



# Harpur Hill Primary School

Trent Avenue, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 9LP

Telephone: 01298 23261 [info@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk)

## NEWSLETTER

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

### Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents/Carers

I can't believe we're coming to the end of another term! Despite it being a short term, we have managed to fit a lot of learning and fun into the term. We have had quite a lot of parent visits and curriculum events – thank you for supporting them. May I also thank you for your patience and understanding during the recent bad weather. Hopefully, with the official start of Spring earlier this week, we will see some better weather.

### **Learning Journey - Curriculum**

Soon after I started at Harpur Hill, we reviewed the Learning Journey and made the topics more cross curricular, as well as including more opportunities to learn about local history and make better use of opportunities that we have in Buxton and the wider Peak District. We have also tried to include global events and news in the curriculum, such as the EU Referendum, Tim Peake's space mission and the US Presidential Election. We now take the children out on more educational visits and have more visitors into school to bring the learning to life. We start every new topic with a big question and ask the children what they would like to learn so they have some responsibility in shaping their learning. We now inform parents/carers of the topics at the end of the previous term and we send home the Learning Journey and post it on our website. The next step for our curriculum is to review the topics again for the next academic year in consultation with children.

### **Skills for Life Awards**

Last year we introduced Learning for Life Awards linked with our school motto. In our assemblies and Collective Worship, we have weekly themes including values and skills that children need for life. We have a termly assembly where children receive a special Headteacher's Learning for Life Award and we invite parents/carers along so you can celebrate your child's success. We have received some very positive feedback about these assemblies and the awards.

### **Annual Questionnaire**

Just over a year ago, we surveyed parents and made some changes as a result of the findings. We would now like to check you are happy with the changes we have made, and gather your views to shape our future work.

Please open the link below to access the questionnaire: [Parent Survey March 2018](#)

## Nursery Survey

Thank you to those parents who completed the Nursery survey. The results were very positive. The main findings are summarised below:

- Parents/carers access different numbers of Nursery hours from one or two afternoons to the full 30 hours
- Parents/carers would like to continue to access this flexible provision to suit their varying needs
- Many parents commented positively about the room and resources.
- An increasing number of parents are accessing the full 30 hours and some wish to do so in the future
- Many parents commented that it is convenient to have Nursery provision on the same site as the school.
- Many parents were complimentary about the friendly and caring staff.
- A few parents asked about transition to school and this is something we will be working on in the Summer Term to prepare those children who are starting school in September.

It is pleasing to have such good feedback after being open for just over 6 months.

If you would like to book a place in our Nursery for September, please contact the school office or email [earlyyears@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:earlyyears@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk). If you know anyone who may wish to access our Nursery, please share our details. We welcome visits from prospective parents.

## Finally

On behalf of all at Harpur Hill Primary School, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school and wish you all a good Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely V Giliker Headteacher

## LEARNING JOURNEY TOPICS FOR NEXT TERM:

Nursery	<b>Dinosaurs and the Jungle</b>
Reception	Our Topic next half term is all about <b>Castles</b> . We will be learning about why castles were built and who lived in them. We will be using lots of story books including George, the Dragon, the Princess and the Wizard by Julia Donaldson to inspire our writing. Towards the end of the term we will visit Pevril Castle and write our own non-fiction information text.
Year 1	<b>What are robots used for and how have toys changed?</b> Children will be exploring robots, making robots and writing robot poems. We will continue to enjoy this topic for a few more weeks (we will update you after Easter about the next Topic: <b>How do we use transport?</b> ). They will also look forward to a trip to 'Sudbury Hall and The National Trust Museum of Childhood' on Monday 14th May. Don't forget we would like to welcome you in for our Robot Making session on Tuesday 10th April at 2.30pm!
Year 2	<b>How has communication changed over time?</b> We will study William Caxton, Morse Code, Alexander Graham Bell and Sir Tim Berners Lee. Texts will be The Hackney Martian by Paul Brown; Stories by the same author - Anthony Browne; How Things Work Lift the Flap book by Conrad Mason
Year 3	<b>What was it like to be a child in Victorian Buxton?</b> We will be reading: Chimney Child by Laurie Sheehan The Walrus and the Carpenter by Lewis Carroll
Year 4	<b>Why are Norman castles certainly not bouncy?</b>
Year 5/6	<b>Were the Vikings always victorious and vicious?</b> We will be reading Viking Boy by Tony Bradman and writing activities along with some outdoor adventures!

## Attendance

We believe that regular school attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available and achieve greater success in life. Thank you to those of you who send your child to school every day and on time. Currently, our whole school attendance level is just below the national average. We understand that some absence may be due to seasonal illness and therefore, hope our attendance will rise in the months ahead. May we take this opportunity to remind you of government policy regarding attendance. Leave of absence may not be granted for holidays during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. These cases will be considered individually, taking attendance levels and reasons into account. We are unable to approve requests for leave of absence for reasons that are not considered to be special or exceptional such as:

- Availability of cheap holidays
- Cheap travel arrangements
- Days overlapping with beginning or end of term

This is government policy and parents/carers who take their children on holiday without permission will incur unauthorised absence for their child. Parents/carers could be issued with a fixed penalty notice and/or court action. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

**DIARY DATES** *Please note: sometimes it is necessary to change dates. The calendar will be updated on the website if any changes are made.*

Date and time	Event	Extra Information
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	'Easter School' for our Year 6 children.	9:00am – 12:00 pm
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Children return to school	
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Year 1 Parent event – Robot Building	2:00pm parents invited to come and help build a robot.
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	Class photographs	
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Team Harpur disco	Star Wars/Space theme Infants 3:45–4:30 Juniors 5:00-6:00 refreshments available
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Lea Green meeting for parents	4:00 pm
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Sudbury Hall	Year 1 children's trip parents advised by letter
<b>14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 6 SATs	
<b>21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	Year 6 residential visit – Lea Green	
<b>Friday May 25<sup>th</sup></b>	School closes at 3:30pm	
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	INSET day	
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Children return to school	
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Buxton Cluster Quad Kids	More details will be sent in separate letter
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Mr Dave Cullen's golf sessions	Lessons for Years 2 - 6
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Summer Fair	5:00 – 7:00pm
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b> <b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b> <b>Tuesday 4<sup>h</sup> September</b>	School closes at 3:30pm INSET DAY Children return to school	



# WORLD BOOK DAY

Due to the snow, we had to postpone this event, however on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March the school was full of fantastic characters from various books. Children enjoyed taking part in different reading activities including reading with different year groups.



