

HARPUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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



NEWSLETTER

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy term, I would like to thank all our families for your support. We have had lots of fantastic learning this term, and many of you have been into school in recent weeks, for family learning events and parents' evening. We hope you have enjoyed coming in to share your child's learning.



Sporting Champions

Children across the school, from Nursery to Year 6 have a weekly PE session with Coach Danny. We offer a wide range of sports clubs before and after school, and signpost other sports activities and clubs beyond Harpur. All this hard work is resulting in Harpur Hill Primary School's sporting success at county and regional level. Well done to all our youngsters for your PE and sporting achievements this term, and a big thank you to Danny.

Congratulations to our football team, who won the English Schools' Football Association Midlands Regional Championships on 22nd March in Birmingham. We are so proud of our team, who didn't lose a single game and only conceded one goal. Next stop is the National Finals, which will be held in May. On the very same day, our Sports Hall Athletics Team won the High Peak competition held at St Thomas More, qualifying for the County Finals.

Year 4 & 5 Brass at Lady Manners

On 17th March, a group of Year 4 and 5 brass players performed at Lady Manners School in Bakewell with Peak District Music Centre in their Wider Opportunities Concert. The children played a few solo items and then joined with musicians from across the area in two joint pieces. The children represented their school with pride, and performed brilliantly. Thank you to families for coming along and supporting our musicians.



Parents' Evening

It was good to see so many of you attending our recent Parents' Evenings. Thank you for supporting the Book Fair and Team Harpur Cake Sale. The majority of class teachers have now seen 100% of the parents/carers of the children in their class. This is fantastic and shows what supportive families we have at Harpur – thank you. If you have not yet met with your child's teacher, and would like to arrange an appointment, your child's teacher will be in touch to arrange a time for a meeting or phone call.

Online Safety

Following on from Safer Internet Day 2023, Mr White has analysed the parental questionnaire and provided information to help with online safety. You can see the findings of the survey attached with this newsletter. We had a good response to the questionnaire – thank you for completing this. Some key findings from the parent questionnaire and from talking to children about online safety in school are listed below:

- 96% of children have access to the internet at home
- 22% of children spend over two hours a day on the internet
- 97% of parents know how to check the privacy settings on a device
- 45% of parents infrequently/never check privacy settings
- The most common activity that children do online is gaming, followed by studying
- Some children are social networking online and are using platforms that are not recommended for primary age children.
- Some children are playing games or watching others playing games that are not suitable for young children, including some that are rated 18 plus.
- Many children have told us that their parent/carer checks their phone/device regularly

Online safety is a key part of our Computing curriculum, which is revisited regularly throughout school. On the information attached, you will find links to how to set up a device. We advise you to talk regularly with your child about online safety and check what they are using and accessing. Check how they are communicating and conducting themselves online, and talk to them about this. Check privacy settings and profiles on all platforms, including games used by the children that have a chat facility. Please make sure children are not sharing personal or private information with people they do not know. If you need any further information take a look at the websites on the information letter, or get in touch with us in school.

Parking and Road Safety

As our school becomes more popular, we continue to have issues with parking and traffic, on site and on the roads near to school. Please take extra care and be considerate of other members of the school community. We would like to remind and encourage families to walk to school as much as possible, as this reduces traffic in the area, and also impacts positively on the environment. We want the journey to and from school to be as safe as possible for our families. We can do this by:

- Walking to school if you can
- Encouraging children to walk, scoot or cycle to school
- Sharing lifts with other parents/carers
- Driving carefully on the roads around school and on site
- Not blocking pavements, drive ways or roundabouts
- Keeping young children with you at all times
- Taking extra care when reversing
- Parking a few streets away from school and walking the last part of the journey
- Not driving beyond the vehicle gates
- Taking care when opening car doors
- Dropping your child off quickly and leaving straight away

Team Harpur are looking for volunteers to help with a 'drop off zone'. We are hoping to set this up next term. Children will be dropped off in the designated area and volunteers will escort children

into school. This should ease congestion on the roads, as you will be able to drop children and go, rather than finding a place to park on the busy roads. If you are able to help with this, please contact Mrs Young mobile 07932366552 or email lmellor88@hotmail.co.uk with your details. Thank you.

Morrisons breakfast

Over the Easter holiday, from Monday 3rd April for three weeks, Morrisons customers can go into their café any day before 11am and get a free bowl of cereal, you just need to mention the Kellogg's Breakfast Club. There's no age limit, and customers can go back on multiple days while stocks last. Morrisons have set aside 50,000 breakfasts across the country.

Holiday Activities

There's lots going on in the town over the Easter holiday. 'Learn Buxton' have shared the following link for us to share with you: click [here](#) for a PDF of activities for families. From prowling pre-historic cats to portraits of Georgian architects - there's lots for families to make, do and discover in Buxton this spring.

Finally...

Thank you for your continued support of our school. Have a lovely Easter break.

