

HARPUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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



NEWSLETTER

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

18th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Well, this term has flown by! We've had a busy start to 2022, with lots of great learning and hard work! Children in the infants are making great progress with reading and phonics using the new Little Wandle phonics programme and reading practice books. Thank you for supporting your child's reading at home. We were pleased to see so many parents on the infant phonics and reading sessions – thank you to those of you who attended.

Things are becoming a little more 'back to normal' in school. Year 1 and 2 worked with a dancer from the Northern Ballet earlier this term, and watched a performance of Pinocchio at the Opera House as part of their 'Is Art Everywhere?' topic. Junior children worked with Buxton poet, Andy Tooze yesterday and produced some amazing poems. Children continue to enjoy their sport and PE with Coach Danny and we are through to County finals in Basketball, and the Sportshall Athletics Team came second in the area competition. We have started to have some of our assemblies in the hall again, including a mini concert by the Year 5 brass players.

Family Curriculum Events

We have really missed having families in school over the last few years. It was fantastic to see parents/carers of Year 5 children for the Shang Dynasty end of topic family event this week. The children loved sharing what they had learned this term with a real audience! We are going to be inviting families into school more regularly once again from next term. Teachers will be planning various family curriculum events – these may be a presentation, a gallery, an exhibition, an art/craft activity, songs or a play. Please look out for information about individual year group events next term.

Coronavirus

Since Christmas, we have seen an overall decline in coronavirus cases. Thankfully, most children and staff have had mild symptoms and many have been able to return to school after 5 days, so the disruption to education has been minimised. We continue to follow the latest government advice and report positive cases to Derbyshire Public Health. Currently, anyone testing positive on a Lateral Flow Test or PCR should isolate for at least 5 days. They can return to school subject to two negative lateral flow tests. The first test must be taken no earlier than the morning of day 5 of the self-isolation period and the second test must be taken 24 hours later. If the second test is negative, they may return to school immediately on day 6. We will of course update you if anything changes. Please continue to keep your child off school if they are unwell and report all absences to the office.

Parents' Evenings

Many families have said they would like to continue with remote parents' evenings as it helps with childcare, work and other commitments. Other parents have said they would prefer a face-to-face meeting with their child's teacher. Therefore, for the next parents' evenings, we will give families the choice to have either a Google Meet (Juniors), a phone call or a face-to-face meeting. You will receive information about how to book your appointment early next term.

Fire Alarm

Thank you to everyone for your patience and co-operation yesterday. The fire alarm sounded at 3.12pm, and the school was evacuated very quickly. The children were well behaved and very sensible. We had to wait outside for the Fire Service to check and make sure the building was safe - this is why the children had to go home without their belongings. Thankfully, there was no fire, just a fault on the system (which has now being fixed). When the Fire Service arrived, a few cars were blocking access to the school and pavements. Please may we remind you to park safely and carefully. Thank you once again.

Finally...

Thank you for helping and encouraging your child with their learning this term and for all you do to support our wonderful school. On behalf of everyone at Harpur Hill, I would like to wish you a good week's break.

See you after the holiday.

Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

SCHOOL NEWS



Nursery

The children in Nursery have been learning about cold habitats this half term. They particularly enjoyed the story 'The Emperor's Egg' and waited patiently for our egg in Nursery to hatch.



Reception

In Reception, we have been learning about the changes that occur in winter. On our winter walk, we made observational drawings and wrote a list of things we would expect to see in winter. We especially enjoyed learning about the process of freezing and melting. We played a game called 'Pass the Ice Cube' and made predictions around what we thought might happen to the ice cube, we then thought of different ways we could stop the ice from melting.



Year 1 and 2

The Year 1 and 2 children had a very exciting visit from Keisha, a member of the Northern Ballet Company. The children took part in a ballet workshop where they looked at pictures from the story of Pinocchio and then began to move in the style of puppets! They created movements of other characters from the story with a partner and developed these further to add to their dance.

The children visited the Buxton Opera House where they saw an excellent performance of Pinocchio by The Northern Ballet Company.





Year 3 and 4

Rowan class have really enjoyed their work on 'Who are our European Neighbours?

They created some amazing artwork in the style of European artist Sonia Delaunay, including paintings that they created using watercolours. They also used graded pencils to sketch European landmarks.

In English, the children have produced some superb quality writing, including non-fiction reports about Andean Bears and Paris. Their animal shape poems were fantastic.

In music, the children listened to and appraised Reggae music. They learned to play an accompaniment to Three Little Birds on the glockenspiels.

In computing, they used Purple Mash to calculate and create spreadsheets. The children have started to learn to touch type with BBC Dance Mat Typing.

