

HARPUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you

As we come to the end of the year, I would like to say a huge thank you for your support. What a year 2020 has been! Despite the many challenges, we are so proud of how the children have adapted to the changes and they continue to work hard in school. Some groups of children have had to isolate at home in recent weeks, and we have been impressed by how the children have engaged with their remote learning. Thank you for supporting the children's learning, at home and at school – it makes such a difference. We appreciate the support we continue to receive from our families and community. We wish you all the best for 2021.

Christmas

This week, we made sure the children had lots of Christmas fun, the staff arranged parties and activities in their classes. We created short films to share the festive fun.

Please click on the link to see: <https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/christmas-2020>

Track and Trace at the start of the Christmas holiday

Following my previous letter, please let us know via emailing admin@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk if your child develops coronavirus symptoms over the weekend (up until 2pm on Sunday 20th December).

Online Safety

As Christmas approaches, children often ask for internet devices, apps and games. During the holiday period, children will have more time to be online, so we have shared some links below to help keep your child safe. Derbyshire have produced an [online safety 12 days of Christmas](#) and a guide to [Apps](#). [Parentzone](#) provides good advice for parents/carers.

Parental controls can be used to block upsetting or harmful content and apps, control purchases and manage how long your child spends online. For more info on how to set up parental controls visit:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

It is important that you check age ratings for games to ensure your child isn't exposed to violence, sex and drug use during gameplay. By making sure your child is either on or below the age rating given, you are only giving them access to appropriate content.

Finally... On behalf of everyone at Harpur Hill Primary School and Nursery, I would like to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas. Please stay safe over the holiday and we look forward to seeing all the children in 2021.

Best wishes Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Details
Monday 4 th January	Staff INSET day	
Tuesday 5 th January	Start of a new term	School open to children from 8.45am
9 th & 10 th February	Bikeability	Year 5 & 6 children, parents to be advised
Thursday 11 th February	End of term	
Friday 12 th February	Staff INSET day	

LEARNING JOURNEYS

Year	Topic	Books/authors
Nursery Bears and Cubs	On the farm	Farmer Duck, Old McDonald had a Farm, Three Little Pigs, The Little Red Hen, Fox on the Farm, Dora's Eggs
Reception & Year 1	Why did people want to visit Antarctica?	Winnie in Winter, The Gruffalo's Child, What can you see in Winter? Animals in Winter, Polar Bear Polar Bear, What do you Hear? The Last Polar Bear
2	Can we get around the world in 30 days?	Anything depicting different countries and cultures
3	Who are our neighbours?	A Walk in London, A Walk in Paris - both by Salvatore Rubbino, Paddington by Michael Bond (there are quite a few books in the series)
4	Why is the planet so blue?	A new read by a familiar author, The Ickabog by JK Rowling and Why is the Planet so Blue? By Penguin Books
5	How did the Shang Dynasty fall?	The Firework Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman
6	Were the Vikings always victorious and vicious?	Viking Boy by Tony Bradman Viking myths and legends

SCHOOL NEWS

Veselé Vianoce! Wesółych Świąt! Joyeux Noël! Frohe Weihnachten! Feliz Navidad!

During our Zoom assembly this week, the children went on a virtual sleigh ride with Santa to find out how Christmas is celebrated around the world.

Wishing all our families, including those in other countries, a very Happy Christmas from Harpur Hill. The children have been enjoying their learning this term and have certainly enjoyed the festive season.



Nursery



Our nursery children have had a busy term. Their topic has been 'All about me'. They have been discussing things that they like and looked at their similarities and differences.

A colourful day was had by all on the 'Christmas Jumper Day'.

The children also had time for a Nativity play!



Reception and Year 1

Reception and Year 1 have been doing some super road safety work. Don't forget to stop, look, listen and think when you cross the road!

Well done! Super cat says you're all road safety experts.