Best wishes,
Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

LEARNING JOURNEYS		
Class	Topic	Books
Brilliant Bears	Bears	We're Going on a Bear Hunt, Lulu Loves the Library, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
Reception	The Great Outdoors	Oliver's Vegetables, The Enormous Turnip, Superworm, David Attenborough and Marcus Rashford (Little People Big Dreams).
Year 1	How have toys changed?	Poems and stories from fantasy worlds.
Year 2	What makes a town, a town?	Martha Maps it Out by Leigh Hodgkinson. In Every House, In Every Street by Jess Hitchman, A Place Called Home by Kate Baker.
Year 3	What Makes the Earth Angry?	Escape from Pompeii by Christina Ballit, When the Giant Stirred by Celia Godkin, Volcano Wakes Up by Lisa Westberg-Peters.
Year 4	What is our local landscape?	The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo.
Year 5	Were the Anglo Saxons really smashing?	Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo.
Year 6	Why were the Mayans marvellous?	Biographies: Banksy, Tim Berners Lee and Greta Thunberg

Nursery Bear Cubs



This half term, the Bear Cubs have been exploring a different colour each week. During their yellow week, they planted sunflower seeds, which have already begun to grow! They have also enjoyed baking, playdough and many colour themed arts and crafts.

During the last week of term, the children have been learning about Easter and have created some wonderful Easter egg artwork.

Brilliant Bears



The Brilliant Bears have been learning about planting and growing. They have particularly enjoyed the story 'Jasper's Beanstalk' and have learnt a new song, with actions, that links to the story. The role-play area has transformed into a garden centre and the children have been very busy digging, potting and planting seeds to sell to their friends.

During a visit to the conservation area, the children were very excited to spot some frogspawn in the pond. They very carefully collected a small amount, which they brought back to nursery to observe over the coming weeks.

Reception

Reception met lots of jungle animals when Jungle Jo came to visit. We learnt lots of facts about animals and their habitats. We wrote a list of all the things we thought Jo should take to the jungle with her and also read and wrote fact files about animals too. We have learnt about the French painter Henri Rousseau. We have looked at some of his paintings in particular 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm' and said what we like/ dislike about it. We then used different tools and materials to create our own artwork inspired by Henri Rousseau.



Year 1



Year 1 have really enjoyed their Great Fire of London learning this half term. They have particularly enjoyed their science learning on Materials and reading the traditional tale The Three Little Pigs in English. The teachers were very impressed with their story writing!

Year 2



Year 2 have had a great half term and have thoroughly enjoyed learning about The Great Fire of London. We have enjoyed listening to the stories 'Toby and the Great Fire of London' and 'The Baker's Boy and the Great Fire of London' and then we wrote our own diary entry, imagining we were there. In History, we have learnt about life in the 17th Century and how Samuel Pepys recorded his observations of the great fire. We have used our sculpting skills in Art to create a house in the style of those from the time of the fire. In Science, we have named lots of materials

and identified which are best for certain jobs.

We had a fantastic Great Fire of London day in our costumes, as well as a visit from the Fire Service! What a busy half term, well done, Year 2!

Year 3

Rowan Class have had a super half term learning about ancient Egypt. They loved reading the story of 'Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx', and writing their own ancient Egyptian adventure stories.

They have been fascinated to find out about the pharaohs, how pyramids were built and the process of mummification. They loved mummifying oranges!

The children have learned a song River, River Nile and performed it to their parents. They had a fantastic morning being archaeologists, in a workshop where they excavated ancient Egyptian remains and considered what it was like to live in ancient Egypt.



Year 4



This term Year 4 went to the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester. The children enjoyed many interactive activities including heat sensor cameras. They were impressed to see the world's oldest working computer, called baby. We visited an example of a Victorian mill where looms were in full working order. A great day was had by all. This term we have had a focus on reading for pleasure. Many children have brought their books from home to share with the rest of the class. Thank you to all children who have created wonderful Norman shields, pictures and swords for our history study long term project.

Year 5



A busy lead up to the Easter holidays in Year 5 – this half term has flown by! In Birch and Elm class, we have really enjoyed learning about the effects of Climate Change and how it is impacting our planet. As part of this, the children have made the 'Plastic Free Pledge' and have been taking action around the school and at home to look after our planet. This has included writing to our local MP Robert Largon; as well as the CEO of Morrisons; to lobby for a reduction in single use plastic. This linked to our D&T topic, where the children made their own pop up books, with details of their chosen animal, at risk of extinction. We had great fun in music, learning to rap to 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air' and had some important discussions in RE about the importance of rules and whether having rules matters.

Year 6

This term Year 6 have been learning about the Rainforest. We have completed some great persuasive writing about visiting Manaus in Brazil and a poem about the rainforest using our senses.

In art, the children have produced artwork based on the painting 'Surprise' by Henri Rousseau.

We also visited the Holocaust museum earlier in the term and learned about the lives of children who were sent to England as part of the Kinder Transport.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALS APPROXIMATE DAYS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY WEEKS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11 ½ weeks	230 lessons
65%	67 days	13 ½ weeks	270 lessons

How lateness can affect your child's education

Minutes late per day	Equivalent of missing
10 Minutes	6 school days a year
15 Minutes	10 school days a year
20 Minutes	14 school days a year
30 Minutes	20 school days a year

The DfE have set new guidelines following the Covid pandemic for schools to improve attendance figures.

