

## NEWSLETTER

### HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

This term has flown by and spring is almost here! It has been a busy term, with much to celebrate. The children have worked hard in their lessons, enjoying their learning in class and beyond. We have had lots of sporting success and musical performances too this term. Well done to all the children!

#### Thank you

It has been good to see many of you coming into school for various events and activities this term. Thank you for supporting your child's learning. Nursery have their weekly 'stay and play' sessions, and Reception classes visit the woods for their Welly Wednesdays. This week, Year 5 put on a fabulous exhibition about the Shang Dynasty, and Year 6 enjoyed a World War 2 art session. It has been great to see grandparents coming in to school for events too – they are always welcome, either with you or instead of you, if you have to work.

#### Sporting Success

A huge well done to all the Year 5 and 6 children who competed in the Buxton round of the Sports Hall Athletics on Wednesday morning. We finished first, qualifying for the High Peak finals. Thank you to Coach Danny for all your hard work and encouragement.



#### Brass Concert

Year 4 have been learning to play brass instruments as part of the Wider Opportunities programme. Last week, Year 4 performed in a concert for families and Year 3 children along with the Year 5 & 6 brass players. They are making fantastic progress with their playing and musical knowledge. Well done!

#### Big Sing at St John's

Last Friday, our choir joined with Buxton Juniors, Burbage Primary and Fairfield Juniors in a Big Sing Event at St John's Church, hosted by the Peak District Music Centre. The children had a short rehearsal in the afternoon, followed by a fantastic performance of three songs - I See the Light, Shotgun and Power in Me. Thank you to families for supporting the event and helping us walk to church.

The Big Sing was a launch event for a new Young Singers Choir for children aged 8 - 12, which will meet weekly in term time, starting on Wednesday 1st March at 4.15 at St Thomas More School. It is open to all the schools in the Buxton area and we hope some of our children from Harpur will join. For more information contact [admin@pdmc.org.uk](mailto:admin@pdmc.org.uk) or just go along to the first session.

#### Buxton Crescent Heritage Experiences

Buxton Crescent Heritage have a range of activities for the half term holiday:

<https://buxtoncrescentexperience.com/tour/buxton-assembly-rooms-halfterm-holiday-activities/>

Please see the information leaflet emailed with this newsletter, for information about what's on offer at half term and beyond. Many of the activities are free and look like great fun for primary aged children.

### **Staffing Updates**

Miss Samadram and Miss Murray will be returning to school before the Easter break following maternity leave. They will be back in school several times next term, to prepare for their return. Miss Murray will be returning to Reception Terrific Tigers (Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays) and Miss Samadram will teach the Jolly Giraffes Year 1 class on Thursday and Fridays, and Terrific Tigers on a Wednesday afternoon. Mrs Capewell-Smith and Mrs Railton will be in Terrific Tigers on Fridays in Reception. Mrs Homer will be going on maternity leave mid-March and will be covered by Mrs Westwood.

### **Strike Action**

The next scheduled teachers' strike is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. We will remain open for all classes, apart from Mr White's Year 4 Willow class, who will need to stay at home for the morning only (this class will need to come to school for 12.00). I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. Please come and discuss with me if you have any questions regarding this.

### **Finally...**

Thank you for all your support this term. We wish all our families an enjoyable break.

Best wishes

Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

## **KS2 Home Reading Challenge**

Reading is great... but reading for pleasure is even better!

Does your child always choose Michael Morpurgo or is Jeff Kinney, Roald Dahl or Malorie Blackman their usual 'go to' author?

If you feel that your child is 'stuck' on a particular author or genre then this is a great challenge for them.

By taking part in our Home Reading Challenge, the children can experience reading genres that they may never have thought of reading.

They can even earn Dojos for every challenge they complete!

The challenge starts in the half term holiday and the children have three weeks to complete as many activities as they can.

Have fun!

Don't forget World Book Day is on the Thursday 2nd March! We will be having a dressing up day on Friday 3rd March – children may come to school dressed as a book character if they wish.

