

HARPUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Trent Avenue, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 9LP Tel:01298 23261



NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Tuesday 21st December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As 2021 draws to a close, I would like to say a huge thank you to our families for your continued support this year. It has been another interesting year and I am pleased to say that despite everything, the children have worked hard, and enjoyed their learning and time in school.

We are pleased that we were able to invite parents and families in to school for the infant nativities. Thank you for supporting us with the safety measures we had in place. It was fantastic for the children to be able to perform in front of an audience - we hope you enjoyed the shows!

Coronavirus Update

The arrival of the Omicron variant has brought about changes to the government guidance. We intend to open fully in January and the latest advice states that face-to-face education is a priority. I will update you if anything changes that impacts on how we operate in school in January.

We continue to follow the latest government and public health guidance and this includes good hand hygiene, making sure there is appropriate ventilation, maintaining regular cleaning, and staff use of face coverings.

From 14th December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 was introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an LFD test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Once notified by Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students are strongly recommended to take a LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [online reporting system](#) and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow [national guidance](#). This approach should also be adopted over the Christmas holiday and on return in January.

The advice remains that any individuals with COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home, self-isolate and book a PCR test as soon as possible and remain at home until the PCR result comes through.

Snow/Extreme Weather

Thank you for your patience and understanding following the school closure at the end of November. I have met virtually with the other Buxton Cluster Headteachers and we have confirmed our joint approach to snow and school closures. We always try to keep Buxton schools open but we have to consider a number of factors in the morning: site conditions, road conditions, staffing levels, availability of school meals etc. We will make a decision to close (or open later) as early as possible via text message.

If you are not able to send your child in due to the snow, please inform school. We appreciate that the office can be busy at these times, but please leave a message or send us an email/text if you cannot get through, as we need to know that children are safe.

Occasionally it snows heavily during the day and we may need to close early. This is always a very difficult decision to make, and we will inform you via text message. If we do decide to close early we will, of course, look after your children until you get to school so please rest assured that your children will be safe.

The Cluster Headteachers have all agreed that in the event of a 'Snow Day' there is no strict requirement to virtually attend live lessons as we all agree that some families may prefer to enjoy a day in the snow together. Teachers will provide work for a snow day, which will be posted on either Dojo/Tapestry/Google Classroom or the website, for those families that wish to access it. In exceptional circumstances, if school were to close for more than one day, we expect all children to engage in remote learning, including live lessons from Day 2.

Many thanks for your understanding and support – let's keep our fingers crossed for milder weather in the New Year!

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 2022.

Best wishes,

Mrs Giliker



SCHOOL NEWS



Nursery

This half term, the children have been learning about celebrations. They have learnt about birthdays, Diwali, weddings and Christmas, and the children have enjoyed sharing their own experiences of these celebrations.

They have been exploring lots of festive activities in the lead up to Christmas. The children have particularly enjoyed sending letters and parcels in the post office roleplay area!

Reception

Our Reception children had a wonderful day making Christingles. The children walked to the church for a Christingle service with Reverend Liz.

Thank you to Morrisons for donating the oranges and thank you to all our parent helpers.



We are so proud of our Reception children who gave an excellent performance of the 'Wiggly Nativity'. It was an absolute delight to watch their happy faces.

Year 1 and 2



Our children have had a great term learning all about Victorian life in Buxton. They particularly enjoyed learning about transport and school life in Victorian times.

They have also worked really hard with learning songs and words for 'Ned's Christmas Nativity'. We are very proud of them all. Well done children - another great term! Merry Christmas from us all.



Year 3

Rowan Class have really enjoyed their 'Who First Lived in Britain?' topic this half term. They had a great time when Kathryn from the History Van visited.

They took part in activities such as making weapons, making paint to create cave paintings, milking a sheep (not real), grinding wheat into flour, making shell jewellery to trade, removing fur from animal skin (also not real) and much more.