Harpur Hill Primary school and Nursery values all pupils equally and will work with families to identify any reasons for unsatisfactory attendance. Achieving high levels of punctual attendance is a matter for the whole school community and it is recognised that the best outcomes will be achieved by home and school working collaboratively to resolve any personal barriers in a proactive and encouraging manner.

At our school regular and punctual attendance means being in school and on time every day of each term unless there is unavoidable cause to be absent. We strive for every pupil to achieve 100% with no late arrivals, with a minimum expectation of attendance for each pupil of 95%.

We know that a child's attendance has a direct impact on their learning. Those children who are regularly absent from school and regularly late do not achieve their potential and do fall behind their peers. Please support school by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives ready to learn and on time.

BOOK FAIR

Thank you to everyone who purchased books, through your generosity we have received books to the value of £250 for the school library.

If you wish to volunteer to help our team it would be much appreciated. Kindly contact Mrs Young mobile 07932366552 or email lmellor88@hotmail.co.uk with your details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 31 st March	School closes at 3.30pm
Monday 17 th April	Start of new term
Thursday 27 th April	Terrific Tigers 'reading together' 8.45 – 9.00am
Thursday 27 th April	Y6 SATs parents' meeting at 3.45pm
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday
Week commencing Monday 1 st May	KS1 SATs
Thursday 4 th May	Perfect Parrots 'reading together' 8.45 – 9.00am
Monday 8 th May	Coronation Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9 th May	Year 6 SATs through to
Friday 12 th May	
Week commencing 15 th May	Year 2 SATs week Monday
Wednesday 24 th May	Year 1 to visit Sudbury – Children's Country House
End of term	Friday 26 th May

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
- 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, 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.

SPORT

We've come to the end of a short but action packed half-term.

Our Nursery classes visits to 'big school' have continued and the children have fun every Thursday exploring new equipment and games.

This Half term our Reception classes have been introduced to Gymnastics. We explored Travelling, Balances, Shapes and Rolls.

Year 1 & 2 have revisited Gymnastics. We learned how to make shapes with our body and a partner, how to perform a successful forward roll, teddy bear roll and barrel roll. We also explored how to jump and balance on and off different equipment.

Year 3 & 5 have explored Basketball and Netball, learning how to move with the ball, how to pass and explored different scoring situations.

Our Year 4 & 6 children have revisited Invasion games. Year 4 have focused on Hockey and Football, whilst Year 6 have focused on both of those and also Rugby and Basketball.

We now have 4 very successful after school clubs (KS1 Football, Year 3/4 Football, Year 5/6 Football & Multisports) and they have again been really busy this half term so please do get your reply slips in for next half term as soon as possible.

Our year 5/6 Breakfast Club has again been lots of fun with games such as Basketball, Netball, Fitness and more played.

And although it was only a short half term we have been very busy with Inter School competitions.

Our first competition was Year 5/6 Gymnastics with our 6 athletes performing incredibly well and finishing 5th out of 13 schools!

Next up we had the Buxton Netball tournament in which we took 12 of our female athletes. Again they were amazing playing against some good teams and I'm convinced we will have some of our children go and represent Derbyshire at Netball when they are older!

In the middle of the half term we went to the Basketball County finals. Our second County finals of the year so far. Our Basketballers were incredible winning every game until the final where they were narrowly beaten by a really good team from Derby. Considering we have no pupils who play in basketball clubs, 2nd place in the whole of Derbyshire is an unbelievable achievement!

Some of our year 4 children were invited to an Orienteering competition held by Map Quest in the Pavilion Gardens. Not only did our successful streak continue with 2 teams picking up the bronze and gold medals, but everyone had great fun and can't wait to do it again.

Our last 2 competitions were on the same day which created a bit of a logistical nightmare. As we had won the Buxton round of the SportsHall Athletics competition we qualified for the High Peak finals. However, this was being held on the same day as our Football Regional Finals meaning 7 of our boys wouldn't be able to attend the event. Some of our year 4 and 5 children filled in for them and unbelievably we won! We have now qualified for our 3rd County Finals which is absolutely unheard of! Not only that but it shows that our future is also bright. Massive well done to all our SportsHall athletes and bring on the County Finals!

Last but not least as I mentioned above our Year 6 Boys Football County Champions 2023 had their Midlands Regional Final to compete in. We had an amazing start winning our first 2 games and topping the group. Our semi-final was a tense affair going to penalties where we missed 2 but saved 4! Before a quite anti-climactic win in the Final meant we are now REGIONAL MIDLANDS CHAMPIONS 2023! We have now qualified for the National Championships! Only 8 teams remain and the Finals will be held at a professional stadium (the boys are all hoping for Wembley)! A quite surreal achievement and one that still hasn't quite sunk in!

This year has already been our most successful for out of school competitions in history but it also seems like all children are enjoying their P.E. and sports more. Long may it continue and as always;

Let's Go Team Harpur!!!



Have a lovely Easter all,
Danny