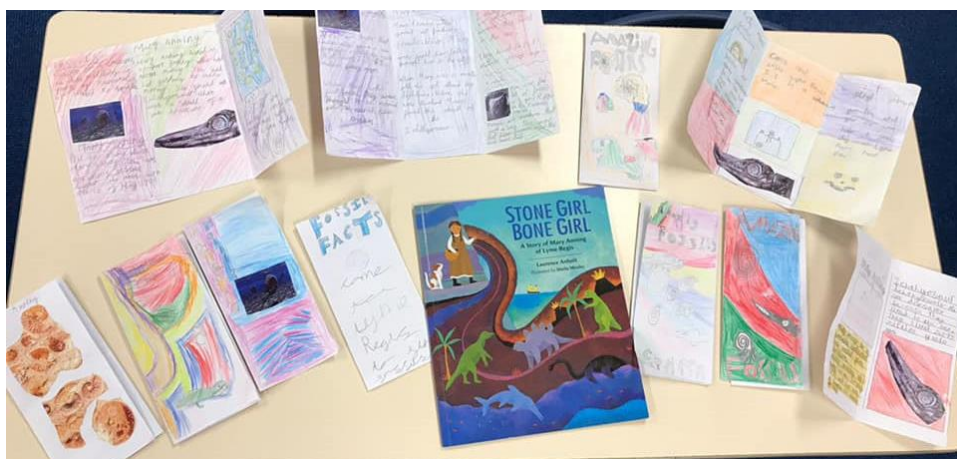
Year 2

Year 2 had a brilliant day full of Victorian Christmas activities!

The children were very busy and made paper chains and silver bells. They used old Christmas cards to create a wreath, they made a Victorian Christmas cracker, set the table for Christmas dinner, and wrapped up Victorian items as presents with brown paper and string. The children also used real greenery and a candle to make a Christmas table decoration.

Year 3

Our Year 3 really enjoyed their 'Who First Lived in Britain?' topic. They combined English, science and history to write leaflets about fossils and Mary Anning, a 19th century finder of fossils who changed scientific thinking on prehistoric life and the history of the Earth. They read 'Stone Girl, Bone Girl', by Laurence Anholt.



Year 4

The Year 4 children listened to Winter from Vivaldi's four seasons; they drew what they could see and feel while they listened.

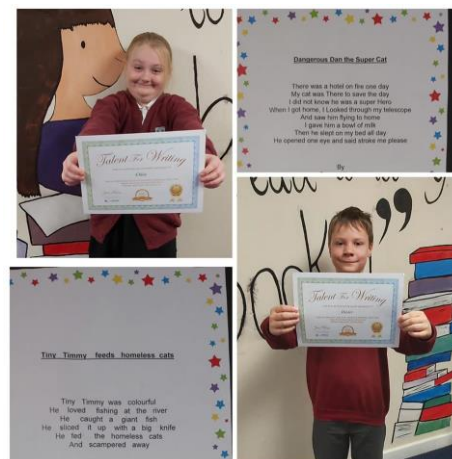


Young Writers' Peculiar Pets competition

Well, these two have done it again! Our budding Y5 authors have written poems for Young Writers' Peculiar Pets competition.

The judge from Young Writers' wrote, 'I was impressed with their writing and it's clear they have been inspired. It's been a privilege to read their work and they will make a fantastic addition to Peculiar Pets - UK Voices! publication'.

We couldn't be prouder of all their achievements.



Year 5

In RE, Year 5 learned about some of the main deities which are important in the Hindu religion.

The children learned about the symbolism of each deity as well as what their powers and responsibilities are.

The children then created their own deity, thinking about the powers, responsibilities and symbolism.



Year 6

As part of their USA topic, Year 6 made models of buildings and monuments.

They needed to accurately measure, saw and glue together wood to make the structures by following their plans.

Thank you to Year 6 House Captains and their deputies for helping to decorate our tree in the foyer.



