham Church of England Primary School](#)

### **Dates for Families:**

We have gathered together as many provisional dates as possible for school events this year. This is with the aim to give our families as much notice as possible to be able to attend these events, should you wish to. Please do be aware that these dates are **provisional and may be subject to change**. Any changes will be communicated as soon as possible. We may also add more events throughout the year. Again, these will be communicated as soon as possible.

These dates can be found at the bottom of this page: [Term Dates | Harrietsham Church of England Primary School](#)

All Term 1 dates have also been added to our Parent Calendar here: [Calendar | Harrietsham Church of England Primary School](#)





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## **Parent Information Sessions this term:**

We have planned Parent Information sessions for each year group.

The dates of these are as follows:

**Year 6:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 3:30 – 4:30 in Mr Hyder's Classroom.  
**Year 5:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 3:30 – 4:30 in Mr Walkers Classroom.  
**Year 4:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 3:30 – 4:30 in Miss Robert's Classroom.  
**Year 3:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 3:30 – 4:30 in Miss Pittam's Classroom.  
**Year 2:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 3:30 – 4:30 in Ms Kelly's Classroom.  
**Year 1:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 3:30 – 4:30 in Mrs Walkers Classroom.

## **Forest School Days for each year group:**

Please see timetable towards the bottom of this page: [Forest School | Harrietsham Church of England Primary School](#)

### **Please Note:**

- On Forest School days children must come to school wearing old suitable clothing (children may get muddy):
- Children will need long trousers (due to long grass, we try to prevent nettle stings and ticks) and wellies or old trainers.
- Children must bring with them a complete change of clothes and shoes to change into if they get wet or muddy, this includes socks and underwear. Children are reminded to change underwear in the toilets where it is private.
- On wet days, children will need waterproof clothes, coats and trousers and wellies – school have limited spares.
- On hot and sunny days, children should have sun cream applied before coming to school. They should bring with them a water bottle and hat.
- On cold days, children should be dressed in layers - warm hats, scarves and gloves.

## **Max – Our new School Dog:**



As you know, my dog, Max, had his assessment last term to check that he is suitable to be a school dog. I am delighted to say that he passed with flying colours! Max will now be coming into school for various days each week to visit the classrooms and to work with the children. Any interactions that the children have with Max will be very controlled; Max will be on the lead at all times and the children will be taught how to interact with him appropriately. At times, Max will also be on the school gate to meet and greet the children. Please be aware that Max is very much still learning the ropes – he definitely likes to bark and he will not be completely used to crowds yet, so if he is on the gate, please do encourage your children to say hello, but also to give him some space.

For information about Max, and to see his Risk Assessment, please see here:

[Meet our School Dogs | Harrietsham Church of England Primary School](#)

Please do reassure your children that Frodo will still be in school as he usually is – he is very much looking forward to helping to teach his younger friend the ropes!





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## Some interesting outdoor projects:

We are delighted that we have extended the school boundary over the summer holidays. The mound at the back of the school has been removed and the fence line has been moved. This will eventually (once the grass has grown!) provide a grassed area which our children will be able to safely access every day during playtime and lunchtime.

Photos of this project can be found at the bottom of the page here: [OPAL \(Outdoor Play and Learning\) at Harrietsham | Harrietsham Church of England Primary School](#)

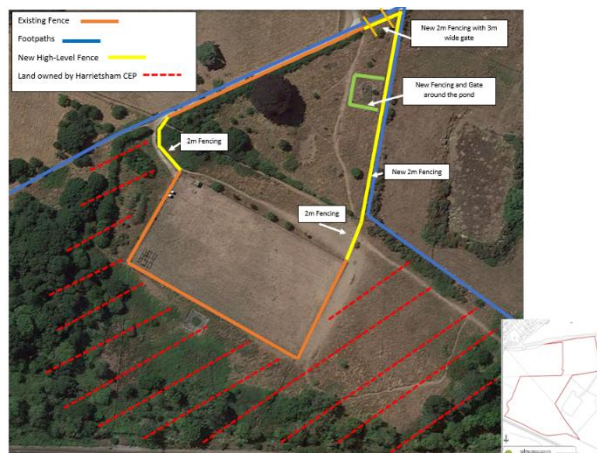
## Finally – some great news!

In addition to this, we have had some great news that our application to divert the public footpath which runs right through the middle of our Forest School can be diverted. This will now allow us to create a new path along the edge of the Forest School and fence in the school's space so that the site is secure for our children. This will also now mean that we can look to develop the area into a proper Forest School as any projects completed will be secure from vandalism.

This is such wonderful news as it means that access to the Forest School and school field is now secure and safe – what a wonderful resource for our children!

To do this, though, we need your help to **FUNDRAISE** for the fencing....

You can see the scope of what is needed on the 'Land Layout Masterplan' here: [Forest School | Harrietsham Church of England Primary School](#)



## Sponsored Walk – Are you coming?

Please do come along to our **Sponsored Walk on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September**, or donate towards the cost of the fencing here: [Crowdfunding to Raise funds for our forest school and outdoor learning.](#)

**In addition, if you are aware of a business who may be willing to sponsor this huge but essential project for our children, please do let me know.**

Many thanks for taking the time to read this information. We are really looking forward to seeing you all on 3<sup>rd</sup> September at our new time of 8:30am.

Kind regards,

**Jackie Chambers**  
Headteacher

