

# HARPUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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



## NEWSLETTER

### HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term has flown by and spring is almost here! We have had a busy and exciting term, with much to celebrate. Highlights have included Year 1 and 2 children meeting Mary Queen of Scots and visiting the Crescent to learn about Royal connections in Buxton, and Year 3 had a visit from historians from Macclesfield Museum as part of their Ancient Egypt learning. The Fire Service have been into school to visit Year 2 and Year 6, as well as Nursery. Children have worked hard in their lessons, enjoying their learning - well done to all the children!

#### **Thank you**

Thank you for everything you do to support children's learning. It has been good to see many of you coming into school for various events and activities this term. Reception classes have enjoyed their Welly Wednesday visits to the woods (thank you to the helpers!) and a Pancake Day with Valentine's crafts. Year 3 put on an exhibition about Ancient Egypt in the hall last week. On Wednesday, Year 6 children and their families took part in a quiz about World War 2, with prizes including a tin of Spam! 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.

#### **Illuminate Buxton**

Last week, Year 5 children took part in a workshop with the Babbling Vagabonds working with Our Street. The children produced animations which will be included in the 'Illuminate Buxton' light display during the half term break. The free light shows take place at various places throughout Buxton. It is in St James' Church, Harpur on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 6.30pm and Spring Gardens on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm. Feel free to go along and enjoy the show.

#### **Brass Concert**

Our Year 4 children gave a fantastic concert to families and Year 3 children last week. Darren Lloyd, our brass teacher, said that he is incredibly proud of how well this group of children are doing. The children entertained us with their playing and singing, also the Year 5 and 6 trumpet players performed. Well done to all the children.

#### **Winter Weather**

Thank you for your understanding when we closed due to the snow last week. We are rearranging the Year 4 Manchester Visit and KS1 Northern Ballet workshop, and will update you once new dates have been confirmed. Hopefully, the worst weather is now behind us; however, in the event of any more severe weather, we will make a decision to close (or open later) as early as possible via text message. We will also use Dojo and Tapestry for messages for the time being as there have been issues with mobile phone masts locally.

#### **Finally...**

Thank you for your continued support of our school. Have a lovely half term break!

Best wishes,

Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

## LEARNING JOURNEYS

| Class           | Topic  | Books  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Brilliant Bears | Planting and Growing                               | Monster Clothes, Jasper's Beanstalk, The Growing Story & Sam Plants a Sunflower  |
| Reception       | The Jungle   | Walking Through the Jungle, The Most Important Animal of All, We're Going on a Lion Hunt, Giraffes Can't Dance, Animal Boogie, Rumble in the Jungle, Monkey Puzzle by Julia Donaldson, The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle and The Tiger in the Garden by Lizzy Stewart. |
| Year 1 & Year 2 | Can we get around the UK in 30 days?"              | The Bear and The Piano by David Litchfield, The Bear Under The Stairs by Helen Cooper, Good Night England by Adam Gamble, Martha Maps It Out by Leigh Hodgkinson and The Big Book of the UK by Imogen Russell Williams.  |
| Year 3          | What Makes the Earth Angry?                        | Cloud Tea Monkeys by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham.  |
| Year 4          | How did the Romans shape Britain?                  | The Baker by the Sea by Paula White.   |
| Year 5          | What is the effect of Climate Change on our world? | The Sleeper and The Spindle by Neil Gaiman.  |
| Year 6          | What makes the USA special?                        | Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen.  |

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Nursery - Bear Cubs

This half term, the bear cubs have been learning all about winter and sharing winter themed stories.

In the story 'Squirrel's Snowman' the squirrel enjoys snowman cookies, so we decided to bake our own snowman cookies in the Bear cub room!

The children counted how many spoons full of ingredients we had and did a great job in taking turns to stir the mixture.



## Nursery - Brilliant Bears



The Brilliant Bears have had a wonderful term exploring the exciting topic of Superheroes.

We have progressed in our language development from using the words 'goodies' and 'baddies' to 'heroes' and 'villains.'

