

HARPUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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



NEWSLETTER

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Friday 8th April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

The term has flown by and it's almost Easter! It's been a busy time in school and it has been fantastic to invite you in to school for events once again. Children have been out of school too, including various sports tournaments, Year 4 and 5 brass performing in the Octagon and Year 3 visiting the Pavilion Gardens.

Welcome!

We have several new families joining our school this week and after the Easter holiday. A very warm welcome to you all.

Parents' Evenings

Thank you for attending parents' evenings, either in person, virtually or over the phone. I am pleased to say that the vast majority of teachers have spoken to 100% of their parents/carers which is fantastic and shows just how supportive Harpur families are of their children's learning. If you have not yet been able to speak to your child's teacher, please get in touch and an appointment can be arranged.

Start and End of Day Arrangements

After Easter, we will be making a few changes to the start and end of the school day so that the majority of pupils use the main pedestrian gate (next to the park).

All classes (apart from Miss Wallace's Reception class 1, Miss Marsh's Year 1 and Miss Carver's Year 3 class) will enter and exit through the main pedestrian gate. Nursery will continue to use the small pedestrian gate.

Please may we remind you of the following:

- Do not congregate in groups outside the school gates and send your child straight into school as soon as you arrive, to avoid congestion
 - Walk to school wherever possible to reduce the amount of traffic on the roads outside school
 - Older children may cycle or scoot to school
 - Take care when driving outside school or on the main car park
 - Do not block gates or access to the school
 - Park safely and considerately, without blocking pavements and driveways.
 - Although not enforced, but endorsed by the Police, it helps to reduce 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.
 - Take extra care in the car park and make sure younger children are supervised by an adult
- Thank you

Staffing Update

On Wednesday we said goodbye to the marvellous Mrs McNamara, who has retired after being at Harpur Hill for 8 years, and teaching for over 40 years. We wish you all the very best for a happy and healthy retirement, Mrs Mac. Thank you for all you have given to the youngsters of Harpur and beyond over the years.

Today, Miss Samadram and Miss Murray will be starting their maternity leave. We wish you both all the best for the months ahead and hope you enjoy spending precious time with your new families.

We welcome Miss Hill who will be teaching Miss Murray's Reception class for the summer terms. We also welcome back Miss Wetton, who is returning from her maternity leave to teach Year 1 along with Miss Marsh.

Finally...

I would like to wish all our families and staff a very well deserved break over Easter and I look forward to seeing you all on 25th April. Have a lovely holiday!

THANK YOU

Cake Sale for the Ukraine Appeal organised by our School Council

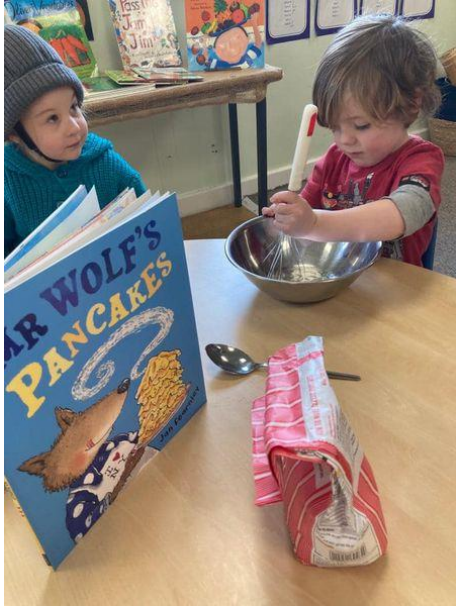
Thank you for your generous donations of cakes and for your monetary donations given to the cake sale. We raised an amazing £313.83! We will be sending this money to the Disaster Emergencies Committee to help those in or from the Ukraine.



