

## NEWSLETTER

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October

### HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### Thank you!

What a busy term it has been! I'm pleased to say despite disruptions due to coronavirus and other illnesses, the children and staff have worked hard this term to make sure learning has continued. As in other schools locally and nationally, we have had a high number of positive cases in school this term. We know how difficult it has been for some of our families, particularly when children and parents are poorly. I would like to thank you for supporting our school and children's learning during this time.

#### Parents' Evenings

The vast majority of families have now had a parents' evening (video call/phone call or meeting) appointment with their child's teacher. We hope you found these discussions useful and thank you for being patient with the technology! We understand that some of the appointments had to be moved for various reasons. Your child's teacher will be in touch after the holiday to arrange a time to catch up with you if you haven't had your parents' evening appointment yet. Do get in touch with your child's teacher via Tapestry or Dojo if you need to discuss anything before your appointment is arranged.

#### Visits are back

The children have enjoyed their topics and produced some great work since we returned to school in September. Some year groups have been out on educational visits once again. Year 5 went to Whitehall earlier this term as part of their Bear Grylls survival topic; and this week, Year 6 went to the National Holocaust Centre as part of their World War 2 learning.

#### Sport is back

We have also been able to compete in sports competitions again and I am happy to say Harpur pupils have been fantastic, representing their school once again. Well done to all the children who have competed in tournaments and competitions so far this year, and thank you to Coach Danny. I know he has lots more events and exciting PE and sport planned for the year ahead. Please also see Danny's update in this newsletter.



#### Music is back

Since I wrote to you in September, I am pleased to say that we now have lots of children playing musical instruments in groups, individually and in class. It is wonderful to hear the children singing once again and doing so well on their instruments. Well done to all of our musicians and thank you to parents for your support.



If you would like your child to learn an instrument, please contact the school office who will put you in touch with the instrumental teachers.

### **Goodbye and good luck**

We will be saying good bye to Ciara Munro in our Reception team. Thank you for everything, Ciara, and all the best for the new venture!

### **Spooky fun!**

We ended the term with a fun day of spooky activities – a huge thank you to the School Council and Team Harpur PTFA for organising everything so the children could have a reward for all their hard work this term.

### **Finally...**

Please see the next section on coronavirus outlining the latest advice from Public Health. We hope to go ahead with some of our usual events next term and will follow the latest guidance as we head into the winter. We will of course keep you updated if things change.

If you need any help or advice with anything at all, please get in touch with us. Thank you once again for your continued support of our wonderful school.

Enjoy the half term break!

Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

## **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

This term we have seen an increase in the number of positive cases of COVID-19 within our school community. This week, Public Health have written to all schools in Derbyshire to let us know that COVID-19 rates remain high in the county, with the highest rates occurring within young people, and therefore it's important to retain good control measures in schools. Although as a school we have passed responsibility for contact tracing to NHS Test and Trace, we do continue to monitor which children have tested positive or have symptoms and so it would be helpful if you let us know when your child is absent through illness, what the cause is if possible.

**What you should do:** The current guidance tells us that we do not need to isolate contacts of cases who are exempt this includes children under the age of 18 years 6 months and anyone fully vaccinated (14 days after your final dose of an MHRA-approved vaccine that was administered in the UK). If your child is a close contact, and they do **not** have symptoms, they do not need to isolate nor do any family/household members, as long as they remain symptom free. As a close contact they are eligible to get a PCR test (the kind that go to a lab) but if they are symptom free they do not need to self-isolate while waiting for the results. PCR tests can be booked via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by ringing 119. You can attend a testing centre or do a home PCR test.

If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms, whether they are a close contact or not, they should get a PCR test and isolate whilst awaiting the result of the test. Family/household members will not need to isolate even if your child's test comes back positive as long as they are double vaccinated adults (with the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the covid-19 vaccination in the UK being given more than 14 days ago), under the age of 18 years and 6 months, have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial or are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

**What we will do in school:** We will continue to monitor cases in school and ensure that we continue to follow the national guidance, which includes advice about handwashing, keeping our distance when appropriate, and regular enhanced cleaning. We will also continue to have plenty of ventilation and fresh air. Staff will also continue to carry out twice-weekly lateral flow tests.