Year 3 & 4



Ash and Willow classes thoroughly enjoyed their Roman Day. Our activities included: marching like Romans; playing a variety of Roman games, making clay Roman and Celt faces and examining Roman artefacts. We finished the day by performing a play about the Roman invasion of Britain.

Year 5



Year 5 have been answering the question 'Why should gunpowder, treason and plot never been forgotten?' this half term. They have learnt about the Gunpowder Plot and how it has impacted on politics today.

They have also developed their art skills this half term and have create some beautiful watercolour calendars of Buxton Opera House.

Year 6

Our Year 6 took part in USA Day, to celebrate the end of our topic on Why is the USA so Special?

We dressed in red, white and blue, made projects about types of music from America and produced artwork based on the work of graffiti artist Keith Haring.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 21 st December 2021	End of term
Wednesday 22 nd December 2021	Staff INSET day
Monday 10 th January 2022	School open to children from 8.45am
Tuesday 18 th January 2022	Northern Ballet to visit Year 1 & 2 children
Wednesday 19 th January 2022	Reception and Year 6 children to have their NHS height and weight recorded
Friday 18 th February 2022	End of term
Monday 28 th February 2022	Staff INSET day
Tuesday 1 st March 2022	School open to children from 8.45am

ONLINE CHRISTMAS SAFETY MESSAGES FOR PARENTS

We know that some of our children may ask Santa 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 your child to be safe online.

Parental Controls

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

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

The Technology: Learn your way around

Most devices have controls to ensure that children can't access content you don't want them to. [Make sure your "in-app" purchases are disabled](#), to avoid a nightmare surprise in the New Year.

Tablets

Tablets are really popular with younger children, the market has several which are geared towards child friendly content. When it comes to using them, start slowly; only download games and apps you have checked out carefully (sites such as www.net-aware.org.uk, or www.common sense media.org provide useful advice!) steer them towards age targeted content such as www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/cbeebies/features/iplayer-kids or YouTube Kids.

Mobile devices

If you have older children, and are thinking about getting them a new phone for Christmas, this can pose its own challenges:

The old online safety message about having your home computer in a communal place becomes defunct; because phones are literally mobile computers and have the power of most traditional desktop PCs.

Set boundaries

Our advice is to set some ground rules, and ensure they understand them, for example:

Screen Time

Agree a time limit or number of games beforehand, to avoid repeated disagreements around how long they can spend online.

Sleep comes first

It is advisable that the phone stays out of the bedroom to avoid those night time interruptions.

Ask for access

If you're genuinely concerned about them, ask them to allow you access to the phone.

Monitoring vs having a conversation

It is possible to install software onto devices that monitors online activity and alerts you to inappropriate behaviour, and can block access to certain content. This type of software is becoming increasingly popular, but while this might sound tempting, it does pose a number of issues around your child's right to privacy and could have an impact upon your relationship with them.

[SWGfL published this blog](#) earlier this year, which covers the subject in some detail and raises some interesting points.

READING

Cuddle up with a great book this Christmas!

Are you stuck for ideas for new and exciting books for your child to read? Then have a look at our website: <https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/our-classes/reading>

In our reading section, we have lists, in age groups, of the top 40 books selected by teachers and librarians, which is updated regularly.

The lists contain recommended reads for children of all ages in primary school, suitable for individual reading and reading together. These age-appropriate reading for pleasure books, consist of a variety of fiction and nonfiction books for all ability ranges and interests.

There is definitely something for everyone – have fun reading!

If you have any unwanted books that you would like to donate to the school, please send them in after Christmas. Thank you.

HARPUR THROUGH THE DECADES



As you will be aware, 2022 sees the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's reign. It will also be 70 years since Harpur Hill School has been at the present site on Trent Avenue.

