

## NEWSLETTER

### HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful term with much to celebrate. The children have worked hard in their lessons and there has been a lovely atmosphere in school in the run up to Christmas. We have been particularly impressed with the children's reading throughout the school since September. The Reception children are making great progress and this is down to lots of practice at home – thank you! We introduced a new writing scheme in October, and children read quality texts as a stimulus for writing. Year 6 have been particularly interested in finding out about conservation and produced some excellent writing too. We have enjoyed festive performances, nativities and musical concerts. It has been lovely to see so many families in school, attending the various events. Thank for supporting your child's learning and everything we do in school.



### Nativities and Christmas Shows

The infant children put on fantastic festive performances. Nursery sang enthusiastically in their show on the 'big stage' in the hall. Reception children entertained us with 'We're Going on a Star Hunt' and Key Stage 1 shared their 'Magical Christmas Journey'. Well done to all the children and thank you to families for helping children to practise songs, learn lines, and providing costumes. The children really enjoyed performing for you. Thank you for coming along to the shows and supporting the children!



## **Musical Performances**

We have lots of children playing instruments and some only started playing in the autumn and are already playing lots of different pieces. Some of our musicians have been playing beyond school in the Peak District Music Centre and in solo concerts. Children have performed in assemblies and concerts: Choir, clarinet and ukulele club were fantastic at the Christmas Fair. This week, 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, violin and cello – for Year 2 upwards (Year 1 can start on request); brass, clarinet, and other woodwind from Year 4 upwards. Choir will be starting again in January, after school on a Monday, and is open to Year 2 and Key Stage 2.

## **Online Safety**

Children are spending more time online and it is important that we equip them with the skills to stay safe and know what to do if they are worried or upset about something online. Earlier this term, we held online safety workshop sessions for Year 5 and 6 children and their families. Thank you to those of you who came along. Please take a look at our online safety page on the website: <https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/online-safety> There are lots of useful websites to help families, advising you of age ratings and how to set up parental controls on new devices.

## **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 Week**

On Wednesday children enjoyed their Christmas Party day and on Monday, we had a visit from Santa. Thank you to Team Harpur PTFA and Santa's helpers for arranging such a lovely day.

## **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)

## LEARNING JOURNEYS

Class	Topic	Books
Brilliant Bears	Superheroes	Kindness Makes us Stronger There's a Superhero in your book A Hero Like You Ten Little Superheroes
Reception	Winter Wonderland	The Bathroom Boogie The Kitchen Disco What's that Smell? Dragons in the City- Twinkl Ready Steady Mo Peace at Last Avocado Baby The Gruffalo
Year 1 & 2	What have Kings and Queens done for us?	Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish by Michael Foreman The Minpins by Roald Dahl
Year 3	What did the Ancient Egyptians Achieve and How do we know?	The Pied Piper of Hamlyn retold by Michael Rosen Escape From Pompeii by Christina Ballit
Year 4	How far away is Manchester?	Winter's Child by Angela McAllister & Grahame Baker Smith
Year 5	What is the effect of Climate Change on our world?	The Island by Armin Greder
Year 6	What was the impact of WW2 on the people of Britain?	The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick Suffragette: the Battle for Equality By David Roberts

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Nursery

#### **Bear Cubs**



This half term the Bear Cubs have been using all of their senses to explore. We used ice blocks, and then painted onto the ice with powder paint. We talked about all of the different colours, and how cold and smooth the ice felt. The children loved watching the colours mix to create different colours, and 'rainbows' in the water as the ice melted.

## Brilliant Bears



Brilliant Bears have had a wonderful first term exploring the topics of 'All About Me' and 'Celebrations'. They have developed an enthusiastic thirst for daily phonics learning. The children have progressed from listening to attention games and environmental sounds, to hearing the phonemes (sounds) in words by segmenting and blending sounds together e.g. c-a-t or b-a-g.

They have created their own crafts throughout the term enjoying all the world themes that we celebrate including Birthdays, Autumn, Halloween, Diwali, Children in Need and of course, Christmas.

The children enjoy their daily snack time which always brings learning into a 'real life' context e.g. how many bananas or what is one less or one more. We have practised fine motor skills using threading and we have counted the beads as we thread them. Most recently we have been looking at the numbers on our daily advent calendar.

The children have learned some tricky new vocabulary this term via our weekly book or our daily phonics, some of these include: 'flour' and 'flower', 'pinch (of salt)', 'piñata', 'irresistible', 'igloo' and 'iguana'. Ask your child if they know what these words mean and hopefully they will impress you!

Keep up the great work, Brilliant Bears.

## Reception



We have had a busy term in Reception. We started 'Welly Wednesdays' - the children have been exploring the woods and learning about the outside world around them.

During December we performed our Nativity play, 'We're Going on a Star Hunt'. The children were fabulous and worked hard to learn the songs and rhymes. We also had a theatre company visit showing 'The Hare and the Tortoise' and also a visit from Santa.

The children are progressing well with their phonic and maths knowledge. Many thanks for all your support with this.



### Year 1 & 2



The children have had a super term learning about life, animals and weather in the Arctic. They made us very proud with their performance of 'A Magical Christmas Journey'.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish you all a lovely festive holiday.

