



Headteacher: Mrs V Giliker

Harpur Hill Primary & Nursery School

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NEWSLETTER

Friday 15th February 2019

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

As another busy term draws to a close, may I take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your child's learning and all we do in school.

We have had some fantastic events in school – there have been a lot of great learning and activities this term. Many of you have been into school for family learning, supported sports events and been in and out of school for different activities. We hope you have enjoyed sharing your child's learning journey.



Hopefully, we have seen the last of the wintery weather, and Spring is just around the corner. Thank you for being so understanding when we closed due to the snow.

Times Tables Rock Stars

At the end of the term, we are holding a special TT Rock Stars celebration assembly where we will be presenting awards for children who have progressed rapidly with their times tables. Looking at the stats so far, we already have a few Rock Legends to go into our Hall of Fame, and hopefully a few more before the end of term. Please encourage your child to use TT Rock Stars at home; it really is a great way to learn – and a lot of fun!

Parents' Evening

Most parents/carers have already booked a slot for Parents' Evening on Thursday 28th February. Every parent was sent a link to this facility for their child/ren. If you have not received a link from school, please let us know and we will send it to you again to enable you to book an appointment.

School Buildings

Following the flood over Christmas, the Lovely Leopards class worked in the library whilst their classroom could be dried out and a new floor fitted. It has now been redecorated and we have a new carpet, chairs and other furniture. The children have continued to work hard whilst working in the library, they now have a lovely new classroom which they say is 'fantastic'!

You may have noticed that we have had quite a lot of internal decoration and improvements over the last term. At the weekends, we have had the services of the Community Payback Team who have decorated, built outdoor equipment for Early Years and refurbished the old staff room. We had some kitchen cupboards and equipment kindly donated from Howden's. All this work is improving the learning environment for the children and we appreciate the kindness of those who have donated and worked on our school. Future projects include upgrading the two Year 6 classrooms and refurbishments of the Year 3/4 and Infant toilets.

Scooters and Bikes

We would like to encourage pupils to walk, cycle or scoot to school; however, please could we ask that children take care on the roads outside school, and make sure they dismount as they enter the school grounds. Thank you.

Traffic and Safety

Please could we remind you to park safely and responsibly near school. We have had reports of parents parking cars that have blocked/obstructed the roundabouts outside school and this makes it dangerous for children and other drivers.

The Governors have also discussed the issue of parking and traffic, and have asked for the following reminders to go out to parents/carers:

- Do not drive beyond the bollard after 8.30 or before 4pm. The bollard is there to prevent traffic on the school site in order to keep the children safe.
- Do not park on the area outside the Nursery near the school kitchen.
- Do not drive down to the main entrance when dropping off children. Please use the car park and 'drop off zone'.
- Please vacate the car park as soon as you have dropped off your children to allow more parents access to parking spaces.
- Reverse parking into a space is safer.
- Please park considerately on the school car park and roads outside school – do not park on pavements or block neighbours' drive-ways. Please do not block entrances or obscure other drivers' views.
- Do not drive more than 5mph on school premises and ensure that driving especially reversing is done with extreme care.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Staffing Update

As many of you may already know, Mrs Green is expecting a baby in the summer. She has decided to resign from her post of full time class teacher in order to prepare for the birth. We have been fortunate that Ms Williamson, a very experienced teacher, will be taking the class from Monday to Thursday, with Mrs Rowntree teaching on a Friday. Both Mrs Smith and Ms Williamson will be available on Parents' Evening to meet parents/carers.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

We are always striving to ensure we are teaching your children well, keeping them safe and happy. We value your feedback and would like to know what we are doing well and gather your views to shape our future work. Please open the link below to access the questionnaire:

[Parent Questionnaire](#)

Finally...on behalf of everyone at Harpur Hill Primary School, have a lovely break and see you next term.

Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

Year	Next term's learning journey topic	Books
Nursery	'Planting & growing on the farm'	Jasper's Beanstalk, Farmer Duck, Peter Rabbit & Ben plants a Butterfly Garden
Perfect Parrots & Terrific Tigers	'Dinosaurs'	Tyrannosaurus Drip, If I had a Dinosaur, Dinosaurs in the Supermarket, Harry and the Bucket full of Dinosaurs, Treats for a T-Rex and The Dinosaur That Pooped a Planet
Jolly Giraffes	'What are robots for?' 'How have toys changed?'	An alternative version of The Three Little Pigs and looking at story fantasy settings
Year 2	'What did Rosa Parks do to make the world a better place?'	The Dragon Machine by Helen Ward, George and the Dragon by Chris Wormell, Diary of a Wombat by Helen French, The Works chosen by Paul Cookson. Children will be looking at the poem, 'Aliens Stole My Underpants'
Year 3 & 4	'What makes Britain great?'	Diary of a Killer Cat by Anne Fine
Year 5	'What is so great about the great outdoors?'	You wait till I'm Older than you – Michael Rosen (poetry) The Hobbit – J R R Tolkein (narrative)
Year 6	'Why should the rainforest be important to us all?'	The Journey to the River Sea by Eve Ibbotson Northern Lights by Phillip Pullman Lord of the Rings (extracts) by J R R Tolkein

Online Safety

Last week we took part in the Safer Internet Week. Mr White led assemblies with Infant and Junior children to revisit messages on how to stay safe online.

We are aware of increasing pressures on children to use social media, and some of our children tell us they use Instagram and Snapchat etc, despite the age limit being 13. Whilst there are many benefits to social media, there are also risks, and there has been a lot of information in the media recently about the impact on children's lives. Please follow up the messages from Safer Internet week with your children at home over the holiday, ensure you are checking settings and what they are accessing online regularly.

