

HARPUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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



NEWSLETTER

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

21st July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a fantastic end to the academic year! It has been a very busy time in school with lots of events and learning activities. Reflecting on the last year and looking through the school facebook page, there have been so many successes and great learning at our wonderful school. Wild Week was a great success and the children enjoyed a range of activities, learning about nature and local habitats and wildlife. We are pleased to have achieved our Artsmark in recognition of our Arts provision earlier this year, and more recently, the Heritage for Schools award for our use of the local heritage in history, geography and other curriculum areas.

Year 6 Leavers

Today we say goodbye to our Year 6. They have been a fantastic group of children and we are so proud of all their achievements. Their performance in the show, 'I'm an 11 year old, get me out of here!' was wonderful and very entertaining. Last night, we gave them a good send off at 'The Harpurs', our Year 6 awards ceremony. We wish all our leavers the very best for secondary school and beyond!

Sporting Success



This year has been a huge success for PE and Sports. We have reached the County finals in football, basketball, and sports hall athletics.

You may have heard our football team, who are national champions, being interviewed on Radio Derby's breakfast show last week. They are excellent ambassadors for our school and a credit to their families.

A huge thank you to all the children who have represented the school and also to Danny for coaching them.

Harpur pupils perform at Buxton International Festival

Some of our Year 5 & 6 pupils have been working with professional musicians and artists, and performed 'Scenes from the Land of Might Have Been' at the Palace Hotel, as part of the Buxton International Festival. They were also invited to go and watch the dress rehearsal of the show at the Opera House. They have worked very hard rehearsing for the show and put on an excellent and confident performance.



Transition

Last week was our Transition Week and children spent time in their new classes and met their teacher for September. It has been wonderful to welcome our new reception children and other new starters into school ahead of the new school year.

Music

This year we have had lots of children playing instruments – all of Year 4 learned brass, some Year 5 and 6 continued brass, other children are having individual or group lessons on cello, violin and guitar, or joined ukulele or clarinet club. Congratulations to the choir and instrumentalists for excellent concerts earlier this term. Well done to all of our young musicians.

We have a range of musical opportunities available for children from September:

- Children from Year 2 upwards may learn to play a string instrument – we currently offer violin and cello lessons, and double bass by arrangement. These lessons can be held individually or in pairs/small groups.
- We are hoping to run a violin club for Year 1 & 2 children – look out for more information in the new school year.
- Children from Year 3 upwards can learn clarinet in our lunchtime clarinet club with Ben Simnett, through the Peak District Music Centre.
- Darren Lloyd teaches brass – open to Year 5 & 6
- Dave Morten teaches guitar to children from Year 2 upwards
- Year 5 children can access subsidised lessons (either continuing their brass instrument or learning a new one) as they have been part of the Wider Opportunities programme in Year 4
- Ukulele club continuing after school on a Friday. New players welcome.

You can see more information on the Derbyshire Music Hub website, including financial subsidies for eligible families:

<https://www.derbyshiremusichub.org.uk/get-involved/learning-an-instrument/learning-to-play-an-instrument.aspx>

If you are interested in your child learning an instrument, please contact the school office.

Allergies

A few children across the school have severe nut allergies. Therefore, we are asking that you do not send your child into school with nuts or products that contain nuts. This includes cereal bar snacks and lunch times e.g. peanut butter sandwiches. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Learn Buxton and Summer holiday activities

There are so many great activities to join in with over the summer holiday. Attached with this newsletter is a leaflet from Learn Buxton, with fun events for all the family, including Family Crafts at the Assembly Rooms and woodland activities in Grinlow Woods.

Finally...

On behalf of everyone at Harpur Hill Primary School and Nursery, I would like to say a huge well done to our children for their hard work and achievements this year. We wish our leavers all the best for the future, and wish all our families a lovely summer break! Thank you for your continued support of our school.

We look forward to seeing you all in September!

Best wishes

Mrs Giliker, Headteacher.

READING UPDATE – Reading is fun!

Research shows that reading for pleasure is a key indicator of a child's future success. When children learn to read at an early age, they have greater general knowledge and a wider range of vocabulary; their reading is more fluent, and they have improved attention spans.

We are looking forward to sharing our class books in September. In most classes the books link to the History or Geography topics we are learning. Teachers take time to select the books that we read in class and choose them because they are exciting, interesting, help us to imagine what it was like living during a particular time or in a place and helps us to understand about other cultures and people.

