

## NEWSLETTER

11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

### HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### Thank you!

As we come to the end of the term, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our school in these challenging times. You will have seen on the news that the Prime Minister announced that the earliest date that schools will return will be 8<sup>th</sup> March. We understand that the situation will be reviewed after the February holiday and the government have said that they will give schools 2 weeks' notice to plan for re-opening. I will of course keep you updated with any new information, and we are looking forward to having all the children back in school as soon as we are able.

In the meantime, we will continue to work hard to deliver teaching and learning for children at home and at school; I would like to reassure you that we will do our very best to support you and your family in the weeks ahead. Thank you for all you are doing at this time – supporting home learning, working in the NHS, and carrying out other critical work.

#### Critical Worker and Vulnerable Children

School remains open for vulnerable children and those of critical workers. We have had approximately 80 children in school each day in recent weeks. Fran will continue to send out the weekly booking forms weekly on a Thursday. The form to book places for after the holiday (week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> February) will be sent on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February (during the holiday).

It is important that we continue to keep the number of children and staff in school to a minimum. Having fewer people in school reduces the number of contacts in the community. The Department for Education advice states that children should stay at home where possible, and that children whose parents are critical workers should *only* attend school for the purpose of their critical work, when they have no other option of childcare. Thank you for helping us to keep numbers as low as possible.

#### Remote Learning

We have been amazed at how well the children have been engaging with their online lessons and have adapted to the new way of working. We know that juggling your own job and children's home learning can be challenging at times, and I would like to thank you for everything you are doing, and also reassure you that we know you are doing your best. If you need help or extra support with anything, please contact your child's teacher and we will try to help you.

#### Nursery Update

We are taking bookings for Nursery for after Easter and also for September 2021. Our Nursery has become very popular and we would advise existing/prospective parents to book their places as soon as possible, especially if you require full time child care or certain days. If your child turns three this month or if you need to renew your code, please do not forget to do so before 31<sup>st</sup> March. If you have had a reminder to renew your code, please do so before the deadline.

### Testing for Asymptomatic Staff

Staff have now started carrying out twice weekly coronavirus home testing. One in three people with coronavirus are asymptomatic, so this is a positive step for school staff and the community, and a useful tool in the fight against the pandemic.

### Track and Trace at the start of the holiday

As you may be aware, schools assist in contact tracing, to help in the national effort to limit the spread of coronavirus. We need to put plans in place to allow enough time after we break up for the holiday, for positive cases to be identified and confirmed by a test, and for relevant contacts to be traced. If your child has been attending school this week, we need to make you aware of the following arrangements regarding positive cases:

- If a child or staff member tests positive for coronavirus, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, we will have to assist in identifying close contacts and advise self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Therefore, if your child develops coronavirus symptoms up until 3.30pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February you will need to notify us via email on [admin@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk), as soon as possible. You will also need to arrange a coronavirus test.
- Once you have the result of the coronavirus test (whether it is positive or negative), please let us know via email as soon as possible, on the email above. If we know anyone in the school community is waiting for a test result, we will continue to check the admin email daily so you can inform us of the result.
- If we do receive notification of a positive test result at the start of the holiday, we will need to identify children and staff who have had contact with the positive case whilst in school.
- We will notify you via text and email to inform you if your child will need to isolate. You will be sent a standard letter from Public Health informing you what actions you should take.
- If your child develops coronavirus symptoms after 3.30pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February, you will not need to contact school. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Hopefully we will not have to contact you at the start of the holiday; however, it is necessary to put these plans in place. If we do have to contact you to advise your child to isolate, please follow the advice to protect our families and community. Thank you in advance for your support in these arrangements.

**Finally...** The children (and their parents/carers!) have worked hard this term, and deserve a well-earned rest. I hope you and your families have a lovely break and you enjoy some family time together. Thank you once again for all you are doing to support your child and the school.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Giliker

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff INSET day
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Start of a new term
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Earliest date that all children could return to school – to be confirmed
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	End of term

## LEARNING JOURNEYS

Year	Topic	Book/authors
Nursery: Cubs and Bears	Planting and Growing	Jasper's Beanstalk, Sam Plants a Sunflower, The Tiny Seed, Oliver's Vegetables, The Growing Story.
Reception & Year 1	Space	The Girl Who Went to Space, The Way Back Home, Aliens Love Underpants, Man on the Moon, Whatever Next!
Year 2	Can you grow a dragon in your garden?	Children can read any books that are set in fantasy worlds; e.g. Winnie the Witch, Aliens love underpants, The Magic faraway tree, Where the wild things are.
Year 3	Ancient Egypt, is it all about Pharaohs, Pyramids and Papyrus?	The Time Travelling Cat and the Egyptian Goddess' by Julia Jarman, Flat Stanley: The Great Egyptian Grave Robbery by Jeff Brown, A Mummy Ate My Homework by Thiago Moraes.
Year 4	Why were Norman castles certainly not bouncy?	How to Train your Dragon by Cressida Cowell, Outlaw: The true story of Robin Hood by Michael Morpurgo
Year 5	Were the Anglo Saxons really smashing?	Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo.
Year 6	Why are the Rainforests important to us all?	Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson, The Lord of the Rings by JRR Tolkien.

