



Harpur Hill Primary School

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NEWSLETTER

25th May 2018

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents/Carer,

As we come to the end of another term we have a lot of good news to share and updates. Please check the dates section on this newsletter and our website regularly, as we have another busy term planned after the holiday!

Well done, Year 6!

As in schools throughout the country, Year 6 pupils sat their end of Key Stage 2 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) last week. The children have all worked hard to prepare for these assessments and many of them have been attending before and after school sessions in addition to their regular lessons. During the week, visitors commented on the children's excellent attitude – they were a credit to themselves, their families and their school. Whilst Year 6 assessments are important, they only measure a fraction of what our children are capable of. Everyone in school is proud of our Year 6 children, not just for their achievements in English and maths, but also for their achievement in humanities, sciences, art, music and sport. Many of the Year 6 children also excel in sport and music beyond school and are in clubs and groups, competing in tournaments, representing teams and performing in concerts and shows. Well, done, Year 6 and enjoy your last term with us!

Staffing

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know about some forthcoming staff changes for September. After 15 years at Harpur Hill, Miss Morten will be leaving to take up a new position at Marple Bridge, and Miss Andrew will be relocating to Sheffield. Mrs Smith and Mrs Martland will no longer be teaching a class, but continuing to work at Harpur Hill in a supply capacity. Mrs Brzozowski will be retiring after 13 years at Harpur Hill in July and we will be recruiting a new Business Officer after the holiday. We wish them all the very best for the future and thank them for their contributions to Harpur Hill.

We have recruited a new EYFS leader, Miss Wallace, and Mr Kilgallon will be joining us in Key stage 2 in September. Miss Limb has also returned from her travels and will be back teaching in Key Stage 2 from September. After the holiday, we will be finalising teachers and classes and letting you know more in preparation for our transition week (9th July) when children will be spending two mornings and a whole day in their new classes.

Educational Visits

Some classes have been on educational visits this term and other visits are planned next term. Year 1 have visited the Museum of Childhood at Sudbury Hall, Year 6 have had a great time at Lea Green, and Year 3 had a tour of the Pump Room and learnt about the Crescent. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and grandparents who have joined us on our visits – your help is much appreciated.

Attendance

We believe that regular school attendance is the key in enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available and achieve greater success in life. Currently, our whole school attendance level is 96.11%, which is in line with the national average. Thank you to those of you who send your child to school every day and on time. The Department for Education expects all schools to promote good attendance and reduce absences, including persistent absence. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind and making slower progress and children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary schools.

We understand that some absence may be due to illness; however, I have had a number of requests for term time holidays recently and would like to take this opportunity to update you on government policy concerning authorisation. 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. If your child's attendance levels are below the national average and you have already had exceptional leave granted, then it will be unlikely that the absence will be authorised. 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 co-operation and support.

Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to those of you who responded to the Parent Questionnaire. We have had a very positive set of responses overall and some useful feedback which we will use to improve what we do further. Overall responses are pleasing, particularly those about teaching and progress. Your child's teacher will be contacting you to discuss any individual responses if we feel they need following up. Responses to questions about communication show that parents use a range of methods and text messages are most commonly used. Some parents commented that communication has improved. We have summarised our communication methods in this newsletter and intend to improve it further by introducing a new mobile app. (Please see below)

We have made a lot of changes to homework over the last two years and we received mixed feedback. Some thought there is still too much homework, whilst others commented positively about the range of homework tasks and particularly like having a choice of activities to do as a family. We now provide regular curriculum events and parents appreciate the opportunity to come into school to share their child's learning; however, working parents are unable to attend and this was raised in several responses. In order to address this, we will give as much notice as possible for these events so that working parents can take time off if possible, and extend the invitation to other family members such as grandparents. We hope this helps.

Roof Works, Bollard and Traffic

After half term, work will be starting to upgrade sections of the roof. Work will be undertaken according to DCC risk assessments and disruption to the school will be minimised. Please be aware that for the duration of the work, parts of the staff car park will be restricted and we would ask that everyone takes extra care when driving and parking outside the school and on site. The main car park and drop off zone are for parents/carers to use and parents' cars should not be driven down to the reception. Unfortunately, I have been made aware that parents have been mounting the pavement and driving around the bollard to access the staff car park. The bollard is there to prevent traffic access and keep children safe. Thank you for your co-operation.

Finally... A sunny bank holiday weekend is on the horizon. On behalf of all at Harpur Hill I would like to wish all our families a lovely holiday. Best wishes, V Giliker - **Headteacher**

Mobile App

We are pleased to inform you that our new mobile app is now ready to download and use on your mobile phone or tablet. The app will be another way of keeping you informed about the life of the school and we hope that you will find it useful. We will be communicating with you using the following options in the app:

- School diary (Calendar)
- News
- Newsletters (also includes year group letters)
- Notices

The other menu options include:

- Links to other sites (e.g. the school website and Facebook page)
- Contact details for school
- Settings

In **Settings**, you will be able to set **push notifications** for **newsletters**, **news** and **notices**. We suggest that you limit these to your child's year group (select all those that apply if you have more than one child in school). If you want to, you can also synch your phone calendar with the school diary/calendar (this is **optional** and you will still be able to view the diary/calendar within the app if you choose not to sync it).

