HARLAXTON C of E (Controlled) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lincolnshire County Council

SWINEHILL, HARLAXTON, GRANTHAM, LINCS. NG32 1HT

Tel: 01476 561077

E-mail enquiries@harlaxton.lincs.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Sheriden Edwards

Thursday 3rd September 2026

Welcome back

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to a new school year after what has been a lovely summer, it is delightful to see all the children back in school. Welcome also to our new Reception children, new children in many of our other year groups and the new families joining us this year, we look forward to getting to know you all and welcoming you into our Harlaxton family.

Starting a new school year is a change of routine and you may have some questions or need some information, please contact the office via phone or email and we are happy to help.

Please send weather appropriate clothing for your child, this could be sun hats (apply sun cream before sending your child to school) or raincoats. Children do go out to play in all weathers so please send them well prepared.

Universal Free School Meals

The Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme is continuing, this provides **all** children in reception to year 2 a free hot meal.

Free School Meals

If you think that you would be eligible for free school meals because you are in receipt of certain benefits, it is important that you tell the school because it means that your child has access to more resources, free trips and other benefits. Please contact the school office if you require further information.

Parentmail

If you are reading a paper copy of this letter, please make sure that you are signed up to our parent mail service before the end of the second week. All our correspondence is now electronic and it is important that we have a current and up to date email address for you. If you do not have the up to date parent mail system, please contact the school office.

Dates for your diary

We will be writing to you again with diary dates. Here are a few already this term:

11th September Swimming starts for Year 4
18th September PGL information evening 3:30pm at Denton or 5pm at Harlaxton
6th October Open day for prospective families 9:30am-5:30pm and current families 3:30pm-5pm
12th October planetarium visit Year 5 and 6
30th September and 1st/2nd October Year 5 and 6 PGL residential
12th October Flu vaccinations
19th October photo day for individual photos
29th September Harvest festival 1:30pm (Reception, Year 1,2 and 3)2:30pm (Year 4,5 and 6) in church. All welcome.
23rd October Last day of Term 1
2nd November First day of term 2

2nd – 5th November Year 5 Bikeability
4th November Guy Fawkes day Year 1 and 2
6th November swimming starts again Year 4
8th December KS2 (Year 3,4,5,6) Christmas carols in church at 2:30pm. All welcome.
4th December last swim for Year 4
Reception and KS1 nativity details to follow
18th December End of term 2

Lunchtime clubs
Lunchtime clubs are free to join and do not require a permission slip or email confirmation.

	Lunchtime	Year group
Monday	Crafts club in the wellbeing hub	Key Stage 2
Tuesday	11+ (starts after half term)	Year 5 with Mrs Edwards
Thursday	Choir	Year 2-6 with Mrs Edwards
Wednesday	Crafts club in the wellbeing hub	Reception and Key Stage 1

After school clubs
After school clubs are available £5 per session and a whole term must be paid for in advance to register. These will start week commencing 14th September and more information will follow. Registration and payment will appear soon through parentmail.

	Afterschool 3:30-4:30pm	Year group	Club start date
Monday	Comic Book Club (10 limit) Miss Burch	3 and 4	14th September
Tuesday	Mixed football (15 limit) Miss Tyne	Year 5 and 6	15th Sept. Term 1 only
Wednesday	Netball (20 limit) Christine	4,5,6	16th September
Thursday	Art and DT club (10 limit) Mrs Wellbourne	Year 5 and 6	17th September
Friday	Running club (15 limit) Mrs Harper	Year 5 and 6	18th September

If a club is oversubscribed, we will let you know and your child will be kept on a waiting list.

Attendance
From August 2024, the Government introduced new rules which are intended to reduce unauthorised absences in schools and thereby improve school attendance.
Head teachers can continue to use discretion to authorise absences in 'exceptional circumstances' but all holidays or leisure time (for whatever reason) may not be authorised by head teachers. "*Generally, the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.*"
All Local Authority schools will be obliged to issue a fine when a pupil misses 10 or more school sessions (for unauthorised reasons). A session counts as either a morning or an afternoon session therefore 10 missed sessions is equivalent to 5 full school days missed. The 10 or more unauthorised sessions must be within a 10-week rolling period. The fine amount is increasing to £160 if paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 when paid within 21 days. There is an introduction of a flat rate of £160 for a second penalty notice within a three year period and not allowing more than 2 penalty notices, after which an alternative route (e.g. prosecution) will be considered instead as the penalty is clearly not working.

For other absences including hospital appointments and sickness, please contact the school office by **9:30am at the latest** so that your child's absence can be recorded accurately. **We will follow up unexplained absences daily and may need to conduct a home visit if we are unable to contact anyone who can confirm the absence.** Please note that parents choosing to keep their children at home will have the absence recorded as unauthorised.

For further guidance please see the attendance policy which is available on the school's website.

Uniform

It is expected that all children wear school uniform including black shoes. If your child cannot wear the school uniform for religious, medical or health reasons, please let us know in writing so that we can make a record in your child's file. Please note that your child will not be able to participate in PE lessons, including swimming, if they are wearing any jewellery. If your child wears ear studs and cannot remove them themselves, please send them to school without them. Taping over ear studs is not acceptable.