### Year 3



Rowan Class have had a great half term. They have enjoyed learning about our European neighbours. They compared London and Paris, using their computing skills to research facts about the two cities. The children found out about some European scientists, inventors and engineers, they really enjoyed using their problem solving skills to make Eiffel Towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows, making cardboard boats and counting how many marbles they could carry.

They made flying hoop gliders and created their own electronic music. In music the class have loved learning to play the glockenspiels, learning songs such as 'Dee Cee's Got the Blues,' 'Flea, Fly, Mosquito' and 'Jingle Bells'.

## Year 4

### Mary Poppins singing project with Tom



In Ash Class we continued the singing lessons with Tom Newall. We had the pleasure of going to Haddon Hall where we sang alongside the residents who had been learning the same songs. This was a wonderful experience which brought generations together sharing the joy of music.

DT - specific skills have been learnt and applied when making pulley cars. The designs and final constructions were impressive.

Brass - All the children continue to impress everyone with their ability with their brass instruments we have some real talent!

History - we now have a good understanding of different aspects of the life of Roman children. We created and played marble games and wrote on makeshift tablets, letters were scratched into wax before pencil and inks were used.

Ash Class pupils are showing improved maturity and self-organisation. Many are managing home learning independently and they are strengthening even further as a class team. We are very proud of their progress and thank parents and all caring adults for their support.

## Year 5



In English, Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed reading 'Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief'. They have written extended narratives, featuring themselves as a Demi-God, filled with action and suspense.

In D&T, they taste-tested different Bolognese sauces before researching how to develop a recipe. They had to consider factors such as: how ingredients are reared and processed, nutritional value, preparing ingredients, and designing product labels.

They had lots of fun sampling the finished product!

## Year 6

The Year 6 have enjoyed learning about the Rainforest this term and have questioned why the rainforest is important to us all. They have learned about where in the world the rainforests are, the animals that live there and the problems that are affecting the rainforests, such as deforestation and climate change.

Our photographs show Y6 producing artwork based on 'Surprised!' by Henri Rousseau. They used pencil crayons to reproduce the colours, tones and shading in the original artwork.



## 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: [Reading on website](#)

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!

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have 2 library books to share over the holidays, please continue to share a range of books and complete the reading tasks set by your class teacher.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	School closes at 3.30pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023	Staff INSET day
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	New term
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	SENCO Parent Forum @ 2.45pm
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Year 3 to have a visit from Macclesfield Museum
Tuesday February 6 <sup>th</sup> 2024	Year 3 Egypt, parents curriculum event @ 2.45pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Year 4 to visit Manchester Science & Industry Museum
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Northern Ballet Workshop to visit Year 2
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	School closes at 3.30pm
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Staff INSET DAY
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	New term

### **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, vomiting and infections. 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.

### **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, for the safety of our children and families: -

- Please walk to school wherever possible to reduce the amount of traffic on the roads outside school.
- You could park on the roads a little further away and walk the last 5 minutes to avoid congestion in the streets closer to school.
- Please take care when driving outside school or on the main car park.
- Please park safely and considerately, without blocking pavements and driveways.
- Do not double park in case access is required by emergency vehicles. Do not park on the zig zags.
- 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 Ferneyway, exit onto Harpur Hill Road.

Thank you.

### **Polite Reminder**

We are a non-smoking and vaping site. This means you are prohibited from smoking or vaping on any part of the school grounds, including the car park, playgrounds and area outside the nursery. Also, please be mindful of others, and the example you are setting, if smoking or vaping on the busy pavements near to school. Thank you for your co-operation.

We've had a great second half term at Harpur!

Both our Nursery classes have still been visiting 'big' school every Thursday morning and have been exploring climbing safely and taking turns.

Reception have been learning about shapes, jumps and balances in gymnastics such as pike, straddle, straight and tuck. Ask them to show you!

Year 1 & 2 have started to explore sending and receiving different equipment in different sports. They have also learned about yoga this half term and have loved it so far. Again ask them to show you!

Year 3 have been introduced to fitness and how to time, measure and record. They have also been introduced to basketball and how to dribble in tight areas.

Our Year 4 children have started to understand how fitness can help us in our daily lives and working as a team in basketball.

Year 5 have been swimming, learning about how to keep fit when we can't go outside and how to perform basic attacking and defending volleyball shots.

Lastly our Year 6 children used yoga as a way to keep calm, focused and coordinated. They explored volleyball and how to play matches consistently.

We had 4 after school sport clubs this half term due to the dark evenings and hall space. They are still really busy so please look at booking early for next half term.

Our year 5/6 breakfast club have been working to practice for our cross country competition and also in preparing for their basketball competition in January.

Lastly, onto our Inter School competitions. Our first competition this half term was the Cross Country High Peak Final in which we performed fantastically but were undone by some unfortunate injuries! One of our pupils; however, did qualify as a solo runner and will be representing us in the County Finals. We then attended a really competitive Boccia competition at Chapel High School and I am so proud to say that one of our teams finished in second place! Narrowly missing out on a County Final place.

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.

Well done, Team Harpur

Have a Merry Christmas, everybody.

Danny