Our child has been given a World Book Day token to spend on a free World Book Day book, available in most book shops

Year	Topic	Books
Nursery Brilliant Bears	Planting and Growing	Monster clothes, Jasper's Beanstalk, Sam Plants a Sunflower, The Growing Story.
Reception	Jungle	Rumble in the Jungle, Animal Boogie, Walking Through the Jungle.
Year 1	How and where did the Great Fire of London start?	Toby and The Great Fire of London by Margaret Nash and Jane Cope, Good Night London (Good Night Our World).
Year 2	How and where did the Great fire of London start?	See inside London by Rob Lloyd Jones, Who was....Samuel Pepys? by Paul Harrison. The Great Fire of London by Liz Gogerly.
Year 3	What did the Ancient Egyptians achieve and how do we know?	Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx by Joe Todd-Stanton, Flat Stanley: The Great Egyptian Grave Robbery' by Jeff Brown.
Year 4 Ash – Ms Williamson & Mrs Rushworth Willow – Mr White	Why were Norman castles certainly not bouncy?	Children's news programmes such as Blue Peter and Newsround, World Book Day book from your free book token - children to bring their book to share in class. Any Atlas, any history book which includes the Normans.
Year 5	What are the effects of climate change?	The Last Bear by Hannah Gold.
Year 6	Why should the rainforest be important to us all?	The Explorer by Katherine Rundell.

## SCHOOL NEWS

## Nursery



The Bear Cubs have been learning about winter this half term. They have enjoyed experiencing the cold weather, playing outside in the snow, and have brought their learning inside by exploring different 'messy play' activities, including penguins in ice and cornflour snow. They have made some wonderful penguin and snowman crafts and have enjoyed exploring the different materials used to make them.





## Nursery

The Brilliant Bears have been learning about superheroes and have explored the different powers that superheroes have, such as strength, super speed and ice powers, but they also learnt that kindness is a super power that we all have! The children have listened to lots of stories about superheroes, including real life heroes like doctors, firefighters and vets and have enjoyed role-playing as different superhero characters. The children have continued to enjoy their weekly visit to the conservation area. This half term they have made bird feeders to hang in the trees, spotted superheroes hiding in the trees and made marks on their clipboard to show what they found. They even had a winter picnic in the snow!



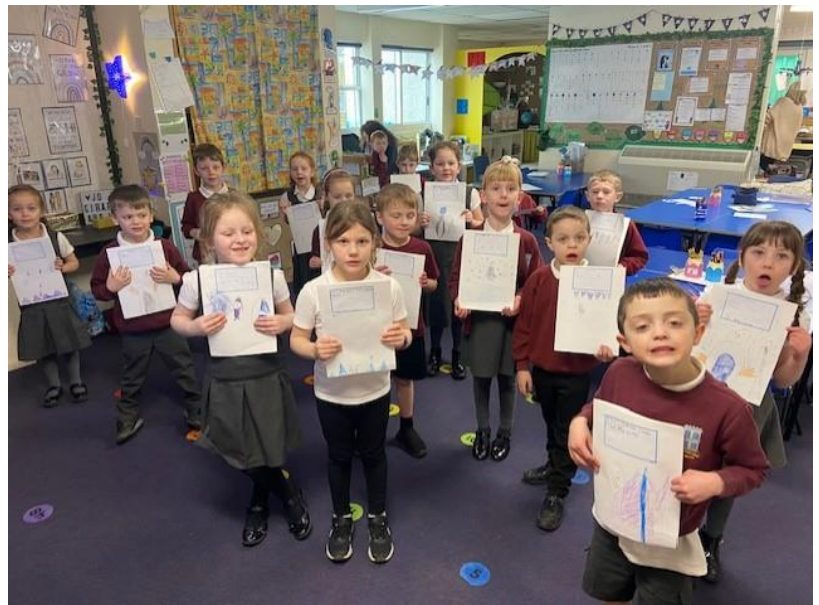
## Reception



This term in reception we have been exploring our local environment. We have enjoyed our "Welly Wednesday" walks in the local woods and have been talking about the changes that happen in winter. We used our knowledge of the woods to draw maps to help the Gruffalo find his lunch! We have enjoyed spotting the Gruffalo at different Buxton landmarks and have produced some super writing, which we are going to make into a book to add to our reading area.

