

NEWSLETTER

Friday 18th January 2019

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very happy new year to you all. The new term has started well and the children are all working hard and enjoying their learning.

Learning for Life

In our assemblies so far this term, we have been thinking about new year's resolutions and revisiting the school motto, 'Learning for Life'.

We have agreed a few areas to focus on this term:

- For Nursery, Reception and Year 1, we would like children to take every opportunity to count and learn number facts
- For Years 2 upwards, children are being encouraged to learn their times tables facts
- Improve handwriting and presentation (whole school)
- Reading for enjoyment

Times Tables Rockstars

Rapid recall of times tables is a very important skill. Many of our children already use the website or App: 'Times Tables Rock Stars' to practise their tables. This term, we are encouraging children to improve their scores and progress from 'Wannabe' to 'Rock Hero'.

Before the Easter holiday, we will be holding a special Times Tables Rock Stars celebration and presenting children with TTRockstars certificates.

Please note that TTRockstars has recently developed a new system for measuring which tables your child is secure with. As your child's account has been switched to this new system, they may find they are being tested on easier tables, this is so the website can establish a baseline before they are able to progress to more difficult tables.

Dance

Children who attend the Chris Hill Community Sports Dance Club on a Monday evening after school have the opportunity to take part in the Primary School Dance Festival at the Opera House on 18th March. The performance will be at 7.30pm and there will be a dress rehearsal in the afternoon.

Online Safety

Some of our children have had new tablets, gaming consoles etc for Christmas. This is a good time to check your parental controls and security settings and to talk with your children about online safety. Our school website has a section on Online Safety with lots of useful links to other websites: <http://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/online-safety>

Later this term, on Monday 4th February, Mr White, our Online Safety and computing expert will lead an Infant and Junior Assembly on Online Safety as part of Safer Internet Day. Children will also be learning about how to keep themselves safe online in lessons and activities.

May we take this opportunity to remind you to check what apps and social media your child is using. You may be aware from the press that social media presents many risks to the safety and wellbeing of our children. We want to work with you to keep our children safe.

If you have any concerns or questions about online safety, please get in touch.

Winter Weather

This winter has been relatively mild so far, but it is likely that we may see some snow in the coming term. We will do our best to remain open in order to minimise disruption to children's education and parents/carers. In extreme circumstances; however, school may have to close or open later than usual. We aim to give parents/carers as much notice as possible and you will be contacted by text and mobile app in the event of school closure or late opening. Announcements will also be made on High Peak radio, on the school Facebook page and website.

Uniform

Thank you for sending your children looking smart in school uniform. May we take this opportunity to remind you that school uniform includes black/grey trousers or skirts (no leggings) and black school shoes (smart black boots may be worn but no trainers thank you). In the event of bad weather, children may wear snow boots, wellies and waterproofs etc, please ensure they have school shoes to change into and that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Thank you.

Asthma and Medical Needs

We have been reviewing our asthma policy and staff have received training on asthma, epilepsy and epipens this term. Please can you ensure we have spare inhalers and spacers in school. If any medical issues/medication have changed, please inform the school office so we can update our procedures and records.

Cycle and Scooter Safety

We want to encourage children to cycle or scoot to school; however, please can we remind you to tell your children to take extra care when entering the playground, or when riding on the pavements and roads near the school entrance as it can become quite busy at the start and end of the day.

End of the school day

At the end of the school day, please can you ensure children are collected from the Infant playground. Some parents have been collecting children from round the back of Year 3/4, near our Nursery and using this area to park. Children will leave their classes and walk round to the Infant playground as this area is free from traffic.

Reading update

The children have been enjoying learning a range of great books linked to our topics so far this year. We would like to continue encouraging the children to read widely and often, through different activities this term.

We will be doing another Home/School Reading Challenge in the next few weeks. Children can choose to complete a range of reading activities to earn house points or Dojos. Look out for the form coming home in the week beginning 21st January. Thank you for your support with encouraging your child to read at home.

Author visit

We are excited to welcome author **Tom Palmer** to school on the 13th February. He has written a range of books on a sport/history theme: such as the Defenders series, Football Academy series and a range of other football and rugby themed books. The stories are exciting, adventurous and cover a variety of age ranges. Tom will be leading workshops and doing a book signing for part of the day.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs V Giliker
Headteacher

Administration

If you need to send money to school kindly place it in an envelope with your child's name, amount enclosed and reason for payment (e.g. dinner money, class trip/workshop etc.) upon it.