The download details can be found below:

Android users

Go to Google Play, search for **School Jotter** or scan the QR code.



iOS users

Go to App Store and search for **School Jotter** or scan the QR code.



Once the App has been installed, type in Harpur Hill (or our postcode SK17 9LP) to find our school (there is a large list in the Jotter App). You will then be asked whether or not you want the App to use push notifications. We suggest that these are set to on if you want to be kept updated as soon as new communication is sent. You can of course, always set these up later from within your phone settings.

Please download and use the new app; it will provide regular and useful communication from school. We will continue to use all our other communication methods as outlined in this newsletter.

Communication Methods:

Following our questionnaire, we would like to update you on the different types of communication and how we use them.

Text Messages – will be used for short reminders and updates and to get messages out quickly if needed e.g. snow

Whole school newsletters – will be sent at the start and end of each term and will include dates, information and updates for parents/carers as well as celebrating good news. We will text you with a link to the website when a new newsletter is available. We will also email and send paper copies to those parents who do not have email.

Individual year group letters – will be sent out to give information about a specific event for a year group e.g. a visit. These will be put on the website and a paper copy sent when we need a reply slip.

Morning and after school chat (Infants) – your child's teacher or keyworker (Nursery) will be available in the classroom or by the door to receive any short information as needed when you drop off or collect your child.

Face to face meetings – you can make an appointment with your child's class teacher at any time to discuss their progress or discuss any issues/concerns. Please arrange through the school office.

Website – lots of information about our school, prospectus, policies, year group information, curriculum etc. We post newsletters and class letters on our website as well as the latest calendar dates.

School Jotter App – please see above. Newsletters, class letters and calendar dates available as an app linked to our website.

Emails – we will continue to email newsletters and other information as required.

Class Dojo (Juniors only) – used to celebrate and reward achievement and can be used for the class teacher to communicate directly with parents as a class or individually.

Tapestry (Nursery and Reception) – used to celebrate achievements and share information between home and school.

Facebook – to celebrate events and activities. This gives parents/carers, extended families and visitors the opportunity to find out about our school

Digital Parenting

Every pupil in school will be bringing home a very informative magazine. This is a safety guide for families. Inside there is advice from teachers, parents and online safety experts on subjects ranging from Virtual Reality to Snapchat. There are plenty of tips from online safety experts, parents and children themselves.

Advice also includes an updated guide to setting parental controls on apps and devices, and information on gaming and keeping children safe while they play. There is also an online version of the magazine which includes live links in the Tools section to make finding out about parental controls even easier.

Year	Next term's learning journey
Nursery	The sea and pirates
Reception	Water we will be learning about water safety, pirates, sea creatures, habitats and mermaids to name just a few. Books - 'Pirates Love Underpants', 'Sharing a Shell', 'Tiddler the Story Telling fish', 'Commotion in the Ocean' & 'The Rainbow Fish'.
Year 1	How do we use transport? Books – 'The Train Ride', 'The Naughty Bus and 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers
Year 2	Let's go on Safari. Would you prefer to live in Kenya or England? Books – 'Maisie's Dragon' by Philippa Danvers and 'For you are a Kenyan Child' by Kelly Cunnane
Year 3	Why do so many people go to the Mediterranean on holiday? Books - 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' by JK Rowling, 'A Midsummer's Nights Dream' by William Shakespeare & poetry from around the world.
Year 4	What makes the Earth Angry? Books - 'The Butterfly Lion & Volcanoes' – National Geographic for kids
Year 5/6	What's so special about Russia? Books - 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid', 'The Long Haul' by Jeff Kinney & 'Own Goal' by Tom Palmer, 'You wait till I'm older than you' by Michael Rosen