The children have continued their enjoyment for daily phonics groups and are cleverly working their way through lots of phonemes (sounds) and continued learning how to blend.

This half term we have covered m, d, g, o, c and k. We have played lots of

blending games that use body parts or animals and their sounds like:

can you touch your...h-ea-d, b-a-ck, l-e-g. What sound does a d-u-ck make, a sh-ee-p, a c-ow?

They have created their own crafts throughout the term and taken home their hand-made Superhero masks and capes. They also created amazing snowmen and snow crystals after our snow day.

The children enjoyed a special visit from the Derbyshire, Fire and Rescue team this half term as part of their Superhero topic. The Firefighting team were really caring and considerate of our children and let them sit in the truck, try on and touch anything they were curious about.

Curiosity is key at this age. we have created a 'Curiosity Corner' in class where the children can look at interesting items that they might not have seen before in 'real life.' This week's items were fresh ginger and a large butternut squash. Attached are some of the questions the children asked about them. If you have any interesting items at home that you think might work in curiosity corner, please feel free to bring them in. Please bear in mind there is a potential that they could get damaged though. Maybe something antique or old-fashioned.

The children have learned some more tricky vocabulary this term via our weekly books. Some of these include: 'cyclone' and 'lasso', 'koala', 'acrobat', 'mope', 'honeycomb' and 'crow'. Ask your child if they know what these words mean and hopefully they will have remembered some of them or at least be able to describe them!



Keep up the great work, Brilliant Bears!



## Reception

The children have been exploring the Arctic this term - learning about the wildlife, ice and snow, melting and freezing.



The last week of term was one of celebrations. We learnt about Chinese New Year, Pancake Day and Valentine's Day and enjoyed celebrating them - thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us.

Our books this term have been *Peace at Last*, *The Gruffalo* and *Avocado Baby*. We have discovered all about what we need to live healthily, different wildlife and loved working out who was who in our 'Guess the Baby' games.



## Year 1 & Year 2

The children have enjoyed their learning about Kings and Queens in history this half term, we especially enjoyed our trip into Buxton where we learned about how kings and queens have changed over time and about some royal links to Buxton!

The children learned about addition and subtraction in maths and have done a brilliant job of applying these methods in lessons.



Year 2 have been learning about money and can now recognise coins and notes - they even set up a book shop in the library to practise making amounts!

We have learned all about animals, including humans in science and look forward to expanding their knowledge about the animal world next half term.

In English the children have done some wonderful writing based on our books 'Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish' also 'The Bear and the Piano'. We have written stories, letters, and pamphlets and even used similes and metaphors!

## Year 3



Rowan Class have had a fantastic term learning about the Ancient Egyptians in history. They have deepened and enriched their knowledge through a visit from the staff at Macclesfield Museum, where they handled replica artefacts including a tablet of the Rosetta Stone and an Ankh - an object that is cross shaped with a loop at the top, used as a symbol of life.

The children invited parents and wider family members to a curriculum event to share their learning about Ancient Egypt. The class had a museum of artefacts that they had made, sang a song and made clay scarab beetles with their adults.

Rowan Class have also enjoyed learning to sew a cushion, using appliqué, cross stitch and running stitch in their design and technology lessons.

## Year 4

This term we have been studying the city of Manchester in geography. We have read, researched and created maps. We now have a good understanding of how the cotton industry changed the landscape of Manchester.

Learning about the Clean Air Act (1956) showed the children how unbelievably smoggy and smoky the city once was.



We are looking forward to our visit to the Science Museum where we will see original cotton spinning and weaving machines in the textile gallery, as well as having lots of time exploring several different science exhibitions.

Please see 'Class Story' on the school's DoJo for updates on other subjects and events.

Ash class are a team to be proud of. We are delighted to see them growing in their unique strengths and achievements.

## Year 5



In English this term, we have been studying 'The Island' which has culminated in writing a sequel to the story.