Our school website has lots of tips and links to websites to help you with different apps and parental controls.

TEAM HARPUR



A huge thank you to all at Team Harpur for a wonderful Valentine's Disco! The children and adults had an exciting time. The disco raised an amazing £342.76, thank you! On Parents' Evening, Team Harpur will be serving hot drinks/refreshments. If you are able to donate any cakes kindly send them to school on the day. Team Harpur would appreciate some additional help; so if you are available from 3:00 – 7:15pm kindly let the school office know.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 26th February at the Parks Inn commencing 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SCHOOL NEWS

Juniors meet author, Tom Palmer



This week, Junior children have had a fantastic time meeting author, Tom Palmer. Children took part in workshops and even had some of his books signed. Many children had read his books prior to the visit. Most of his books have football and historical themes, where children go on adventures into the past.

Tom really enjoyed his visit to Harpur Hill and said what wonderful children we have!

Vicious or Victorious?

Year 6 have been exploring the big question, 'Were the Vikings always victorious and vicious?' this term. They celebrated their topic by holding a Viking Day. They made bread, exhibited their work and raced Viking longboats. We had a great day!

Thank you to families who attended and shared the learning.



Year 2 meet author, Frances Herbert

The Year 2 children had a special visit from Fran Smee, who writes under the name of Frances Herbert. She writes about the adventures of Fran, her two children and dog in a rather old but much loved van called Pandora or Dora for short. Their adventures occur when they find three items in a magic box which is housed in the van.



The photo shows Y2 picking out an item from the box. How will the item come in handy on their adventure? The stories are set in Scotland to link in with the topic on Katie Morag and the Isle of Coll.

Nursery celebrate Chinese New Year



Nursery children have enjoyed finding out how Chinese New Year is celebrated.

They role played in our Chinese restaurant and made Chinese decorations and masks. They have also played with noodles in the sensory area, fed the pigs and been dragons!



Jolly Giraffes visit from a Firefighter

Jolly Giraffes have enjoyed finding out all about the Great Fire of London this term.



They had a visit from our former Governor, Paul Wood, whose day job is a Firefighter!

Thank you, Paul and well done, children for your superb questioning skills!



Year 3/4 explore States of Matter



Year 3 and 4 have loved the States of Matter Science work, with a visit from a real scientist.

Children watched reactions and produced a gas with bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. They observed bubbles seemingly hover in midair above solid carbon dioxide (dry ice.) Finally, they made 'lava lamps' with oil, coloured water, glitter and soluble vitamin tablets.

Many thanks to Alex for a fascinating and informative workshop.

Brilliant Brass

Year 5 pupils put on a brilliant brass performance earlier this term for their families and Year 3/4 children.

There was a lot of musical talent on display as well as learning for life skills such as team work and confidence.

Thank you to families for coming along.



Terrific Tigers and Perfect Parrots Welly Wednesdays



Parrots and Tigers have been out in all weathers this term on their Welly Wednesdays.

They have had a wonderful time in the woods, building homes for fairies and trip trapping over troll bridges!

A huge thank you to all the helpers who have joined us on our adventures.

SPORTS NEWS

Meeting an Olympic gymnast



Last Friday some of our Year 4 and 5 gymnasts had the fantastic opportunity to meet and train with the Olympic gymnast, Kristian Thomas.

The children had chance to practise their own skills on bars, beam, trampette and floor routines as well as watching Kristian demonstrate some of his skills and ask him questions about his training and Olympic career. It was a very inspirational afternoon!

Target Games Festival

10 of our pupils had great fun at the Archery & Target games festival. We played boccia, golf, darts, curling and our pupils' favourite, archery!



Shooting Hoops

Some of our pupils had great fun at the Basketball Competition.

Our Year 5 team won 2 games out of 3 and missed out on the semi-finals through a tough decision.

Our Year 6 team made it all the way to the final and dominated the game but unfortunately lost.

A great experience for everyone. Well done!

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 15th February we have 227 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: -

<p><u>Android users</u> Go to Google Play, search for School Jotter or scan the QR code.</p>  	<p><u>iOS users</u> Go to App Store and search for School Jotter or scan the QR code.</p>  
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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.

School Uniform

It is no longer possible to order online via Tesco; however, their current supplier has set up an alternative service called [My Clothing](#). This change of supplier will not affect you in any way other than if you wish to order any garments you will have to visit [myclothing.com](#).

We have learned our supplier, School Trends, has gone into administration and the company who are processing back orders are not fulfilling them. We have, therefore, decided to find an alternative supplier for our uniform needs. We will be giving the whole school information the week beginning March 4th to give the company time to develop an on-line ordering link through our website. 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.

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 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 opened 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)
Thursday 7 th March	Basketball competition	Buxton Community School 1:15 – 3:20pm
Week commencing 11 th March	Science week	Mobile science laboratory to visit, date to be confirmed
Monday 11 March	Year 2's 'King for a day', the children will have the opportunity to become King/Queen of their own imaginary land for the day.	
Wednesday 13 th March	Class photographs to be taken by Tempest Photography	
Thursday 14 th March	Year 2's ballet workshop	Hosted by guests from the Northern Ballet
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 assembly	Parents will be invited Infants 9:10am Juniors 10:00am
Tuesday 9 th April	Year 6's Rainforest assembly	Parents will be invited
Friday 12 th April	Easter Bunny to visit school for KS1	
Friday 12 th April	TT Rock Stars assembly	Presentation, parents to be invited
Friday 12 th April	End of term	
Monday 29 th April	Start of new term	