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

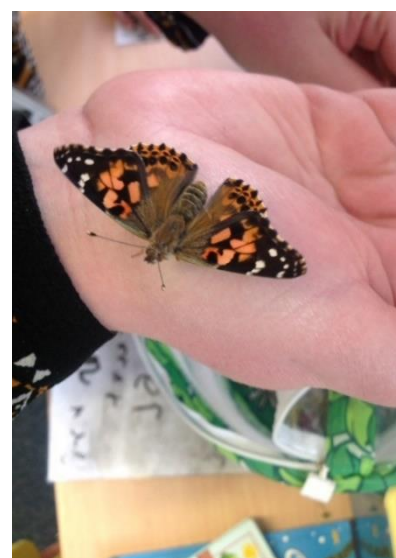
Date and time	Event	Extra Information
Monday 4th June	INSET day	
Tuesday 5th June	Children return to school	
Thursday 7th June	Reception children to visit Poole's Cavern	Parents have been advised
Tuesday 12th June	Buxton Cluster Quad Kids for Years 5 & 6	Details to follow
Thursday 14th June	New intake parents' evening	6:00 pm parents have been invited
Friday 15th June	Brass concert	9:15am parents will be invited
Friday 15th June	Crazy Composers workshop	1:30pm for our year 5 pupils
Tuesday 19th June Wednesday 20th June Thursday 21st June	EYFS sports afternoon KS1 sports day KS2 sports day	Details to follow
Tuesday 26th June	BCS Year 3&4 football competition	Parents to be advised
Tuesday 26th June	New pupils to visit reception class	1:30 – 3:00 parents to be advised
Wednesday 27th June	Swimming awareness assembly	9:00am for Junior pupils
Wednesday 27th June	Year 5 activity day at B.C.S.	Parents to be advised
Friday 29th June	Mr Dave Cullen's golf sessions	Lessons for Years 2 - 6
Tuesday 3rd July	New pupils to visit reception class with an option to stay for dinner	9:30 – 12:00 parents to be advised
Friday 6th July	Summer Fair	5:00 – 7:00pm
Monday 9th July	Pupils to visit their new classrooms	Morning only
Wednesday 11th July	Pupils to visit their new classrooms	All day
Wednesday 11th July	New pupils to visit reception class	1:30 – 3:00pm
Thursday 12th July	Crazy Composers workshop	1:30pm for our year 5 children
Wednesday 18th July	Year 5 & 6 to join in a workshop at the Buxton Opera House, followed by a concert (pm)	Parents to be advised
19.7.2018	Year 6 Harpur Awards	6:00pm details to follow
Friday 20th July Monday 3rd September Tuesday 4th September	School closes at 3:30pm INSET DAY Children return to school	

CURRICULUM NEWS



Reception have enjoyed looking after some caterpillars. We were amazed to watch our caterpillars grow into beautiful butterflies! We made lots of great comments as we watched them grow and change.

We then had an even closer look before we had to say goodbye and release them! What an exciting term in Reception!





Our year 1 pupils had a great time at Sudbury Hall learning about toys.



Thank you to all our helpers who travelled and assisted the pupils during the trip.

Year 1 have been busy learning about multiplication this half term, using lots of different things to help them.



Year 4 have had a fantastic half term learning about the Normans. We made Norman shields and swords as well as finding out about the Domesday Book and the first census. We now know lots about Motte and Bailey castles and know the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings.



Thank you to all of the adults who came into school to help us to make our Norman swords and shields, we really enjoyed having you here!

On May 17th Year 3 had a fantastic trip to the Pump Room in Buxton as part of our 'What was it like to be a child in Victorian Derbyshire?' topic. After a lovely walk down, we were met on The Slopes by a very smart Victorian lady who showed us what the Crescent used to be like and what the area would have looked and sounded like in Victorian times. Inside the Pump Rooms, we dressed up, built lego models of the Crescent and coloured picture of the stained glass window.



Outside the Pump Room, we studied old photos of the area, discussed where they were taken and looked at how things have changed. We then sketched our own picture of what they look like now. We finished off the morning with a sunny picnic in the Pavilion Gardens before walking back to school. The children really enjoyed the whole morning.

We would like to thank the Bingham Trust for funding the trip and Mrs Mackenzie and her team of volunteers for activities inside the Pump Room.



This term in reception, we have been very lucky to be joined by a real Knight to finish our Castles Topic. He showed us Medieval Armour and how to protect a Castle. He even let us have a sword fight to finish the day off!

Lea Green

On Monday 21st May, a group of excited Year 6's set off on their annual adventure to Lea Green, for three days of fun-filled, challenging and exciting activities.

The group were met by their instructor, Dean, who kick-started the trip off with an orienteering activity. This was to get the children familiar with grounds, where they would be staying for the next three days. After lunch, one groups took on the low ropes course, whilst another group did archery and used GPS systems to complete a treasure hunt. It was a very hot afternoon, yet everyone seemed to be having a fantastic time! After a delicious tea (which for pudding was chocolate cake!) the group completed a treasure hunt, where they had to find clues around the house. All very tired, the children retreated to bed at 9.30pm and fell fast asleep.

Waking up bright-eyed on Tuesday morning, and filling their stomachs with spaghetti hoops and sausages, the children took part in another obstacle course: climbing through tyre tunnels, walking on tight-ropes and tackling monkey bars. The children worked fantastically as a team and showed good teamwork throughout the week. Both groups completed the high ropes activity, where they demonstrated good communication and listening skills. The children worked in small groups to guide each other around high obstacles and along wires – over 20 metres off the ground. All the teachers watched in fright, but were very proud of the children for facing their fears!