We encourage the children to read the class book beforehand if they can. All the books will be found in Buxton library or you may be able to access them online. Knowing the story before we learn about it in class will help with understanding and increase excitement of what the children are going to do linked to the book.

Below I have put links to other recommended reads for your children. There are some fantastic books out there and we will look forward to finding out what your children have been reading when they are in their new classes in September.

Happy reading! Mrs Nuttall

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/1/100-best-0-5/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/1/100-best-books-6-8/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/1/100-best-books-9-11/>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 21st July	End of term
Monday 4 th September	Staff INSET day
Tuesday 5 th September	Start of a new term
Thursday 19 th October	Active Photographic to take family/Individual/sibling photographs
Thursday 26 th October	End of term – school closes at 3.30pm
Friday 27 th October	Staff INSET day
Monday 6 th November	Start of a new term

After School Clubs

As you are aware, Playdays are only providing our Breakfast Club from September. After school provision will be available until 5pm, alongside a range of sports clubs.

The following is on offer from September:

	Craft & Sports or After School Club 3.30 – 4.30pm	After school club 4.30 – 5pm	5pm – 6pm
Monday	Craft club aged 3 upwards	Children who stay until 5pm will be offered a snack	Playdays will collect children from school and transport them to the Green Lane Nursery
Tuesday	KS1 Football – Danny		
Wednesday	KS2 Football – Danny		
Thursday	Multi Sports – Reception to Year 6		
Friday	Craft club aged 3 upwards		

LEARNING JOURNEYS

Year	Topic	Book/authors
Nursery: Brilliant Bears	All About Me/My Family	Marvellous me, My mum and Dad make me laugh & What makes me a me?
Reception	All About Me	First Day at Skeleton School, Whiffy Wilson Goes to School, Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School, Hello Autumn, We're Going on a Leaf Hunt, My Family, Pumpkin Soup & Have You Filled a Bucket Today?
Year 1 & 2	What was Buxton like in the past?	The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas, The Colour Monster goes to School by Anna Llenas & When I was a Child by Andy Stanton.
Year 3	Who First Lived in Britain?	Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura, Stone Girl, Bone Girl by Laurence Anholt & Ug – by Raymond Briggs.
Year 4	What Rocks about the Peak District?	The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q Rauf & Children's Atlas/Maps of Britain.
Year 5	Why do people live near water sources?	Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Murpurgo & Wonder by R J Palacio.
Year 6	Were the Viking raiders, traders or settlers?	Viking Boy by Tony Bradman

SCHOOL NEWS

Nursery



Nursery have been enjoying learning about Under the Sea. They have learnt lots of new facts, have been very creative with junk modelling and drawn some amazing sea creature pictures. We have also discussed how plastic in the ocean can damage sea creatures. Bear cubs have been learning about transport as well as under the sea, and have created their own designs with junk modelling. They painted the wheels to make car tracks too.



Reception



Reception have enjoyed our Holidays topic this term. We have explored transport, different places, money and protecting our Oceans. We even made a start at looking after our planet by going on a litter picking walk around Harpur Hill! One of our favourite days was when we had a special visit from some Guide dog puppies. We learnt all about a guide dog's job, responsibilities and how they are trained. Well done to The Tigers and Parrot class for a super last term in Reception!

Year 1



Year 1 have had a super year of learning and we have been really impressed with their learning behaviour and attitudes. As part of Wild Week, the children had a wonderful visit where they learned about mammals and birds. They got to handle animal bones, and they discovered lots of facts about which animals these had come from. They also got to look closely at feathers from different birds, including a tawny owl! We had a great time on our trip to Sudbury Hall as part of our 'Toys from the Past' learning. We have also enjoyed regular visits to the local library this year too. Thank you for your support with this.

Year 2

Year 2 have been learning about 'Inspirational People' for our final term. We have enjoyed researching many different people from history, including Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela and Vera Brittain. We have written fact booklets and posters about some of the them and had lots of fun dressing up on our 'Inspirational People Day'.

In Geography, we have been comparing where we live to other continents and saying which we'd prefer to live in. In Art we have been having fun learning how to weave using a range of different materials, as well as experimenting with natural dyes to change the colour of fabric. Design + Technology has challenged us to make our own Ferris Wheel, complete with a working axle! We finished off the half term with a fantastic trip to the Devonshire Dome, where the children had the opportunity to explore what life was really like for Vera Brittain as a nurse, and the impact the war had on her. What a brilliant year it has been with The Marvellous Monkeys! They have all worked so hard and are very much looking forward to a well-earned break!