Public Health have advised that depending upon the number of cases, we may reinstate grouping of pupils (bubbles) and ask that staff and visiting adults wear face coverings (unless exempt). We will keep you informed if we feel that we need to use any of these risk-reducing measures.

We will continue to report the numbers of cases to Derbyshire County Council's Public Health team who are closely monitoring cases across the county. They will advise schools if there is a large rise in cases, both in school or in the community.

Please be aware that you could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate. You can access them by contacting your local district council or if you need additional support with self-isolation the Derbyshire County Council Community Response Unit who can help. You can complete the online form <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/health-protection/disease-control/coronavirus/community-response-unit/if-you-need-help/if-you-need-help.aspx> or ring: 01629 535091 (Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm).

Please let school know if you require any further information or support with the above.

### **If your child has symptoms of Covid-19**

It is vital that you do not send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

### **If you suspect your child has coronavirus or has a positive test:**

Do not send your child to school if:

- they are showing one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
- they have had a positive test result
- there are other reasons requiring them to stay at home, for example, they are [required to quarantine](#)

You should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#).

**Your child should NOT come into school if they have Covid-19 symptoms.** Whilst officially these symptoms are still a high temperature, a new or continuous cough or a loss of taste and smell, there is growing evidence that symptoms can also include a headache, stomach ache and other flu-like symptoms. If your child is a little poorly, please complete a lateral flow test with them before sending them to school, just to be on the safe side.

### **Remote-learning**

If your child cannot attend school due to coronavirus, remote learning will be available if they are well enough to work from home.

Arrangements for home learning will be as follows:

- Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2: work will be posted on the school website
- Year 3 to 6: work will be posted on Google Classroom

You can contact your child's teacher via Tapestry (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2) and Class Dojo (Year 3 to 6). Paper packs of work will be sent out if requested.

## LEARNING JOURNEYS

| Year  | Topic   | Books/authors  |
|---|---|--|
| Nursery<br>Cubs   | Celebrations  | Baby's First Diwali, Peppa's Diwali, Spot's Birthday, Kipper's Birthday, When Will Went to the Wedding, The Mouse's Wedding, Sammy Spider's First Hanukkah, I Can Spy Hanukkah, The Christmas Bear Peep Inside Christmas |
| Nursery<br>Bears  | Celebrations  | Diwali Story Book, It's My Birthday, Cake, Uncle Bobby's Wedding, The Scarecrow's Wedding, The Story of Hanukkah, Canukah Lights Everywhere, The Christmas Pine, The Jolly Christmas Postman                             |
| Reception   | Traditional Tales   | The Mitten (Ukrainian folktale), The Little Red Hen, The Gingerbread Man, Don't spill the milk (African tale), We're going on a bear hunt  |
| Year 1 & 2  | What was Buxton like over 100 years ago?                  | Queen Victoria's bathing machine by Gloria Whelan, Oliver Twist (any children's version), Fact or information books about the Victorian times  |
| Miss Carver Year 3  | Who First Lived in Britain?                               | Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura, Stone Girl, Bone Girl by Lawrence Anholt, How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth by Michael Robinson  |
| Ms Williamson<br>Mrs McNamara<br>Years 3&4<br>Mr White Year 4 | What did the Romans do for us?                            | The Orchard Book of Roman Myths by Geraldine McCaughrean, Non-Chronological Reports: Roman Tribune by Andrew Langley   |
| Year 5  | Why should gunpowder treason and plot never be forgotten? | Wonder by R J Palacio  |
| Year 6  | What makes the USA special?                               | Warhorse by Michael Morpurgo, Holes by Louis Sachar  |





## Nursery

The children in nursery have been exploring Autumn. The children collected leaves from outside and made beautiful collages they also looked at the different types of vegetables. The children took part in an Autumn hunt, looking around the playground matching items that they found with a pictured tick list.

## Reception

Reception have had a super start to school this half term, settling into the school routine and making new friends! We have enjoyed talking about ourselves, our families and discussing how everybody is different. We have had lots of fun sharing our favourite stories too. A big well done to all our new starters!



## Year 1 & 2

Year 1 and 2 have had a great start to the school year learning all about 'What is Brilliant about Buxton'. They really enjoyed their trip on the little red bus, dressing up for National Science week in their space-themed outfits and making hedgehog bread. Well done and thank you children!