LEARNING JOURNEYS

Year	Topic	Books of interest
Nursery Brilliant Bears	Bears	Whatever Next? Can't You Sleep, Little Bear? We're Going on a Bear Hunt, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
Reception	The Great Outdoors	Jack and The Beanstalk , Superworm, What The Ladybird Heard, Spinderella, A Seed in Need, Sunflower House, The Enormous Turnip.
Year 1	Can you keep a dragon as a pet?	Any non-fiction books about animals, pets, habitats, food chains, life cycles.
Year 2	Can you keep a dragon as a pet?	A range of books about dragons
Year 3	What Makes the Earth Angry?	Escape from Pompeii by Christina Balit, When the Giant Stirred: Legend of a Volcanic Island by Celia Godkin, Volcano Wakes Up (poetry) by Lisa Westburg Peters.
Year 3/4 Year 4	Why is Manchester such a cool place to live?	The Iron Man by Ted Hughes.
Year 5	How will climate change really change our world?	The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien, The Last Bear by Hannah Gold.
Year 6	Why were the Mayans Marvellous?	Biographies and Mystery stories.

Nursery



The children have been learning about food, they have listened to stories relating to food, such as, Oliver's Vegetables and Oliver's Fruit Salad. They even prepared and ate their own fruit salad and vegetable soup. The children in nursery celebrated Shrove Tuesday. They listened to the story 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes' and then made their own batter using flour, eggs and milk. They enjoyed eating their pancakes at snack time with syrup, lemon and a little sprinkle of sugar.

The children have been very busy planting seeds to grow peas, and have started their own potato patch. They are very excited to see the vegetables beginning to grow.

Reception



The children in Reception had an amazing time with Jungle Jo. Jo brought along some special visitors for us to look at and hold. The children were so brave and learnt lots of wonderful facts about creatures that live in the jungle!

Year 1 and 2



This half term the Year 1 children have been learning about wheels and axles in D&T. They have explored how to make axles and axle holders and have now finished making their own moving vehicle.

The Year 2 children have been learning about different linkages and finding out which is the best type of linkage for particular purposes. They have designed and made their own moving monster, using a pivot linkage. Great work everyone!

Year 3

Rowan Class have had an enjoyable half term, really enjoying their history work on ancient Egypt. They have learned all about the process of mummification. The children loved mummifying oranges, and found it trickier than they thought it would be. They have also learned about how Ancient Egyptian artwork, paintings, hieroglyphs and artefacts with pictures on such as canopic jars and jugs are evidence to help historians and archaeologists work out how they lived. They created some wonderful pictures of Queen Nefertiti.

The class also enjoyed an informative afternoon finding out about some more recent and far more local history, at Pavilion Gardens. They learned all about the Octagon being built, the car park being on the site of what was a skating rink, and their highlight - singing 'Three Little Birds', on the Octagon stage, where the Beatles once performed.



Year 3 & 4

In English, we have enjoyed reading exciting adventures from How to Train your Dragon, by Cressida Cowell. Our class novel, The Boy who made the World Disappear, is coming to a very interesting end. In art, we have progressed in our drawing skills by sketching castles, linked to our Norman history topic.



We depicted scenes from the Bayeux Tapestry when we shared some of our learning to an audience as we invite parents to our presentation of learning on Thursday 7th April. We shared facts from our topic and sang songs from our music lessons.

Year 4 & 5 Brass



Well done to all our Year 4 and 5 brass players for an excellent performance at the Octagon in the Primary School Showcase with the Peak District Music Centre last Friday afternoon.

The children played with other primary schools in a concert which also included the Peak District Big Band and Peak District String Orchestra.

After Easter, the music centre are inviting new players to their open week. You can find out more information here:

<https://www.pdmc.org.uk/>

Year 5

The children have had a very busy half term learning about the Anglo Saxons and Beowulf.

They enjoyed a visit from Enrichment through Archaeology in which they learnt all about the life of an archaeologist. The children have also enjoyed researching plants in their science topic 'Space'.



Year 6

This term, Oak and Maple classes have produced some amazing pictures inspired by the painting 'Surprise' by Henri Rousseau.



In Topic, we have learned about Rainforests and researched the animals that live in rainforests and countries where they are found, we also included writing a newspaper report on deforestation.

In science, we have been learning about Living Things and their Habitats. In English, we have been reading *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell, this is an amazing book about a group of children who are lost in the Amazon rainforest. We have written a balanced argument, a non-chronological report, a poem and a story on this theme! In Maths, we have worked on shape and angles.