Year 3



Rowan Class have had a great final term of the year. They loved Wild Week and were really great dam builders, when they learned about natural dams. They were fascinated by the Buxton Bilberry bees. The class had a great morning observing all the plants and minibeasts they discovered at Ferneydale. They have also been learning about the Ancient Greeks, and the legacies they left, such as the Olympic Games. They enjoyed inviting their parents and families into the classroom to share their learning and create Ancient Greek comedy and tragedy masks.

Year 4



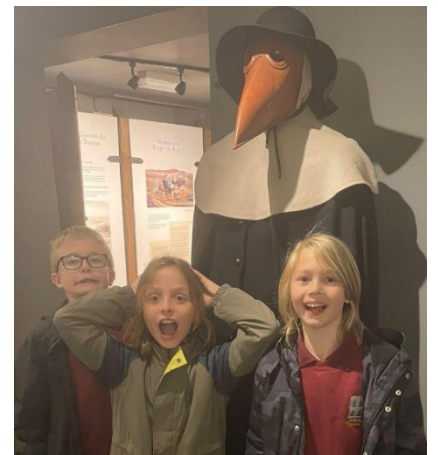
Year 4 have been very busy this term! The children enjoyed the Wild Week. They learned about the impact of flood management by building and experimenting with natural flood defences. We have had a brass performance, using songs that we have learnt over the year to play on both our instruments and singing. We have also been developing our sewing skills by learning lots of new stitches. This has been working towards creating our own fantastic sewing samplers with families. Thank you for all of the families who were able to join us to celebrate our learning.

Year 5



This half term Year 5 have used their engineering skills in Design and technology to design and make a 'doodler'. They discovered how motors work in a simple circuit and how this could be used to move an object. The children then designed and crafted an imaginative doodler body that would appeal to the younger children in school. They built their doodlers by attaching the circuit and some pens and evaluated and amended their designs to make the most efficient and exciting drawing machine.

Earlier this week, Year 5 had a fantastic day in Eyam, learning about the plague and the sacrifices the villagers made in 1665. They visited the church where they heard all about life in Eyam at the time of the plague, visited the Riley graves and discovered lots of interesting facts in the museum.



Year 6



The Year 6 children put on an amazing performance of the end of year show, 'I'm an 11 year old, get me out of here!' They have really worked hard and the result was a funny and enthusiastic performance from all involved! After a year of hard work, Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their residential at Lea Green, where they faced and conquered their fears on the high ropes, got involved in bush craft activities and had the opportunity to relax and socialise with their classmates. Well done, Year 6, and all the best for the future.

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.

SPORT



What a year it has been!

Although it has been a hectic half term with awful weather, transitions and trips we have still had lots of time to fit P.E. and sports in.

Our younger nursery class enjoyed lots of different types of equipment working on their gross motor skills and starting to learn how to share and play with each other.

The Older Nursery class continued to explore throwing, catching and also had their own mini sports day, running in races such as hurdles, sack race and balance the quail on your head.

Reception classes have been learning all about Athletics especially running events and jumping events.

Years 1 & 2 have had lots of 'sports days' and started to explore throwing events in Athletics.

Year 3 & 4 have alongside their Greek History and Myths been exploring the Olympics Games focusing on throwing events such as shotput, javelin & discus.

Year 5 have learned all about different running & jumping events whilst exploring team games of football & basketball over the past few weeks.

Year 6 have alongside competing against each other in athletics events, had lots of fun playing small sided games of football, cricket & rounders'.

Our After School clubs will start again in the new year. Please look out for messages over the summer on how to apply.

Lastly onto our competitions - we competed in quadkids an athletics event and finished first in the Buxton round before finishing second in the High Peak Tournament.

We sent some of our Year 6 children to cyclo cross where they had lots of fun and competition.

We sent 3 teams of 8 children to Pavilion Gardens to compete in an orienteering relay. Two of our teams finished 1st and 2nd and qualified for the County Final which was unfortunately cancelled due to weather.

SPORTING SUCCESS

We have had an amazing year. Below are some of our accomplishments.

Football – Buxton Champions, High Peak Champions, County Champions, Regional Champions, **National Champions**

Basketball - Buxton Champions, High Peak Champions, 2nd in County

SportsHall Athletics – Buxton Champions, High Peak Champions, 3rd in County

Orienteering Relay – Buxton Champions, County Cancelled

QuadKids – Buxton Champions, 2nd in High Peak

Dodgeball – Buxton Champions

