

## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

### HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful term with much to celebrate. We have enjoyed festive performances, and hosted special visitors, including the Private Secretary to the Prime Minister and Santa himself! Some year groups have invited their families in for curriculum events such as the Year 6 'What's special about the USA?' afternoon where children shared their documentaries about America. All of the children have worked hard in their lessons this term, and there has been a lovely atmosphere in school. Thank you for supporting your child's learning and everything we do in school.

#### Nativities

The infant children put on fantastic nativities: Reception entertained us with the 'Wriggly Nativity' and Key Stage 1 delighted us with 'Little Angel Gets Her Wings'. Well done to all the children and thank you to parents/carers for helping children to practise songs, learn lines, and providing costumes. The children really enjoyed performing to such a welcoming audience. Thank you for coming along to the shows and supporting the children!



#### Musical Performances



We have been so impressed with our choir and young musicians this term. We have lots of children playing instruments again and have enjoyed hearing them entertain us.

Children have performed in assemblies and concerts: Choir and ukulele club were fantastic at the Christmas Fair, and on 9<sup>th</sup> December, our school choir, Year 5 & 6 brass, clarinet club, cellists and ukulele club gave their families a musical treat in a Christmas Concert. We were so impressed with the children's performances!

If you would like your child to learn an instrument in the New Year, please get in touch with the school office. We currently offer: guitar, ukulele, violin, cello, brass, clarinet, and other woodwind. Choir will be starting again in January, after school on a Tuesday, and is open to Year 2 and Key Stage 2.



### **Christmas Fair**

Thank you to Team Harpur PTFA and everyone who supported the Christmas Fair. It was a very enjoyable evening and raised valuable funds for our school.

### **Christmas Party Day**

Children have enjoyed their Christmas Party day with a disco, party food and a visit from Santa. They were even able to ask him questions and choose a gift from the Elf Workshop. Thank you to Team Harpur PTFA and Santa's helpers for arranging such a lovely day.

### **The Snowman**

Years 1-3 enjoyed an afternoon at The Octagon, listening to a live orchestra accompanying the animations 'Shaun the Sheep: The Flight Before Christmas,' and 'The Snowman.'

It was lovely to see the children so excited and responding enthusiastically to live music. Thank you to parent helpers who accompanied us on this visit.

### **County Champions**

We were all a little disappointed that England didn't reach the World Cup final. However, we couldn't be happier with the efforts of our very own boys' football team, who won the County finals earlier this term. They celebrated in assembly (three times) wearing their medals, and also enjoyed a Domino's. A huge well done to the team and thank you to Coach Danny for your hard work and dedication to our children.



### **Finally...**

On behalf of everyone at Harpur Hill, I would like to thank you for supporting our wonderful school. A very Happy Christmas to you all, and best wishes for the New Year.

Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

## **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>

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!



## LEARNING JOURNEYS

Year	Topic	Books of interest
Nursery Brilliant Bears	Superheroes	There's a Superhero in your book, A Hero Like You, Superworm, Eliot Jones, Midnight Superhero, Kindness makes us Strong.
Reception	Winter Wonderland	What can you see in Winter? The Gruffalo's Child, The Mitten, The Runaway Iceberg, The Kitchen Disco.
Year 1 Miss Marsh J.G. Miss Wetton L.L.	Why did people want to explore the Antarctic?	Little Deer Lost, Dear Greenpeace, My Friend Whale & Ice Bear.
Year 2 Miss Gough	Why did people want to explore Antarctica?	Where is Antarctica? by Sarah Fabiny, Antarctica: Land of the Penguins by Jonathon Scott and Mr Penguin & Lost Treasure by Alex T. Smith
Year 3 Miss Carver	Who Are Our European Neighbours?	Paddington series by Michael Bond, A Walk in London and A Walk in Paris by Salvatore Rubino.
Year 4 Ash – Ms Williamson & Mrs Rushworth Willow – Mr White	Why is Manchester such a cool place to live?	Kasper: Price of Cats by Michael Morpurgo.
Year 5 Mrs Deveney Mrs Clay	How did the Shang Dynasty fall?	The Firework-Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman.
Year 6 Mrs Nuttall Mr Kilgallon	How could Hitler have convinced a nation to follow him?	Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian and Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Nursery – Bear Cubs



The Bear Cubs have spent time this half term exploring texture by reading 'That's not my...' stories. They have experienced different man-made materials, as well as natural textures and materials in the outdoors and conservation area. As part of our Christmas celebrations, the children have created calendars, cards and pictures using a range of different craft materials.



They have learnt Christmas songs and have enjoyed moving freely and using instruments to accompany their singing.

## Nursery - Brilliant Bears

This half term, the Brilliant Bears have been learning about celebrations. They have listened to lots of stories about different types of celebrations, including birthdays, Diwali, weddings and Christmas and have explored lots of messy play and other activities linked to this topic. The children particularly enjoyed exploring jelly and ice cream!