We have had a fantastic term and the children have again worked hard preparing for their SATs next term.

As featured in the



Harpur Hill School seeks ex-pupils for 70th anniversary oral history project.

A Buxton Primary School is appealing for past pupils to share memories of their classroom days for an oral history project celebrating the organisation's 70th anniversary.

The first cohort of junior age pupils arrived at the Harpur Hill School, on the Trent Avenue site in September 1952, the same year that Queen Elizabeth came to the throne.

Present day pupils are working on projects to mark both anniversaries, assembling archive materials, which tell the school's story, and now they looking to document the experiences of previous generations who passed through the same halls.

Governor Anne Rogerson, who also leads the Buxton & District U3A Oral History group which has produced numerous records of local life, is working with year three teacher Lis Carver to develop the idea.

She said: "One focus of the project will be to find stories from past pupils who will talk to us about their school days. We would like this to take the form of the children asking the questions and believe this will mine a rich seam of memories.

"Unfortunately, most people always underestimate the value of their own story, so it is that issue we need to overcome. Any snippet of information on any aspect of school life will all be valuable, for example lessons taught, playground games, school dinners, school trips, prizes, school uniform."

She added: "We need people from all seven decades if possible to present the whole story of development."

Anyone who would like to contribute to the project can contact Anne via 01298 26720 or anne.rogerson@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk, or Miss Carver via info@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 8 th April	End of term
Monday 25 th April	New term starts
Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3 rd May	School open
Wednesday May 4 th	Year 1 phonics talk in the hall at 9.00am Year 1 phonics zoom meeting at 4.00pm
Tuesday 17 th May	Rowan class to visit the Crescent Experience
Friday 27 th May	Jubilee celebrations, also 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 the 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.

Smoking

Smoking is not allowed on the school grounds. Could we please ask those who do smoke, not to do so in front of the children; especially at the gates while dropping off or collecting children. Thank you.

SPORT

Happy end of term everybody.

Nursery have explored moving around in different ways this half term using different equipment and different body parts!

Our Reception classes have been exploring gymnastics focusing on balancing, rolls, shapes and jumps whilst our Year 1 and 2 children have been further exploring more technical aspects and partner work. They finished off with some individual routines, which were amazing!

Our Year 3 children have explored netball and basketball, learning how to pass, move and dribble in the sports before playing some small-sided games.

Our Year 4 children have started to explore invasion games, working through hockey and football and started to understand how to attack and defend as individuals and a team.

Year 5 worked hard learning about netball and basketball focusing on tactics, rules of the game and playing to win.

Lastly, our Year 6 children started to link how some invasion sport tactics can be used in other sports, football, rugby and hockey were our focus, and we explored some game-like situations.

Football after school club has been lots of fun with a KS1 group who started to play some matches as well as learning about dribbling and passing with Coach Gabe. Our KS2 group worked on their shooting and crossing as well as lots of games!

Free sports breakfast clubs have again been at full capacity and we have explored some new sports this half term such as badminton and tchouckball. Please get your reply slips in after Easter for a space next half term.

During this last week of term, we encouraged our Year 5 and 6 children to cycle to school as part of a cycling week. We had some fun time trials, cycling routes set out through the field (although the weather tried its best to disrupt), and hopefully children will continue to cycle/scoot to school during the warmer months.



We have also had another great half term competing and being involved in inter school sports with the HPSSP.

Some of our Year 4 children attended Map Quest at the Pavilion Gardens and had a lovely afternoon orienteering!

We found out at late notice that our fantastic Cross Country team had qualified for the regional finals in Derby held during this last week of term. Our amazing squad put in some great performances to compete over 1600m and 2100m! We had some very happy but tired children afterwards. Well done team.



For the second half term in a row, I am ending by saying huge CONGRATULATIONS to our basketball squad. They put in a great performance at the Derbyshire Basketball finals finishing joint top of their qualifying group. They unfortunately lost out on the final by 1 basket but dominated in the 3rd place play off, to finish 3rd overall! We are so proud of all of our athletes this half team!



Well Done Team Harpur and have a lovely Easter.

Danny