Dear Families,

Happy Friday!

You will be aware that strike action has not affected our schools again this week and this would appear to be the case next week as well. That said, it is important to understand that prospects nationally, for school funding are very challenging at the moment and our schools are feeling the difficulties in a profound way. One of the main topics at the root of the strike is this funding issue and unions are re-balloting their members. Strength of feeling across the profession is growing and I cannot guarantee that our schools will remain unaffected going forwards. Should a member of staff choose to exercise their right to strike, I will not merge classes or cover that class with a cover teacher. I recognise that may inconvenience families and I apologise for this in advance but thank you for your support and understanding should this occur.

In other news, I have a couple of dates for you. Our leaver assemblies will be as follows: Thursday 20th July at 9am in church for our Warthill children and at 2pm the same day at school for our Sand Hutton children. Sports’ Day will be June 19th with the reserve date of 26th June (the following Monday). There will be a change to the previous format and therefore this is the date for both schools. The mixed age group activities will take place in the morning on the school site where your child attends school. You are welcome to attend, should you wish to do so. For the races, we have decided to get together as a federation, on the field at Warthill, for a number of reasons.

* Secondary Schools, and we feed to so many, are having more and more transition days and these are on days which are not co-ordinated with one another. This makes finding two separate dates where I can attend and all year 6 pupils experience their final Sports’ Day are limited.
* Mrs Drysdale and Mr Holmes deliver the vast majority of PE sessions across the schools and having them on a Monday afternoon would allow them to plan, deliver and practice in their sessions as well as run the event on the day.
* The cost of the coaches for both schools to attend swimming is making swimming something we might like to ask for contributions next year and if we can raise some money with refreshment for this event, we could reduce the cost from the budget further.
* The increased number of children in the races would introduce a more competitive element in contrast to the gentler morning activities in mixed age groups.

We hope that this will be an enjoyable social event. Holding the event on the field at Warthill will allow Warthill pupils to take part in their traditional Year 6 run. Should you be attending for the whole day, you would be welcome to picnic on either field and if you would like to contribute cakes etc towards the refreshments, please contact your school office.

I must thank everyone who contributed towards the coffee morning at Warthill last Saturday. Lots more work was done to make the site look more beautiful with further plans afoot. Thank you everyone and congratulations to Faye and Maddison for their winning cakes - well done bakers all!

At Sand Hutton Sharing today we said our farewells to Rev Chris and presented him with a gift to remember us all by. We also welcomed Rev Nigel. In addition, the PTA shared their Big Help Out plans and I would like to encourage you to sign up and join the fun: Monday 8th May in the morning.

Just a couple of other bits of news. Class 1 at Sand Hutton has chicks (which you may get the chance to meet if you are attending the Afternoon Tea event). What a treat!

And finally, you may notice a slight change in our letterhead in the near future. Due to the hard work of children and staff- and led by Mrs Darling, the federation has been awarded the Healthy Schools Bronze Award. We are all very pleased! Well done everyone!

Hoping you all have a lovely long weekend,

With every best wish

Beverley Pawson

Headteacher

Sand Hutton and Warthill Federation