They have also been practising Christmas songs and were ready for an afternoon of Christmas crafts and carols with our parents. The post-office role-play area has been a huge hit and the children have been writing/posting letters and Christmas cards to their friends, families, and of course, Santa Claus!



## Reception



Reception have been looking after animals in their vet role play. The children have enjoyed making appointments and taking on different roles. We looked after our animals so well that we decided to invite Bubba the tortoise to our class. The children learnt all about Bubba and how his owners take care of him. We all got to touch his shell and describe how he felt. We think Bubba enjoyed it too as he got to eat his favourite snack, strawberries!

Our Reception children enjoyed learning all about Christingle. We learnt about what each part represents and worked together to make our Christingles. We then went to St James' Church in the afternoon for a Christingle service with Reverend Catrin.

Thank you to all our parent/carers helpers that helped walk the children to and from church.



## Year 1

The children have enjoyed learning about the seasons, the weather and changes this half term. They have worked hard to learn the names of the 4 seasons and the different types of weather in each season. They also worked really hard to learn the songs for our Nativity 'Little Angel Gets Her Wings' and they made us very proud with their singing and dancing. Well done, children!

We really enjoyed our first visit to Buxton library and the Octagon to see The Snowman.



The children have been working with Celia Dunk, our guest music teacher, who has been fantastic at helping the children to compose and read music. We have learned the names of notes, how to read simple music notations and how to create our own simple compositions as well as playing these on the chime bars!

## Year 2

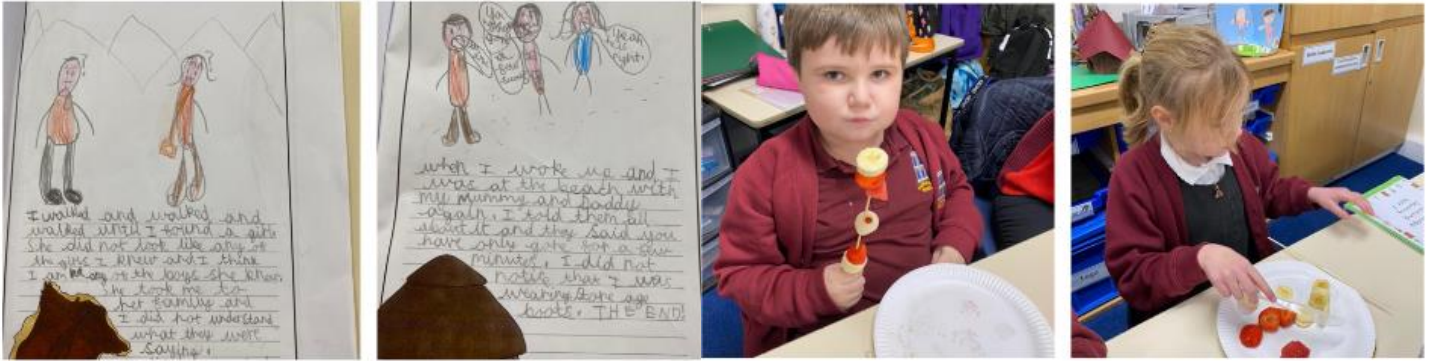
The children have had an excellent and very busy half term! We have been 'Super Scientists', finding out all about rainbows and how they are made - we even learnt how to 'grow' our own rainbow! In Art, we have learnt how to make tints and shades. We mixed different colours of paints to make our own colours and then used them for our own artwork. In D & T, we have learnt how to sew a running stitch and used it to make our own pouch. The end of this half term has been full of music as the children worked hard to learn all of their songs for our Nativity performance, as well as using lots of their acting skills to tell the story. The children have also been busy making Christmas cards and crafts before the big day.





### Year 3

Rowan Class have really enjoyed their history work on 'Who First Lived in Britain?' this half term. They have created some amazing homework projects including Stone Age houses and models of Stonehenge. They have loved creating a clay 'Lion Man' based on a 40,000 year old Lion Man carved into part of a mammoth's tusk. The children mixed paint to create sunrise backgrounds to Stonehenge. They have written, edited and 'published' their own Stone Age adventure stories, and enjoyed reading these to each other. The class have learned about seasonal foods, making fruit kebabs and rainbow tarts in their design technology lessons. They have continued to learn to play the glockenspiels and enjoyed learning and performing 'Jingle Bells'.



### Year 4



Year 4 spent their Roman Day learning about the history of Rome, Roman Numerals and designing mosaics. They constructed aqueducts with the parents and carers who came in. When we tested them, they all worked! In design and technology learning, the children planned, designed, made and tested their slingshot cars. In science they have been studying electricity, working on circuits, discovering how to light a bulb, make a buzzer buzz and a motor move.