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

### Virtual Adventures

In the first lockdown we created a page on our school website called 'Virtual Adventures':  
<https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/coronavirus-virtual-adventures>

This page has been popular with our school and we have also heard from families beyond Buxton who have used it. From this page you can explore the world and go on virtual visits and adventures without leaving home! We have added extra visits, including links to the topics children have been learning in school, such as a virtual trip of the Amazon Rainforest and a tour of the pyramids in Egypt. There are other exciting places such as San Diego Zoo and the International Space Station.

### Harpur Hearts

In the holidays, we would like you to create a special 'Harpur Heart'. This heart can be any colour and can be made out of paper or card. Then, take the time to think about things that are important in your life, things that make you happy or things that are special to you. Try to find items or pictures of these things to stick onto your heart shape. Once your heart is ready, hang it in your window and then go on a hunt for other Harpur Hearts! You could take a photo of your heart and send it to your teacher so we can share them when we return to school after the holiday.

### Things to do indoors

We hope you will be able to get outside and enjoy some fresh air and exercise over the holiday. However, if the weather isn't favourable, click on the link for lots of ideas for things to do indoors:

<https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.100 things to do indoors kids>

# SCHOOL NEWS



## Nursery

Our children in Nursery and at home have enjoyed learning about 'The Three Little Pigs'. Fun was had by all 'huffing and puffing'! We are so proud of the Nursery children and have been pleased to see all the wonderful activities children have been doing at home.

## Reception and Year 1

As part of 'Children's Mental Health Awareness Week', the children read a story called 'How Full is Your Bucket'. We discussed what mental health means and how we can do/say things to make others happy. We wrote 'happy notes' and popped them in our Happiness Bucket. We chose a happy note to read each morning. The children exercised their bodies and minds by completing a yoga session.



## Year 2

This term, children in Year 2 have enjoyed virtually travelling the globe in their 'Around the World in 30 Days' topic, visiting different countries including Africa, Brazil and China.

Our children in school made ice decorations by using glitter and natural materials from outside. The children threaded their decorations with ribbon. The decorations were left outside overnight to freeze. They were arranged on trees for everyone to look at.

## Year 3

Our children have been studying 'Who Are Our European Neighbours?' In art they learned about Sonia Delaunay, an artist born in 1885, she lived all over Europe. She took her inspiration from artists like Van Gogh, Matisse and Rousseau. We had some very imaginative portraits created, copying Sonia's unique vivid style.





## Year 4

Our children have been adapting very well to online learning at home. We are very proud of the engagement of the children and the support that the children have received from their families. As well as daily Maths and English, the children have been listening and responding to our class novel, *Oliver and the Seawigs* by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre. They have learnt that the oceans of our wonderful planet Earth have layers. In Art, the children used cool and warm colours to create colour wheels from materials and objects in their homes.



## Year 5

In English, we have been reading the Firework Maker's Daughter and children wrote a missing chapter from the book. Children have also been very creative at school and at home. Activities have included creating tinfoil sculptures and conceptual self portraits. They also had a go at the 'Laundry Art Challenge' where they recreated artwork using clothes and other materials around the house.



## Year 6

Year 6 children have worked very hard at home and at school. In maths they have been solving problems using fractions, decimals and percentages. The children have enjoyed their Vikings topic and produced some great long term projects. They have also read Viking Boy and have written their own myths and a job advert for Vikings. In art they created drawings of dragons and intricate patterns that are found on Viking jewellery and wood carvings.

## Minion and Red Riding Hood Visit

Earlier this term we were visited by a banana loving Minion and Little Red Riding Hood. They're part of the Stockport Spiderman fundraising team.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jason-baird2...>



## ONLINE SAFETY

This week we took part in Safer Internet Day which is celebrated globally and coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre. Children have taken part in an assembly and activities to encourage children to learn about how to keep themselves safe online. Following Safer Internet Day, please take the time to talk to your children about the safe, responsible and positive use of technology. Below are various links you can use to view websites and discuss internet safety with your child. With the increase in use of technology currently, it is a good time to stop and reflect on how we use the internet positively, as well as to discuss the dangers and how we can make it safer.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/i-am-parent-or-carer>

Remind children that the age ratings for the following are:

Look at Net Aware for helpful hints with these games:

Among Us 7+ <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/among-us/>

FIFA Football 13+ <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/fifa-football/>

Fortnite 12 <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/fortnite-battle-royale/>

Instagram 13+ <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/instagram/>

Minecraft 7+ <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/minecraft/>

Roblox 7+ <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/roblox/>

Snapchat 13+ <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/snapchat/>

TikTok 13+ <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/tiktok/>

Please remind children that the age ratings are there for their safety. Children can become desensitised to violence, become anxious and depressed, have trouble sleeping or switching off, and suffer nightmares as their brains are not developed to process the images they see. Peer pressure can be really difficult for you as parents to deal with, as can the cost of games consoles.

Set time limits for children to play on their games, and get them to discuss any worries they have with you. Make sure they are aware about not talking to strangers online, in the same way we would encourage them not to talk to strangers in real life.

## ADMIN UPDATE

### Contact details

Kindly inform school of any contact changes – address/telephone/email.

### 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.