## Year 3

Rowan Class have enjoyed practising their skills with graded pencils. First, they learned about Henri Matisse and discussed some of his still life fruit paintings. Then they used the graded pencils as well as pens, to create these super pictures of a cross section of a pumpkin.



## Year 3 and 4

Ash Class. The children have learnt a lot about the Syrian Refugee crisis. They also learnt what it was to be a truly good friend and support a child (the character of Ahmet) in a book we have read. The drawings of the chairs were because Chapter 1 is entitled 'The Empty Chair'. Everyone is intrigued who is going to sit in it.



## Year 5

Elm and Birch have had a brilliant start to Year 5, learning all about their topic 'Could you survive like Bear Grylls?' As well as a 2-day trip to Whitehall, the children have taken part in a range of outdoor learning, such as spending time building shelters in the woods and using different sketching techniques to draw what they have seen around the school grounds. After a busy half term of learning, we think we could definitely survive like Bear Grylls!



## Year 6

The Y6 visited The National Holocaust Centre as part of their topic on World War 2.

The children explored the journey of a Jewish boy, Leo, in Germany during 1938 and how he came over to England as part of the Kinder Transport.

It was a great way to end our topic.



## SPORT

It has been great to get back to sports and P.E. at Harpur.

Nursery have been working on balancing and exploring lots of different sports equipment.

Our Reception classes have been learning all about the A, B, and Cs in P.E. - agility, balance and co-ordination and exploring different ways to travel. Our Year 1 & 2 have been exploring how to use their A, B, C's to compete in mini games and understanding how to climb and jump on and off equipment safely, they also had great fun using landmarks of Buxton to create Dances.

Year 3 have explored attacking and defending as an individual and understanding spatial awareness, whilst our year 4 children have learned all about different tag games.

Our Year 5 pupils have been working on attacking and defending as a team in multiple sports from football, basketball, netball and rugby. Lastly, Year 6 have competed in some challenging duel games and the last few weeks have explored Parkour and Ultimate Tag!





Dance and multisports afterschool clubs have spaces available so look out for a text if you would like a place for next half term. Our Football after school club is going great with two groups who are having lots of fun learning new skills and more importantly playing lots of matches.

Free sports breakfast clubs are still very popular with our KS2 children and a great way to start their morning! Children are loving the variation of sports, fitness, fun and questionable 90's pop music!

Last but by no means least it has been an absolute joy to finally attend some actual Inter School competitions!



We competed at the Year 5&6 Buxton Area football competition at Silverlands and one of our two boy's teams finished with the bronze medal in a very tough tournament, so well done, lads.

I am also incredibly proud to add that our girls team finished first!

They went on to represent Buxton at the High Peak Finals this week, and came a fantastic second! Well done girls.



Lastly, we attended the twice-rearranged Cross Country event with over 40 children and finished second overall meaning we qualify for the High Peak Finals event in November. We had great individual winners in the Year 3 & 4 boys and girls race also! So, well done, team.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Contact details

Kindly inform school of any contact changes – address/telephone/email. Absentees and medical appointments.

### School Absence

If your child is poorly and will not be in school, kindly phone the office to let us know. If your child is attending an appointment before starting school, again kindly let the office staff know in advance. Thank you.

### Medical Conditions

If your child's health changes, kindly send a letter to school to describe their condition, diet/allergies etc. Once we are aware of the situation we will send you a special form to complete which will be held in school for reference as and when required.

### School Uniform

Please check that all uniform is named, we have a lot of clothing, unclaimed, with no names.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October                 | End of term                                       |
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October                   | Staff INSET day                                   |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November                   | Start of new term                                 |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> November | Year 6 Bikeability                                |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> November                   | Ukulele club for KS2 to commence                  |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November                  | History van to visit Miss Carver's class          |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> December                   | Reception Nativity dress rehearsal                |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December                  | 1.30pm Nativity for Perfect Parrots' families     |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December                 | 1.30pm Nativity for Terrific Tigers' families     |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December                  | Flu immunisation for Reception to Year 6 children |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December                  | Infant dress rehearsal                            |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December                 | 1.30pm Nativity for Jolly Giraffes' families      |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December               | 1.30pm Nativity for Marvellous Monkeys' families  |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December                | 1.30pm Nativity for Lovely Leopards' families     |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December                 | End of term                                       |
| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December               | Staff INSET day                                   |