Contact Information

If you change your details (telephone, email, address etc.) please let school know as soon as possible. Also If your family circumstances change kindly advise our office staff so we can update your child/ren'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 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.

Mobile App We would like to encourage all parents/carers to use the school's Mobile App. We have a total of 347 children who attend our nursery/school. As at 17 01 2019 we have 196 mobile app users (this includes members of staff/governors). In order to keep you up to date with our school activities/news we would really like you to take advantage of our free school app.

Please see the following information about our mobile app which you can download and use on your mobile phone or tablet.

We communicate with parents/carers using the following options in the app:

- * School diary * News * Newsletters (also includes year group letters) * Notices
- * Links to other sites (e.g. the school website and Facebook page) * Contact details for school * Settings - you will be able to set push notifications for newsletters, news and notices.

To download: -

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.

Tesco School Uniform

Tesco's uniform embroidery service will close on 12 February 2019. Tesco's current supplier has set up an alternative service called [My Clothing](http://myclothing.com). This change of supplier should not affect you in any way other than if you wish to order any garments after 12th February, you will have to visit myclothing.com thank you.

Teachers to Parents/Eduspot App

We would like to suggest to any parent/carer who has downloaded this app to delete it. Unfortunately, if we send a text/email from school and it does not deliver immediately the app does not store the message so some parent/carers are not receiving all of their messages.

Online payments for trips, residentials and school dinners – Eduspot

The online system has been very successful for the majority of our parents, unfortunately some parents have encountered problems logging on. Parents are 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.

Eduspot strive to find ways to improve this system. Over the last couple of months, they have made some big changes and improved security throughout SchoolMoney.

It is planned that later this month, parents will be given an option where they can change their password themselves. For added security, when a parent decides to change their password, they will receive an SMS or Email notification to let them know this has happened. It will not divulge the password in the message, it will simply prompt them to login using the password they have set themselves, and act as a security prompt just in case this was unexpected.

Future plans will be by adding self-service password resetting tools for parents who have forgotten their password and unable to log in.

Based on parent feedback, Eduspot will be changing the link in the SMS message that parents receive when a new item is ready to pay for, therefore parents will no longer be taken to www.eduspot.co.uk, but instead will be directed to the parent login page, to avoid any confusion of where to go to log in.

If you would like more information on the above kindly visit the following web page: www.eduspot.co.uk/schoolmoney-changes/

Dates for your diary (may be subject to change)

| Date | Event | Details |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Friday 25 th January | Year 5 brass concert | 9:25am parents to be advised |
| Monday 4 th February | 'Safer Internet Day' | Mr White - Online Safety Co-ordinator will lead an Infant and Junior assembly about Online Safety |
| Wednesday 6 th February | 'Fire Safety' | Mr Paul Wood to talk to the Jolly Giraffes |
| Thursday 7 th February | Chinese New Year | Year 5 parents to be invited |
| Friday 8 th February | Nursery children may come to school dressed in red and yellow (optional) | Chinese New Year |
| Tuesday 12 th February | Year 6 'Viking Day' | Year 6 parents to be invited |
| Wednesday 13 th February | Tom Palmer - Author | In school all day |
| Wednesday 13 th February | Nursery Open Evening | From 4:00 – 6:00pm |
| Thursday 14 th February | Team Harpur's Valentine's disco | Infants 3:45 – 4:45pm Juniors 5:00 – 6:00pm |
| Friday 15 th February | End of term | |
| Monday 25 th February | Staff INSET day | Children not in school |
| Tuesday 26 th February | Start of a new term | |
| Thursday 28 th February | Parents' Evening Online booking opens 5:00pm on the 7.2.19, if you cannot access the online system you will be able to book via school. | From 3:45pm onwards |
| Thursday 28 th February | The Book People 'Book Fair' | Open during Parents' Evening |
| Thursday 7 th March | World Book Day | Children may come to school dressed as their favourite book character (optional) |
| Tuesday 12 th March | Reception children vision checks | |
| Wednesday 13 th March | Class photographs to be taken by Tempest Photography | NHS |
| Monday 18 th March | Primary School Dance Festival | Opera House @ 7.30pm details for Chris Hill's Dance club to follow |
| Thursday 4 th April | Learning for Life Awards | Parents will be invited to an assembly Infants 9:10am Juniors 10:00am |