Equipment check list: (please do not bring anything not on the checklist) Please do not put juice or flavoured water into water bottles. **Only water is allowed in classrooms. Children may bring juice in a lunch box which is kept in their locker and can be consumed at lunchtime with their meal.**

- Coat with hood
- PE kit with indoor and outdoor clothing, socks and trainers (to be in school on a Monday and remain in school for the week)
- Lunchbox (with juice drink inside the box) ordered lunches will be distributed to children daily
- Water bottle for the desk containing water only
- Children should **NOT** bring in equipment from home such as pencil cases etc
- Children in Reception to year 2 are provided a fruit snack at breaktime. For children in years 3-6 and those wanting to provide their own snack please ensure this is a healthy fruit snack. Crisps, biscuits and chocolate bars are not allowed.

Reading, House points and the School Library

This year we continue with our house point system to encourage good learning behaviour using our school values and an extra guaranteed house point may be earned if your child has at least 4 signatures per week from their parent / guardian to confirm they have read at home or had a book read to them.

Children will continue to have access to reading books and there will be increased opportunities for reading in class.

We will continue to encourage more reading at home with the presentation of a small prize to each child who gains 10 house points in their reading record book. They also can have they photos taken to display on our reading display. Reading is a gateway to learning. Please encourage your child to read their reading books at home or they may prefer to read other reading material you already have at home or to have a book read to them. All this is valuable for your child in helping them to read and enjoy reading.

Please sign your child's reading record book each time they read with you or if you read to them.

4 signatures per week = 1 house point

10 house points for reading = prize

Our School Values

This year we continue our scheme of work for the Personal, Social and Health Education part of the curriculum. Each term a different area of learning will be introduced to the children with the aim that they adopt these values as a lifestyle choice and become the confident leaders of tomorrow. This is an aspirational and fun scheme it aligns with our school vision and values. Any child displaying behaviour associated with one of the values may also be eligible for a house point!

Our school vision is:

With God, together we can Learn, Encourage, Aspire, Respect and Nurture.

And the child grew strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him Luke 2:40

We believe in a collaborative approach – developing the whole child by developing the whole community together. As an inclusive church school, we use positive and consistent expectations to help all members of our community to flourish. We work towards achieving excellence in all we do, and we recognise the value of everyone in our school and seek to enable all to become agents of positive change in the world.

Parking

Many of you arrive at school in a car and I realise that you would like to park as close to the school as possible. Please park legally and courteously. Please note that it is illegal to park on a road junction or on, or opposite yellow zigzag lines. Parking wardens do patrol the area and issue fines for illegal parking in the school safety zone. Please do not obstruct residents' right of access to and from their property or use their driveways to turn. Please be aware when parking that the school bus requires access to Church Street. Please help us to keep our children safe.

The following is a communication we have been asked to pass onto parents:

Welby GROUP

Cleveland · Swingbridge · Welby · New Coningsby

To the Parents and Guardians of Harlaxton Primary School,

Subject: Important Notice – Please Do Not Use Harlaxton Surgery Car Park

We are writing to you as the team at Harlaxton Surgery with a serious concern regarding the continued unauthorised use of our car park by parents during school drop-off and pick-up times.

Unfortunately, we have seen a growing number of parents using our car park to drop off or collect children from Harlaxton Primary School, or as a turning circle. This behaviour is creating multiple problems:

- **Risk to Elderly and Vulnerable Patients**: Many of our patients have mobility difficulties, are elderly, or are otherwise vulnerable. The additional traffic during peak school times presents a real safety hazard.
- **Damage to Property**: Improper use of the car park has already caused hundreds of pounds' worth of damage. This includes damage to kerbs, signage, and vehicles.
- **Impact on Patient Services**: Continued misuse of the car park may lead to increased maintenance costs, which could have a financial impact on the services we are able to provide to our patients.

Please note that the car park is for **surgery patients only**. We must ask all parents to refrain from using it for any reason unless you are attending a medical appointment.

We appreciate the pressures of the school run, but we ask for your full cooperation to ensure the safety and well-being of our patients and staff, and to help us protect the resources we need to deliver care.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

Jodie Knight
Group Executive Manage

Start times
It is important that you arrive at school promptly. The gate opens at 8:45 for children in Year 2,3 and 4 to line up in the playground. At 8:50 children from Reception, Year 1, 5 and 6 are escorted into school to begin their day. The school day ends at 3:25 for Reception and other year groups are released at 3:30pm

Wrap around care
If you would like a place in our breakfast or afterschool club please use the online booking system on parentmail. All bookings must be made at least 24 hours in advance. If you require a booking with less than 24 hours notice, please **phone** the school office to check availability **however we cannot guarantee a place at short notice.**

PTA
Our PTA are still working magnificently behind the scenes. Meeting information will be available soon.

Website
Please keep popping onto our school website, which we will keep as up to date as possible and the class pages will be our main vehicle for communicating with you in the event of a school closure.

Contacts and permissions
It is vitally important that you let us know any change to your contact details. Please contact the school office if any of your contacts details or secondary contact details have changed. This year we will not be reissuing permission requests for internet access, photographs, or trips and visits within the local area. We will assume that the consent you have given previously applies to this year as well. If you would like to change any aspect of that consent, please contact the school office.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs S Edwards
Headteacher