In design and technology, they learned about static electricity and created games.

In science, the class found out about some European scientists and designers including Leonardo da Vinci. They made and flew hoop gliders based on da Vinci's flying machine sketches.

This term, the Ash and Willow classes created stunning ocean scenes using pastel techniques.

In music, Y4 are continuing to learn how to play their brass instruments and Y3 beautifully performed one of their songs to the nursery class.

In science, the children learnt about the digestive system and how teeth play an important part.

In English, we enjoyed listening, performing, and writing our own poems based on Michael Rosen's very funny narrative poems. We then moved on to 'The Diary of the Killer Cat' by Anne Fine where Tuffy inadvertently leads to the demise of three animals.

In PSHE, the children learnt about the importance of First Aid and what to do in certain situations such as if someone has an asthma attack.

In RE, the children discussed how important having an identity is and how the environment plays a part.

In computing the children begun to learn how to touch type using the Purple Mash tool 2Type, the children have really enjoyed this and will continue to practise this skill throughout their time at Harpur Hill.

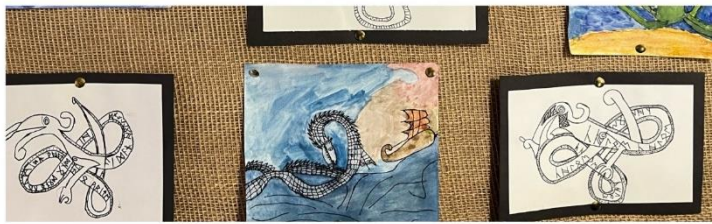


Year 5

In Year 5 this term, the children have been learning all about The Shang Dynasty. The children sketched Oracle Bones and then recreated them in clay.

In Maths, the children started the term by extending their knowledge and skills in multiplication and division. The children have now started studying fractions.

Our English this term has been inspired by the book 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman and the children have written letters, diaries and a story in the style of a traditional Chinese creation story.



Year 6

This term, Oak and Maple classes have produced some fantastic watercolour pictures of Viking creatures and monsters and made Viking inspired jewellery out of clay.

In Topic, the children learned about the Vikings and took part in a debate about who is the best Viking God.

In science, the children have been learning about Evolution and Inheritance and how animals and plants have adapted to the environment.

In English, the children have been reading 'Viking Boy' by Tony Bradman and they wrote a Viking diary, a Viking warrior story, a persuasive advert for a Viking Warrior position and a formal letter applying for the job!

In Maths, the children worked on percentages and have just started algebra.

In PSHE, the children learnt about the importance of money and how to save money. In computing the children have been making spreadsheets

The children had a fantastic term and they have worked hard.

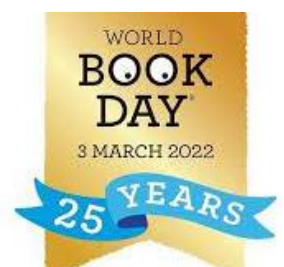
READING ROUND-UP

Home Reading Challenge

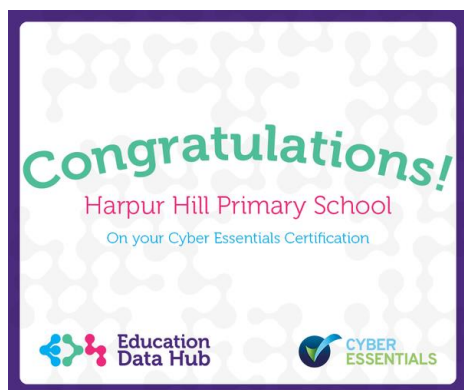
It is time for our Home Reading Challenge! Your child will bring home a list of fun activities that they can do to show how much they like to read. Every activity completed is worth 1 Dojo for the Juniors and House Points for the Infants. We hope they have fun taking part in all the challenges.

World Book Day

On 3rd March it is World Book Day. We would like to celebrate the day by asking the children to show their love of reading by coming to school dressed in their pyjamas, with a favourite bedtime story or favourite book.



