

NEWSLETTER

January 2022

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers

A very Happy New Year to you! I hope you and your families have had a happy and healthy Christmas and were able to enjoy the festive season. The new term has started well in school. On Monday in assembly, we talked about New Year, and agreed a whole school resolution of working hard and making the most of learning. We also discussed other resolutions, such as learning times tables, reading more widely and often, healthy eating and helping out at home.

Reading and Phonics

Children love to read at Harpur! Evidence shows that children who read for enjoyment every day achieve well in school, and also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of the world and other cultures. Please make sure you continue to support your child with reading at home by:

- Hearing your child read regularly. Ideally, all children should be reading every day at home as well as at school.
- Practising phonics (Reception to Year 2) and playing phonics games.
- Using the local library.
- Enjoying a bedtime story.
- Talking about books and stories.
- Encouraging children to read for pleasure and read a range of books by different authors.

Thank you to everyone who has sent books into school after Christmas for our school library. We know the children will love reading them!

Music Update This term, Reception children will be having whole class music lessons through Derbyshire's Musical Gems Programme. Year 4 children are making great progress learning their brass instruments through the 'Wider Opportunities' Brass programme with Darren Lloyd on a Friday.

Some Year 5 children have continued to play brass instruments as part of the subsidised 'Further Opportunities' programme. Children in Year 5 can access subsidised instrumental lessons on other instruments too, through Derbyshire Music Partnership.

We currently offer the following musical instrument tuition:

- Cello (and double bass) taught by Sophie Sully
- Violin and brass with Darren Lloyd
- Guitar with Dave Morten
- Woodwind (flute, saxophone, clarinet) with Ben Simnett
- Ukulele with Mrs Howe

Junior Ukulele Club for new starters commences on Friday 21st for 5 weeks, 3.30-4.00pm with Mrs Howe. The cost is £6 per session.

If you would like your child to start playing an instrument, please get in touch as the instrumental teachers have some free spaces. If you email the school office with your child's name and the instrument they would like to play, we can pass on your information to the music teachers. Children can have either an individual lesson or, depending on numbers, teachers can provide small group lessons which reduces the price. If you are interested in your child receiving instrumental lessons and would like to discuss financial support, please let us know, as there are organisations you may apply to for subsidies/grants to help with costs.

Coronavirus Update

I am sure you are aware of the rapid spread of the Omicron variant and rise in cases locally. Over the Christmas break and recently, there have been some changes to the government advice as follows:

- The isolation period has been cut to 5 days, as long as the child has tested negative on a LFD on days 5 and 6 and they do not have a temperature. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than the morning of day 5 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours later. If the second test is negative, the child may return to school immediately on day 6.
- This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of selfisolation.
- From 11th January, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK.

Previous advice remains in place as follows:

- Anyone with coronavirus symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste/smell) are advised to self-isolate and book a PCR test.
- Regular handwashing, good respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning
- Good ventilation – opening windows and doors to improve air quality. We are fortunate to have a large school with a lot of space and we can keep classroom temperatures as comfortable as possible; however, if the weather becomes colder, you may send your child in to school with additional clothing such as base layers and an extra hoodie/sweatshirt. Please ensure all clothing items are named. Children should still be wearing school uniform.
- Parents/carers and other visitors are asked to take a LFD test before entering the school.
- Staff in school will continue to take LFD tests twice weekly
- Staff are advised to wear face coverings around school. These may be removed for teaching, eating and drinking
- There is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to regularly test, unless they have been identified as a contact for someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 and therefore advised to take LFD tests every day for 7 days.

Contingency Planning

The latest advice recommends we have plans in place if high numbers of staff and pupils are absent from school in the coming term. Fortunately, we have a large staff and good capacity within the existing staff team, in the event of high absence levels. If needed we may ask other staff to cover classes, including part time staff working extra hours. We will continue to follow advice from Public Health as required and of course keep you informed if anything changes.

Remote Learning

Part of our contingency plans include providing work for children if they cannot attend school due to coronavirus. Remote learning will be available if children are well enough to work from home. Arrangements for home learning are as follows:

- Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2: work will be posted on the school website and Tapestry
- 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) or arrange a phone call via the school office. Paper packs of work can be sent out if requested.

Healthy Eating

At Harpur Hill, we want to encourage children to eat healthily, exercise regularly and learn to make healthy choices. Many of our children have chosen healthy eating as one of their New Year's resolutions. Please may we remind you:

- Children should only be bringing in healthy snacks (fruit, breadsticks, veg sticks, cereal bars)
- Children should not be bringing in crisps or chocolate bars.
- Please check the ingredients and amount of sugar in cereal bars as some may contain as many as a bag of sweets.
- We are unable to distribute birthday cakes or treats.

Please make sure packed lunches have a balance of different food groups. Thank you.

Finally...

Wishing you a Happy New Year on behalf of all at Harpur Hill Primary School and Nursery. Thank you for all your support. Here's to a great 2022!

Best wishes

Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

Snow/Extreme Weather

We always try to keep school open in the event of heavy snow/extreme weather, but we have to consider a number of factors in the morning: site and road conditions, staffing levels, availability of school meals etc. In the event of severe weather, 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. If we make this decision, 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 here so please rest assured that your children will be safe.

In the event of a 'Snow Day' teachers will provide work, 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 closed for more than one day, we expect all children to engage in remote learning, including live lessons from day 2 of the closure. Many thanks for your understanding and support.

Sports – Breakfast club

Danny's breakfast clubs on Wednesday and Thursday mornings will start on 18th January and will run until the end of term, commencing from 8:15am to 8:45am. Wednesdays will be for Year 3/4 pupils only and Thursdays for Year 5/6 pupils only. Attendance will be granted on a first come first served basis as there will be limited spaces available. Please ask our office staff for an application form. Thank you.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 18 th January	Northern Ballet to visit Year 1 & 2 children
Wednesday 19 th January	Reception and Year 6 children to have their NHS height and weight recorded
Tuesday 1 st February	Bike Marking from 3.00pm –Derbyshire Police will be at school to carry out security marking on bikes. Your child may bring their bikes to school, or you may bring their bikes after school for this free service
Thursday 17 th February	Year 6 Viking Day
Friday 18 th February	End of term

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 a message on our 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.

Start and end of school day

Thank you for your continued help and co-operation with the start and end of day arrangements.

May we remind you of the following: -

- Please do not park on the zig zags
- Please do not block the school gates/disabled area (access required at all times).
- Please only park in the disabled area if you have a permit.
- Please do not congregate in groups outside the school gates and send your child straight into school as soon as you arrive, to avoid congestion.
- Please walk to school wherever possible to reduce the amount of traffic on the roads outside school.
- Please take care when driving outside school or on the main car park.
- Please park safely and considerately, without blocking pavements and driveways.
- Although not enforced, but endorsed by the Police, it helps congestion if more people observe the following one-way system - please enter via Trent Avenue road and exit using Ferneydale Avenue onto Fernway, exit onto Harpur Hill Road.