That evening the children and staff joined forces with another school to play 'Smuggler's Run'. Working cooperatively in teams, the children had to transport cups of water from a bucket, which was hidden at the top of Lea Green, to their base at the bottom. The trick was not to be seen by the guards (the teachers). If they were caught, the children had to complete forfeits. The game was very competitive but was enjoyed by all!

On Wednesday morning, the children woke up rather bleary-eyed but excited for their last day of activities. Ali, one of the Lea Green instructors, took the children into the Orchard for a morning of bush craft. The children made wind-proof shelters and toasted marshmallows over an outdoor fire. After lunch, the children played cooperative games in the Sports Halls, including 'shower tig' and 'mattress surfing'.

The staff were incredibly proud of the children over the three days. Thank you for such a lovely time and what a fantastic way to celebrate finishing your SATs!

Miss Andrew, Mr White and Miss Marshall.



During our school friendship bear's stay with one of our children, Bobby the bear found a HP Rocks! This new project aimed at making people smile has captured the hearts and imaginations of hundreds in the High Peak.

People are decorating rocks and hiding them. Rocks from the High Peak have been found as far away as Wales and on the feet of the Angel of the North.

People who want to get involved are asked to decorate one side of a rock and put HP Rocks on the other. If you find a rock, share where you found it on the Facebook HPROCKS group, then it is up to you to hide it somewhere new for the next person to find.



TEAM HARPUR

Hello Everyone,

It has been a while since our last update and can you believe it is nearly time for Summer term?

So what has been happening with Team Harpur?

Well, after our Christmas fair we had a little break, and then we had our Valentine's day disco. This disco raised £430 for our cause which is a brilliant result. Thanks to all that helped. After this came Easter, and thanks to all that helped with all of our Easter activities including the famous Easter Bunny and Easter Egg hunt. A great time was had by all. Lastly we held our "May the 4th be with you" Disco. This raised a further £209. Thanks to all that helped with this Disco.

Next on our agenda is to try and sort a float for this year's Buxton Carnival. We have a small team of dedicated people who are currently getting this off the ground but we need plenty of hands for this one so please email me if you can help.

As we head into the Summer term this means it's also all systems go for our Summer Fair on the 6th July. The fair will be held between 5pm and 7pm, and I am assured that this year the sun will be shining. Can I ask at this stage that if you are able to help either with the fair or in the run up to the fair please send me an email?

The first job is for us to try and obtain some fantastic raffle prizes so if you can help with this that would be brilliant. We intend to have a meeting in early June to get organised for all of the above and your support for this meeting would be much appreciated. The venue is likely to be the Cheshire Cheese pub with the date and time to be confirmed.

Have an amazing half term, thank you.

Andrew Dent
Chair of Team Harpur
teamharpur@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk

SPORTS

Cyclo Cross - We had such an amazing performance at Go-cycling, our Y5/6 team put their all into this activity, showing fantastic determination and came in second place. Well done!



Boccia – Six children from Key Stage 2 went to the local Boccia tournament at Fairfield Centre. Both teams played really well, Harpur Hill B got through to play offs and won a Bronze medal!

Cheerfest – After weeks and weeks of hard work and lots of rehearsals, our after school dance group attended this years' 'Cheerfest' at New Mills Art Theatre. A selection of children from year 1 to 6 work together to form a great routine involving some complicated choreography and lots of pom poms! We saw many other schools perform and made lots of noise to cheer them on. Our dance team did an excellent performance and should be very proud of themselves! Well done!

Girls' football festival – A team of Harpur's year 3 and 5 girls went to a Football festival at the beginning of May. They took part in lots of different games in a carousel of activities involving skills and drills. They finished the afternoon with a friendly match - a great time was had by all!

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.

School Uniform

We have had a few queries about children wearing sandals in school. Please can we ask that children wear closed toe sandals, as open toe sandals can be dangerous in the school environment.

The Summer break is fast approaching, please be aware that the switch off of the **delivery to school option for parents** will be 3 weeks before the school closes for the Summer break. This allows 14 days for delivery and the last week for our administration staff to pass the clothing to the child named on the order received.

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.

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 we do not receive the full amount outstanding, we have to refer the debt to D.C.C. for their legal section to take action on our part. Thank you.

Online payments for trips, residentials and school dinners

The online system has been very successful for the majority of our parents, unfortunately some parents have encountered problems logging on. Parents were asked to supply one email per family, for this system to work, so if your email or telephone number has changed, the system will not work.

If you have been unable to use this facility would you kindly complete the following information and return it to the office so we can double check that your details agree with ours.

We hope to be able to receive payment online from every parent with children at this school.



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School Money eduspot

Name of child/children _____

Mobile number _____

Email address _____