

HARPUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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

NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

APRIL 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

The summer term has started well and we have had a busy few weeks. Some classes have been out on visits, and we have welcomed visitors into school. All classes are working hard and are enjoying their new topics. Our athletics team competed brilliantly in the County Final – well done! It's only the second week back, but we have plenty of good news and information to share with you.

We have lots of great learning to look forward to in the summer term. Please take a look at our good news and also the dates for the term ahead.

We love to read!



Key Stage 1 have been enjoying their 'Hooked on Books' sessions this week. They shared books with their class mates, read out loud to each other and talked about why they had chosen to bring their book. We love using our school library and choosing our 'reading for pleasure' books.

We have been reading new texts in English lessons this term and using these for inspiration to write. Year 4 have been reading Shackleton's Journey and imagining what it would have been like to be a crew member on an expedition. Great reading, everyone!

Earth Day

In assembly on Monday, we celebrated Earth Day, which is held every 22nd April. We talked about our wonderful planet and the diversity of plants and animals in our natural world. The classes, School Council, and some of our Year 6 children are going to be discussing ideas we can put in action to help the environment and play our part in reducing our carbon emissions.



Shadow Secretary of State for Education Visit



Last week, we had a visit from Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson and Labour Candidate for the High Peak, Jon Pearce. They praised our 'fantastic work' and thanked us for a 'great visit' to our 'great school'. Our Year 6 pupil ambassadors and the week's VIPs did a great job welcoming our visitors and sharing their learning. Well done, everyone!

Finally...

Thank you for your continued support of our school. Here's to a super summer term ahead!

Best wishes,

Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

BUSY SCHOOL NEWS

Reception – appreciating nature



Reception Parrot class had a great time spotting signs of spring on their Welly Walks. Children have been pond dipping in the conservation area and sang '5 Little Speckled Frogs' to try and get the frogs to make an appearance, but they managed to keep well hidden. Once back in class we got back to class we had our snacks whilst listening to the story, 'Tad'. Thank you to all our volunteers.

Reception children have been looking at videos from a bird box camera observing a Great Tit. She laid her eggs last week and has been sitting on them to keep them warm and popping out for food now and again.

We made some bird feeders to put in the garden to help keep all the mother birds strong.



Manchester Museum of Science and Industry



Year 4 had a wonderful day at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry last week. We attended a show about how Manchester was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution.



We were fortunate to be able to see the cotton spinning machines in action and we had great fun in the hands on science area.

Comparing land use



Rowan Class have started their geography work on 'Our Local Area'. They are focusing on human geography. They learned about types of land use and used Google Earth to compare the land use in Harpur Hill, Buxton and Manchester.



Wonderdome

Our Year 1s and 2s have started their new History topic, 'Why did we go to the moon?' We immersed the children into their new learning with a visit from Wonderdome, a travelling planetarium that gave the children a 3D view of space! We learned about where our home in space is, about the first team to set foot on the moon and even took a trip to the moon for a look around for ourselves! The children were captivated by the view of space and the stars. We then returned to class to read our new book 'The Big Beyond -



The story of space

travel' and to write our own questions which we will be investigating over the half term. Well done, KS1!

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Research shows that the higher a child's attendance and punctuality, the better their educational achievement. In recent weeks we have noticed an increase in requests for leave of absence. We fully appreciate the increased costs of a family break, particularly in school holidays, but every day in school counts. Each request is considered individually, taking attendance levels and reasons into account. We are unable to approve requests for leave of absence for reasons that are not considered to be special or exceptional such as:

- Availability of cheap holidays
- Cheap travel arrangements
- Days overlapping with beginning or end of term

Parents/carers who take their children on holiday without permission will incur unauthorised absence for their child and may also be issued with a fixed penalty notice. Thank you for your co-operation and support.

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER REMINDERS

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.
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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.

Prescribed medication administered in school

We only administer medicine, if prescribed **to be taken 4 times a day**. Medication to be taken 3 times a day can be scheduled during the child's time at home. If you need school to administer medication kindly ask for a medication permission form at the school office.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 30 th April	Year 6 parents/carers invited to attend a SATs meeting at 3.45pm
Thursday 9 th May	Year 2 RE workshop – learning more about Islam and exploring significant artefacts
Monday 13 th – Thursday 16 th May	Year 6 SATs
Tuesday 14 th May	Year 3 to visit the Pump Room and Buxton Crescent
Friday 24 th May	'Dress to Express' Day, non-uniform or favourite clothes
Friday 24 th May	End of term – school closes at 3.30pm
Monday 3 rd June	Staff INSET day
Tuesday 4 th June	New term