## Year 1

The children have really enjoyed their topic, 'Why did people want to travel to Antarctica?' They learned about the animals which live in each of the Polar Regions and the Equator, and what features we would find in each of these places. They have enjoyed making pop-up books this week and writing facts they have learned.





## Year 2



The children have had yet another very busy half term, learning all about Antarctica. We have enjoyed listening to the story 'The Penguin who wanted to find out', and then wrote our own stories about an animal from Antarctica. In Geography, we have been naming and locating all the continents and oceans of the world on a map. We have found out about the famous explorer, Ernest Shackleton, and created a pop-up book of facts about him. In Science, we have named lots of habitats and learned which living things live in each one. We then used our construction skills to create our favourite habitat, complete with animals!

## Year 3

Rowan Class have loved learning about European countries and their features, about European scientists and artists this half term. They particularly enjoyed painting in the Orphism style of artist, Sonia Delaunay. They painted dress designs using geometric shapes and bright colours. They delighted in mixing water colour paints to create their own colours. The children found out about a number of European scientists and inventors, including Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Leonardo da Vinci. They made paper boats and investigated how many marbles they held until they sank, and hoop gliders. The class have enjoyed sharing their homework projects including trying Italian foods.

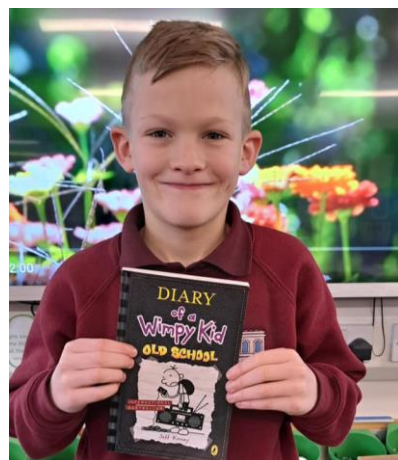


## Year 4



We love to read at Harpur! The children have been sharing what they are reading at home and school.

Year 4 has been engrossed in our new novel, Kaspar the Prince of Cats, by Michael Morpurgo. From the story we learned about the Savoy Hotel in London and watched a tour of the amazing interiors. As the story moved on, we discovered the real historical facts about the Titanic.



## Year 5



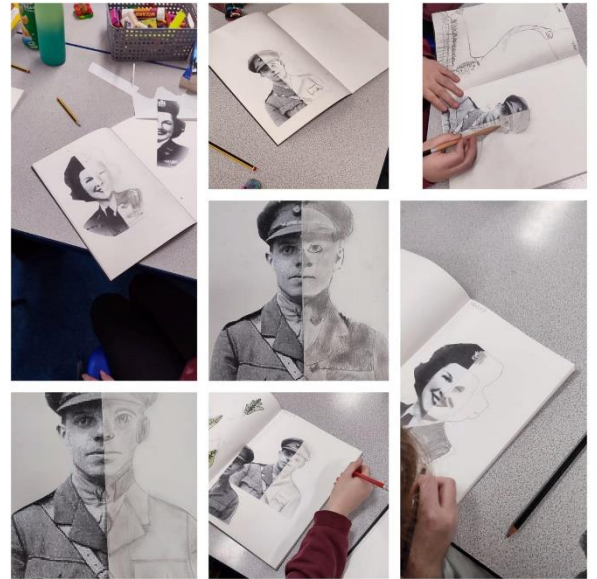
As featured in our previous newsletter, as part of their homework, the children have created some fantastic long term projects including many terracotta warriors, temples and dragons. The children welcomed parents and carers to their Shang Dynasty exhibition. They carefully created a presentation about their favourite aspect of life in the Shang Dynasty and spoke clearly and confidently. The children have explored 'Everyday Materials' in science. We have conducted an investigation to see which materials are the best insulators; using cups of water and a variety of materials to keep them warm. They also enjoyed investigating whether flour, sand, salt and sugar were soluble or insoluble. The children made solutions by mixing the substances and are waiting to see if anything remains when the water evaporates.

