



# Huntingdon Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

## Newsletter – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016

We have had a fantastic first half term of the new school year. All the children have continued to look smart in their school uniforms, worked hard and have produced some excellent work. Over the half term holiday, I was privileged to meet Prince Harry again at the Community Recording Studios in St Ann's. Prince Harry was visiting the Full Effect Project which includes some of our children run by Epic. I took part in a discussion about the positive impact the project is having on our children.

### **Working with Hogarth Academy**

I have been asked to support the Acting Headteacher at Hogarth Academy, another school within the L.E.A.D. Academy Trust temporarily. I will be working at Hogarth two days a week. Ross Middleton will step up as Head of School during this period. We are able to give this support because there is such strong team of staff at Huntingdon. Working in close partnership with another school, as we did a few years ago with St Ann's Well Academy, will also benefit Huntingdon with the exchange of teaching ideas.

### **Consultation to expand Huntingdon Academy into a two - form entry school from September 2017**

As you know over the last three consecutive years we have taken an additional class in Foundation Two (Reception) to accommodate extra children for the Local Authority. L.E.A.D. and the governing body would like to consult with you about changing the school to a two-form entry school (two classes in every year group) from a one-form entry school (one class in every year group). I will be sending out a consultation paper in the next week.

### **Bicycles**

It is great to see that children are cycling into school. As promised we have purchased a bicycle shelter where bicycles can be locked and kept safe. Please talk to your child about not cycling on the school premises as this is potentially hazardous to others, they should get off their bicycles at the entrance and walk round. They will need to bring a bicycle lock to keep their bicycle secure.

### **Resolving Issues**

Over the last half term, we have had some incidents between parents trying to resolve issues concerning their children in school. The most effective way of resolving issues is to come directly to the class teachers, who are always available at the end of the school day and will be able to give you a full picture of what has happened. We always endeavor to inform you quickly if there has been an issue in school, if you are still unhappy after speaking to your child's class teacher, please come to the school office and they will arrange for you to see a member of the leadership team.

## **Attendance**

As you are aware we, at Huntingdon Academy, closely monitor children's attendance. We have high expectations with regard to children attending school. We firmly believe that for children to achieve their very best, they need to attend regularly. We expect that your child's attendance to be at least 96%, however we are aware that sometimes children can be poorly; and remind you notify the school why your child is off and where possible provide medical evidence so that school can authorise the absence. Melanie Jago our attendance and family liaison worker will be in touch with you about any unexplained and regular absences, this will enable a discussion about how we can support you in improving your child's attendance, to avoid triggering a referral to the Education Welfare Service who may take legal action. On 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2016 Education Welfare implemented a new referral criteria; which schools must adhere to:

"Any pupil with 10 sessions of unauthorised absence over a rolling 10 week period (10%) must be referred to the Education Welfare Service. This can include lateness after the register has closed and unauthorised holidays or just consist of unexplained or unacceptable reasons for absence".

If you need any clarification on this referral process, Melanie is available in school Mondays, Tuesday and Friday mornings.

If your child's attendance drops to below 90%, or has unauthorised absences it is very important that you understand the new referral process, so please do not hesitate to contact Melanie about any concerns that you may have.

## **Pokemon Go**

I mentioned in my summer newsletter about the potential dangers of the global sensation smart phone app Pokemon Go, such as walking into vehicles and being led down dark alleyways. As the nights are drawing in, I would like to reinforce how you can help your children remain safe by:

- not having their phone out while in busy or unlit areas, which could make them a target for thieves;
- being aware of their surroundings to avoid risks or dangers, especially around roads;
- take an adult or older sibling with them and always tell you where they are going.

If you would like further information please look on the NSPCC website.

## **School Dinners**

Please remember if you pay for school dinners, these need to be paid for at the school office on the Monday of the week the meals are taken, between 8am and 3.15pm. This ensures that your payments are up to date and avoids the need for us to send letters for overdue amounts. The cost of a school meal and pudding for Key Stage Two children is £1.70 per day – this equates to £8.50 per week.



## **Reading Morning**

Thank you to all those who have attended reading mornings in the lower school this week. The school was buzzing with activity and I know that the staff and your children loved sharing their reading with you. Key Stage Two reading morning is on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, please join us!

## **Dates for your diary**

### **Reading Mornings**

KS2 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Children in Need on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### **Christmas craft mornings**

KS1 Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

KS2 Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

EYFS Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### **Christmas dinners**

KS2 Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016

KS1 & EYFS Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### **Christmas concerts**

KS1 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December

EYFS Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December (2pm-3pm) and

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> (9.00am- 10am)

KS2 Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December

### **Christmas parties**

F1 (am children) party in pm

F2 parties PM

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Key Stage 1 parties

KS2 Christmas Activity

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December

F1 (pm children) party in am

Class Hamper Raffle draw

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumper Day will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

Thank you for your continued support.

Teresa Shrestha  
**Headteacher**