## CURRICULUM NEWS

### Year 3 What Makes the Earth Angry?

Year 3 have been exploring volcanoes and earthquakes this term. They found out what causes earthquakes and volcanoes and made some amazing models. Children and families were all shook up by their earthquake experience morning. After the breaking news that there had been an earthquake at Harpur Hill, children worked with their families to write a news report all about what had happened. Year 3 teachers would like to thank all visitors for their enthusiasm and involvement.



To finish their topic, they had great fun erupting the volcanoes using bicarbonate of soda, food colouring and vinegar. Some of the results were fantastic!



### Author Anya Acres visits Year 1



Our Year 1 classes thoroughly enjoyed their visit from author, Anya Acres this week. The children got involved in telling the story 'Ollie discovers the planets' by using actions and props, and they all had many questions for Anya about her role as an author. The children are looking forward to hearing about more of Ollie's adventures in future books!



## Year 4 Easter Story Assembly for Parents and Friends

This term, Year 4 have been learning about Easter. They shared their learning in a special assembly on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. They showed their 'Garden of Gethsemane' models they made in DT and retold the Easter story. Also, this term, Year 4 enjoyed working with a specialist choral teacher from the Kinder Choir. Some of the children performed in a concert with other schools and the choir at the Palace Hotel. They sang some of the songs they had learned in the assembly.

Friends from Harpur Hill Residents Association and the Thursday Group also joined us for the afternoon. A wonderful afternoon was had by all.



## Reading Challenge

Please encourage your child to take part in our reading challenge, which was set two weeks ago. Your child should have brought home a worksheet full of reading ideas. We are looking forward to seeing your photos of Extreme Reading! The children can bring in their completed forms after The holiday, when they can share their reading activities with the rest of the class. We hope that the children have fun over Easter, extending their reading experiences!

## Team Harpur Decorated hard boiled Easter egg competition



A big thank you to everyone who entered the competition. The Governors had an extremely hard task in agreeing with the winners/runners up as the entries were absolutely amazing!





If you have any chess or draught sets you do not require, kindly send them to the school office to help us start a chess club. Thank you.

## SPORTS



Despite a short, snow filled half-term, we've had a very busy time. We've taken lots of pupils from years 3-6 out of school to various events and ran a number of 'before-school sports' sessions to help children practice their sports.

Our year 3's and 4's attended Map Quest in the Pavilion Gardens where they were required to work in small teams of three and collect stamps located throughout the gardens. This was a fantastic opportunity for some of our younger juniors to develop key skills, such as: team work, map reading and problem solving. All five teams completed the course, having great fun along the way.

A team of Harpur's year 5 and 6 children also attended the High Peak School Sports Partnership netball finals. As the Buxton Cluster event was cancelled due to the snow, we were granted a wildcard into the event, meaning that this was some children's first netball match ever!

The children have been working very hard to practice for the event, regularly coming into school as early as 8am on some days to join in training sessions.

Although we missed out on the semi-finals; Harpur pupils gave a fantastic performance and worked hard as a team. Harpur Hill Primary School would like to extend a huge thank you to Kate Hallam for all her help before, and during, the event.

Sam Longden – Sports Coach



# ADMINISTRATION

## Contact Information

If you change your details (telephone, email, address etc.) please let school know as soon as possible, so we can update your child's records.

## Dinner Money

Kindly note all dinner money should be paid to school on the Monday for the week ahead. If we do not receive a payment on the Monday that covers the rest of the week, we will contact you to remind you of your outstanding payment. If we do not receive payment by the end of the week we will request that your child brings a packed lunch until the amount outstanding is received, this is in accordance with our school policy.

If you would like to pay for the whole term 9.4.2018 – 25 5 2018 it will be £70.00.

We have had a few reports of head lice, please check your child's/ren's hair regularly and treat accordingly if you find any lice.

## Midday Supervisors

If you would like to become a relief midday supervisor, please let our staff in the school office know.

## Administration of Medicines

We would like to remind you of the following, Parents/carers should come into school to discuss any concerns or issues they have regarding the administration of medicine. We will work together to ensure that children with medical needs are not disadvantaged.

1. We do not allow children to bring medication into school except as covered by the Local Authority guidelines and the relevant codes of practice.
2. We do not keep any medication for distribution to children, e.g. paracetamol. We do, of course, have first aid kits.

The responsibility for ensuring that children with medication needs receive the correct "treatment" rests ultimately with their parents/carers, or with a young person capable of self-administering his or her own medication (asthma inhalers). Parents and doctors should decide how best to meet each child's requirements. Carefully designed prescribing can sometimes reduce the need for medicine to be taken during school hours or to help avoid unnecessary taking of medicines at school, parents should:

1. Be aware that a three times daily dosage can usually be spaced evenly throughout the day and taken in the morning, after school hours and at bedtime;
2. Ask the prescriber if it is possible to adjust the medication to enable it to be taken outside the school day.

Where this cannot be arranged, parents/guardians should come to school to administer the medicine. If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

Thank you.