## Year 6

The children have been testing Darwin's theory of evolution by investigating how birds' beaks have evolved to enable them to pick up different seeds!



The children have been using their sketching and shading skills in art to complete half portraits from World War 2 photographs.



## ADMINISTRATION

### 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.

### Safety in and around the school grounds

Please may we remind you of the following:

- Disabled parking spaces are only to be used by disabled badge holders.
- Please take care when driving into the car park and on the roads near school.
- Park safely and considerately; do not block pavements, driveways and do not park on the zig zags.
- Walk to school if you can
- Parents/carers should not drive beyond the vehicle gates, unless authorised to do so.

### Public Health Reminder

Schools follow Public Health guidelines with regard to rashes, skin infections, diarrhoea, vomiting and infections. Please see letter sent out earlier this year 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.

Although it has been cold this half term we have still had lots of time for great P.E. and sports.

### **PE Lessons**

Both our Nursery classes have been exploring space, sharing and safety with different equipment and games when they walk across to the 'big' school every Thursday morning.

Our Reception classes have been learning different tag games, they have started to explore winning and losing.

Year 1 & 2 have been learning about being competitive in 1 v 1 games and some small sided games.

All the juniors have been exploring and learning about Gymnastics.

Year 3 have learned all about travelling, balancing, jumps and rolls.

Year 4 children have revisited their Year 3 gymnastics work and also explored the vault and some routines for the first time.

Year 5 & 6 have progressed onto creating their own routines and mastering rolls, vault, shapes and balances before moving onto a firm favourite sport in dodgeball.

### **Clubs**

Our 3 afterschool clubs (KS1 football, KS2 football and multisports) have again been very busy this half term, so please get your reply slips in for the next half term as soon as possible. Due to demand, on Mondays we have added Year 3 & 4 football!

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

### **Inter School competitions**

Our first competition this half term was Year 5 & 6 Basketball. We travelled to New Mills for the High Peak finals and despite finishing in second place we have again qualified for the Derbyshire County Finals for the second year running!! Well done, basketballers.

This week we attended the Buxton round of the Sports Hall athletics competition. A really fun and competitive event, in which I am again pleased to announce that we finished 1<sup>st</sup> ahead of close rivals Buxton Juniors and Burbage. So again we move onto the High Peak Finals!

### **In general**

This group of Year 6 children are setting an incredible record for other year groups to strive for.

Next half term is a really busy one for sports, with competitions in gymnastics, netball, High Peak Sports Hall athletics final, basketball Derbyshire County final and of course the regional football final!

Bring it on!!!

Well done, Team Harpur. Have a lovely break, everybody!

*Danny*

### **Boogie Academy**

Dance classes are designed for girls and boys of any ability who love to dance, they are an exciting mix of street dance, hip hop, commercial and pop dance choreographed to the latest chart hits.

If your child is interested in joining the 'Boogie Academy', classes are on a Friday after school for KS1 and KS2 children, please visit: [www.boogieacademy.co.uk](http://www.boogieacademy.co.uk), email [info@boogieacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@boogieacademy.co.uk) or telephone 07912 501 704 for more information



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes at 3.30pm
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff INSET day
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of the new term
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Teachers' strike - children from Mr White's class need to come to school at 12.00 for their school dinner or bring their packed lunch.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 4 to visit the Science and Industry Museum
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 6 to visit the Holocaust Centre
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Dressing up day – children may come to school dressed as a character from a book (optional)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Class photos
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day - children can come to school wearing anything red, for a donation. If your child does not have anything red, pink or orange will do! (Please don't buy anything new)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parents' Evening plus Book Fair in school
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3's Egyptian Archaeology workshop in the morning
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5's Anglo Saxon Archaeology workshop in the afternoon
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	School closes at 3.30pm
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of a new term