CYBER ESSENTIALS



Last year, 41% of primary schools and 76% of secondary schools identified cyber breaches or attacks. With a global increase in attacks, we are delighted that Harpur Hill Primary School and Nursery is now Cyber Essentials Certified. The Cyber Essentials scheme is supported by the NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) and helps organisations put cyber security measures in place which protect from around 80% of common cyber-attacks. With the UK media regularly reporting on data breaches and cybercrime, we are doing all we can to safeguard our school community. Thank you to all the staff that have worked hard to evaluate our current

systems, review our processes and procedures and have been dedicated to improving our school cyber security. If you would like to know more about how you can protect yourself at home, please visit the NCSC website at: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/information-for/individuals-families>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 28 th February	Staff Inset day
Tuesday 1 st March	School opens
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day
Friday 18 th March	Comic Relief Day – children may come to school wearing pyjamas (optional). Donations welcome.
Tuesday 22 nd March	Year 5/6 Basketball – Alferton – details to follow
Tuesday 22 nd March	MapQuest 1 pm – 2.45 pm – details to follow
Friday 1 st April	Year 4 Brass playing at the Octagon pm - details to follow
Friday 8 th April	End of term

PLAYDAYS – Before and After School Club

‘Playdays’ (provides our before and after school club for all children) are able to provide breakfast and after school provision for nursery children from 7.30 am to 6 pm. They provide breakfast, snacks and a range of activities.

Please email enquiries@greenlanenurseryltd.co.uk for prices and further information. More information can be found on their website - <https://www.greenlanenurseryltd.co.uk>

February 2022 - /2 term holiday clubs

[Under 7's programme](#)

[Over 7's programme](#)

[Booking Form](#)

[Parent Pack](#)

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.

Parking

Please may we remind you not to park in disabled parking spaces as these should only be used by Disabled Badge holders.

LEARNING JOURNEY

Year	Topic	Books/authors
Nursery – Bears	Food	The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Enormous Turnip, Oliver's Fruit Salad, The Giant Jam Sandwich, Pass the Jam, Handa's Surprise, Jim Oliver's Vegetables, My Mum is Fantastic.
Reception	Jungle	Rumble in the Jungle, Walking Through the Jungle, Animal Boogie, Monkey Puzzle, We're Going on a Lion Hunt.
Year 1 & 2	Can you get around the world in 30 days?'	Any books from other cultures or countries. These can be non-fiction as well as fiction books.
Year 3 Miss Carver	ANCIENT EGYPT Is it all about Pharaohs, Pyramids and Papyrus?	Flat Stanley: The Great Egyptian Grave Robbery by Jeff Brown. Film Unit: Tadeo Jones.
Year 3 & 4 - Ms Williamson & Mrs McNamara Year 4 - Mr White	The Normans: why castles were certainly not bouncy!	Train your Dragon by Cressida Cowell, The Poetry Bug Strikes again, Green Shoots Rising by Andy Tooze.
Year 5	Were the Anglo Saxons really smashing?	Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo
Year 6	Why is the rainforest so important to us all?	The Explorer by Katherine Rundell.

SPORT

We have just finished another sports and fun filled half term here at Harpur Hill.

Nursery have explored some brand new sports including hockey, basketball, football and have loved showing us their forward rolls!

Our Reception classes have been exploring Tag Games and explored competitive games, focusing on taking turns & sharing whilst bouncing, rolling, throwing and catching a ball.

Our Year 1 & 2 children have been exploring 1 v 1 and 2 v 2 tag games and playing competitive games with a focus on sending, receiving, teamwork and trusting teammates.

With the weather too cold to go outside all of our Juniors have explored or focused on gymnastics.

Years 3 children have explored travelling, rolls, jumps and shapes.

Our Year 4 children have explored the more technical aspects of cartwheels, handstands, rolls and jumps and have been introduced to partner balances.

Year 5 and 6 both worked on counter tension and support balancing in pairs, learning to take the weight of a third partner, exploring the Vault apparatus and lastly creating an individual or paired routine to perform in front of their class.

Our Football after school club is still strong with a KS1 group who are having lots of fun learning new skills indoors with Coach Gabe and our KS2 group exploring some technical drills and playing lots of matches in the MUGA.

The school's free sports breakfast clubs were full this half term for KS2 children, unfortunately we had to limit numbers. We expect it to be the same this half term so please look out for a letter in the first week of the new half term.

Our Harpur Heroes team are loving being playground games leaders for our KS1 children during break times. Our KS1 children are enjoying having some older children/siblings to have fun and play games with.

Outside of school, I am so happy to announce we finished a fantastic 2nd place at the Buxton cluster Sports Hall Athletics event. We missed 1st place by a small margin so well done to all involved!



Lastly and by no means least our amazing Basketball squad won the Buxton Cluster competition and qualified for the High Peak finals.

I am so proud to announce that we also won the event qualifying for the Derbyshire Schools County Finals! Our children are still yet to concede a basket across both competitions!

Fingers crossed for the next round.



Enjoy your half term all!

Danny

CHRIS HILL COMMUNITY SPORTS

Please find link for after school bookings for Half Term 4

<https://forms.gle/acHkTSVw3Sqn4sG1A>