### Year 5

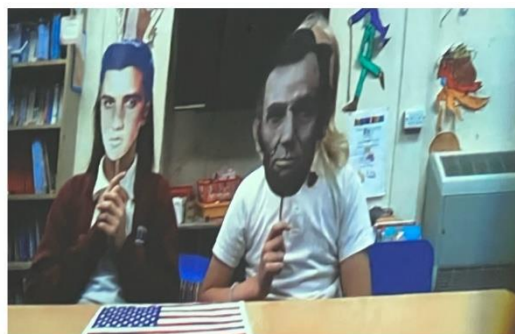


This half term, the children in Year 5 have been studying whether the Gunpowder, Treason and Plot should have been forgotten in their History lessons.

The children have been studying parliament and how their decisions influence our lives. On Friday afternoon, they were lucky enough to have a visit from the Private Secretary to the Prime Minister to round off the topic. He explained a typical day in 10 Downing Street and the children had the opportunity to ask some sensible and interesting questions.

## Year 6

The Year 6 children have been learning about the USA this term. They have compared the climate and culture of the USA and the UK, learned about the Native Americans and the Black Lives Matter movement. They have also produced artwork based on the artist, Keith Haring. They celebrated their learning with a USA Day at the end of the term. The children made a documentary about the USA and shared it with families.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 21st December 2022	End of term
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2022	Staff INSET day
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	School open – new term
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	Northern Ballet workshop for Years 1 and 2
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	End of term

## GOVERNORS

Mr G Wentworth will continue with his role of Parent Governor.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Start and end of school day

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

May we remind you of the following: -

- 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.

## Absence 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](mailto:sreception@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk)
- texting - school on 07786 207779 or by replying to a school text.

Kindly let the school know any changes in your address/telephone/email details, so we can amend our records to enable you to receive texts/emails.

## Public Health Reminder

Schools follow Public Health guidelines with regard to rashes, skin infections, diarrhoea and vomiting and infections. Please see letter sent out earlier this term about Strep A and Scarlet Fever.

If your child is off school due to diarrhoea or vomiting it is absolutely necessary to make sure your child does not return to school until 48 hours **after the last episode** of diarrhoea or vomiting.

## PLAYDAYS

Playdays is the part of Green Lane Nursery Ltd that offers wraparound care for many local families offering holiday clubs for young children. If you are interested, please click on the link for further information:

<https://www.greenlanenurseryltd.co.uk/>

## SPORT

Although it has been a cold and icy half term it hasn't stopped our sports and P.E. at Harpur!

Both our Nursery classes now visit 'big' school every Thursday morning and have been exploring new sports and equipment this half term.

Our Reception classes have explored 'Travelling' this half term. We started by exploring how we could travel around with our bodies and then with different equipment.

Year 1 & 2 have started learning how to travel with a ball in specific sports such as Football, Basketball, Hockey and Rugby.

Year 3 have been introduced to competition and explored how winning and losing feels.

Our Year 4 children have started to explore how to work as a team in different sports and again revisited winning and losing and how to be a good teammate.

Year 5 started exploring how tactics can be used to help us win as an individual and more so a team. We also started to talk about being a 'good sport' across different sports.

Lastly our Year 6 children strengthened their grasp on how tactics play an important role in sports. We worked through different sports and games to understand tactics for invasion games, individual games and more.



Our three Afterschool clubs (KS1 football, KS2 football and whole school multisports) have been even busier this half term so please do get your reply slips in as soon as possible if you wish to book your child a place for next half term.

Our year 5/6 breakfast club has again been lots of fun with games such as badminton, gymnastics, tchouckball, scooter-board basketball and more played.

Unfortunately, our lower Juniors breakfast club has been low on numbers so we have decided to change it to a girls only football breakfast club. Lots of the girls have been asking for this and if the interest is there we may move it to an afterschool club.

We have also had some fun in school following the World Cup! I'm sure children have told you but we semi successfully watched England's first game in school together which was a great experience and one I'm sure the children will remember for a long time given the positive score line.

Some out of school sports news now. We do love to celebrate our pupils' success in their sports outside of school. For example, one of our Year 6 pupils now has the 10<sup>th</sup> fastest time for the 50m Freestyle in the whole of England this half term, which is amazing. She is an incredible swimmer and athlete. We also have the reigning European RC champion for their age in Year 6. Please do send your child in with their stories as myself and the rest of the staff do honestly love to hear them. Even if it's just starting a new sport.

Lastly onto our Inter School competitions. Our first competition this half term was Year 5/6 dodgeball. Our Year 5 team finished a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> and our Year 6 team took 1<sup>st</sup> place. Well done, teams.

Our penultimate week of term saw some children attend a fun Christmas themed swimming gala at the Pavilion Gardens. Lots of fun was had during the races and the children had the best time.

Lastly as you may have seen on social media, our Year 6 football team attended the Derbyshire Schools County Football Finals. We eased through the group only conceding 1 goal. In the semi-final we went to penalties and our 'keeper saved 2 to put us through to the Final. In the final itself we drew 0-0 in an 8 minute game again going to penalties. Our 'keeper again saved 2 more penalties to crown us "Derbyshire Schools Football County Champions"!!!!!!

We are incredibly proud of the boys and we start to prepare for the next round already.

Well done, Team Harpur

Have a Merry Christmas, everybody.  
Danny