We are taking part in an Oral History project with one of our governors,

Mrs Anne Rogerson, where children in school will be interviewing past pupils about their memories of their time at Harpur Hill School. We are calling this 'Harpur Through the Decades'. Anyone who attended the school in any of the past seven decades is invited to take part. We would ask that anyone reading this newsletter who attended the school, or has friends, relatives or neighbours who did, who would be happy to share their memories, to contact the school office, or Miss Carver at misscarver@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk It would be

extra special to find anyone with memories of being at the school in the early 1950s, when the present site opened and the Queen's coronation took place.

ADMINISTRATION

Contact details

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

Absentees and medical appointment Procedures

If your child is unwell or unable to attend school for whatever reason, please inform us as soon as possible, before 9am. You can contact us to report an absence by:

- phoning the school office 01298 23261 (you can leave an answer machine if you phone before the office is open)
- emailing sreception@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk
- texting school on 07786 207779 or by replying to a school text

If the absence is coronavirus related, we may need to contact you for further information.

LEARNING JOURNEY

Year	Topic	Books/authors
Nursery – Cubs	Cold Habitats	Snow Bear Guess How Much I love You in the Winter Tractor in Trouble Elmer in the Snow The Snowman
Nursery – Bears	Cold Habitats	Sweetest Kulu Poles Apart The great Explorer The Emperor's Egg The not-so-perfect penguin
Reception	Winter Wonderland	The Mitten What can you see in Winter? The Gruffalo's Child The Kitchen Disco The Runaway Iceberg
Year 1 & 2	Is Art everywhere?	We are all works of art by Ross Blake and Mark Spearring The Paper Dolls by Julia Donaldson, Colours by Roald Dahl
Miss Carver Year 3	Who are our European Neighbours?'	Paddington by Michael Bond A Walk in London & A Walk in Paris Both by Rubino Salvatore
Ms Williamson & Mrs McNamara – Year 3 & 4 Mr White Year 4	Why is the Planet so Blue?	Poems by Michael Rosen, especially 'Chocolate Cake' and 'Diary of a Killer Cat' by Anne Fine
Year 5	How did the Shang Dynasty fall?	The Firework-Maker's Daughter by Phillip Pullman
Year 6	Were the Vikings always victorious and vicious?	Viking Boy by Tony Bradman & Viking Myths and Legends

SPORT

We have enjoyed P.E. and sports during this half term.

Nursery have been working on throwing, catching and exploring different obstacle courses.

Our Reception classes have been exploring travelling in different ways and with different equipment such as a football, basketball, rugby ball and a hockey stick. Our Year 1 and 2 have been travelling and have been introduced to competitiveness and challenging each other.

Year 3 have explored Tag games and fundamental movement in different sports whilst our Year 4 children have learned about attacking and defending situation across many games/sports.

Our Year 5 have been working on problem solving, attacking and defending as a team in multiple sports from football, basketball, netball and rugby. Our Year 6 have competed in tactical situations across sports such as football, basketball, netball and rugby.

Our Football after school club is still going great with 2 groups who are having lots of fun learning new skills and more importantly playing lots of matches.

The school's free sports breakfast clubs are still very popular with our KS2 children, it is a great way to start their morning! This half term we have explored gymnastics, fitness, badminton, Tchoukball and many other sports.

We have reintroduced our Harpur Heroes team, which consists of some of our year 5 children being playground games leaders for our KS1 children during break times. It is a great way of introducing leadership skills to our Year 5s and the KS1 children have some wonderful role models to play with and look up to.

Outside of school I am pleased to announce we finished a fantastic 2nd place at the High Peak cross country Finals! A huge well done to all our pupils who represented the school!

We also had an opportunity to take some KS2 children to a Boccia and games afternoon at Chapel High school, which was lovely and last week some of our older children were able to go to the Pavilion Gardens Swimming pool to attend a Christmas themed swim session meeting Santa and some elves!

Coach Danny

CHRIS HILL COMMUNITY SPORTS

Please use the following link to next half terms after school sports club booking

<https://forms.gle/bYwBNjWUiNr1RLa6A>