Thank you Team Harpur - PTFA

We would like to thank our amazing Team Harpur – PTFA, for their very thoughtful ideas to involve the whole school during these restricted times.

Personalised Christmas cards and gifts were extremely popular and the response was overwhelming. Thank you to everyone who contributed to help with school funds.

Each child was given a specially prepared cone of sweets during their Christmas Parties, together with a special visit from Father Christmas and The Grinch!



SPORTS UPDATE

We have had another strange but still busy half term in sports at our school. Our mixed Reception & Year 1 classes have been learning how to dribble, pass and shoot in Football. Our Year 2 have been learning and working on different types of Dance with Jennie.

All of our KS2 children have been working on different levels of Volleyball and Dodgeball. Our Years 3 and 4 have learned the basic skills and rules of the games; Years 5 and 6 have worked on how to use their skills to play the games competitively.

Our Dance and Hockey sports breakfast clubs have been successful yet again. Our Year 5 girls took ownership of their session and together created the rules and restrictions of their own game; a great way to start the day. Next half term we will have Basketball and Gymnastics. Letters will go out in the first half term.

Unfortunately, we have had no after school clubs this half term; however, they will be restarting in January. Years 2/3/4/5/6 please click on the link below to book next half term's CHCS Dance & Football clubs.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MH66yl4-Yvuq9Win2KhpFTkkvQoh_7zS8PVQVJhoggE/edit

Places will be on a first come, first served basis. Please note - even if you booked last half term, a new booking form is required. Any queries please contact CHCS directly.

Lastly, we competed in another Inter School tournament (Dodgeball) and are just awaiting results. Fingers crossed for some more medals for Harpur!

Have a great and safe Christmas all!

Kind regards,

Danny (Sports Coach)

ADMIN UPDATE

Covid Winter Grants

If you are a family on a low income you could get food vouchers for your children over the Christmas period.

The money to pay for these vouchers has come from the government through its COVID-19 winter grant scheme which is over and above the other support schemes already provided by Derbyshire County Council.

The family of every child who gets free school meals in Derbyshire schools because of low income can get a £30 food voucher for the Christmas holidays. You will get another voucher in February if you are still eligible, the amount will depend on the number of children who qualify at that time. Some other families are also eligible based on financial hardship. You will receive vouchers if you meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a child aged 3 to 18 in a Derbyshire school (nursery to year 13), eligible for free school meals because of low household income.
- Have a child aged 3 or 4 not in a Derbyshire school nursery that receives free childcare and qualifies for 'pupil premium' based on low income (this is sometimes called 'economic funding').
- Have a child aged 2 that is eligible for free 2-year-old childcare because of low household income.

You do not need to do anything if your child already meets these criteria (see the website below for full terms and conditions).

We will contact you and you should receive a payment by email or text message that should arrive by 21 December 2020. If you have children and you do not currently claim free school meals or means-tested free childcare you may still be eligible. For full details of the scheme or to see what help and support is available, please visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/winter




Mobile App

We would like to encourage all parents/carers to use the school's mobile App. 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.  
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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.

Contact details

Kindly inform school of any contact changes - address/telephone/email. Thank you.

Save the Children

Thank you to everyone who donated money on the Christmas jumper day. A total of £169.00 was collected in school with some parents donating directly online to this cause.

Pedestrian Gate

May we please remind you when leaving the school grounds to double check that you have closed the pedestrian gate behind you. Thank you.

FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER UPDATE

Our Family Support Worker has put together a 'Handy Guide – What else can I try?'

It might be you have just had one of those exhausting days when you feel like no matter what you try, you are just getting nowhere with a particular behaviour. It might be that you have an ongoing issue with things like repeated melt downs and you don't know what to try next. Perhaps you are having ongoing niggling things that you'd like to get a better handle on. Maybe you have a child with additional needs and are just looking for other ideas.

Whatever the reason, please remember you are NOT ALONE!

Here are some tips and ideas: [What else can I try?](#)