We had a visit from the Babbling Vagabonds when we created short animations which are part of the projections taking place in February Half term as part of the 'Our Street' finale  
For more information click on link: <https://www.buxtonourstreet.co.uk>

In art, we have created models of birds and clay tiles. The children have also been to Buxton Community School to take part in an invigorating Dodgeball competition.



## Year 6

We have enjoyed learning about the Suffragette movement this term and in one lesson, the girls made their own banners to protest about the boys making all the rules. 'Division is just for maths'



We have also been learning about World War 2 and the children have produced some amazing artwork based on the Blitz and portraits of people in WW2, including a young Queen Elizabeth.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February    | End of school term at 3.30pm   |
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February    | Staff INSET DAY  |
| Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February   | New term   |
| Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February   | Northern Ballet workshop to visit Year 2 children  |
| Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February | NHS dental screening for all 5 year old children (Reception and Year 1)                          |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March      | World Book Day – children may dress up as a book character (optional)                            |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March       | Jungle Jo to visit our Reception children  |
| Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March      | Year 6 trip to the Holocaust Centre  |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March     | <b>NB new date</b> – Active Photographic to take class photographs                               |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March    | Parents' Evening – details to follow   |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March     | Year 5 trip to Jodrell Bank  |
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March       | Year 4 brass concert plus Year 5 and 6 brass players at the Octagon - parents to be advised      |
| Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March     | Musical Gems – parents event for Reception classes<br>Tigers 2.00 – 2.30pm Parrots 2.45 – 3.15pm |
| Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March     | School closes at 3.30pm  |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April       | New term   |

## WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day this year is on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**. Your child will have brought home a book token to spend on a given choice of books in participating shops.

We would like to celebrate the day by dressing up as book characters and taking part in a range of book based activities.

If you haven't got a costume, your child can bring in their favourite book.

We can't wait to see which books and characters are our children's favourites!

## THINGS TO DO OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Please click on the links below for ideas of activities available:-

DOWK <https://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk/things-to-do/east-midlands/derbyshire/buxton>

Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust [file:///C:/Users/jsparkes/Downloads/Whats on for Families](file:///C:/Users/jsparkes/Downloads/Whats%20on%20for%20Families)

Derbyshire Arts <https://www.artsderbyshire.org.uk/whats-on/events/illuminate-buxton>

## FAMILIES INFORMATION SERVICE (FIS)

Derbyshire's (FIS) provides free, impartial information and guidance for parents, carers, practitioners, children, and young people on a wide range of services, activities, and events available in Derbyshire. You can contact FIS via: Email: [fis@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@derbyshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01629 535793 (9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday) [Follow us on Facebook](#)

## FUNDING FOR 2 YEAR OLD – NURSERY PLACES

Eligible working parents of two-year-olds can now apply to access 15 hours of funded childcare per week from April 2024. You need to apply before 31<sup>st</sup> March to get your code, which can be used from 1<sup>st</sup> April. If you are eligible and have a place allocated in Nursery, please can you let school know the code that you have been given.

30 hour codes - reminder that if you currently have or will be using a 30 hour code for a 3 or 4 year old nursery child for the summer term, you **MUST** have renewed it before the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## 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.

### **Nut Free School**

We wish to remind parents/carers, that our school is nut free, therefore children are not allowed to bring nuts in to school. Thank you.

### **Measles**

We have been asked by Derbyshire Health to remind all families of the importance of all children having the MMR vaccination. Measles is on the rise across the country, and only by ensuring that all children are vaccinated, will we be able to stop this highly contagious and dangerous illness from spreading.

## **SPORT**

Hello again all. It's been a snowy and cold start to the calendar year.

Both Nursery classes have had great fun exploring lots of different climbing, balancing and jumping stations, whilst playing with a variety of sports equipment focusing on sharing and playing with friends.

Reception have moved onto their second gymnastics unit, developing basic gymnastic skills through the topic of 'traditional tales', to include 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. Children have explored creating shapes and balance, jumps and rolls. They have started to copy, create, remember and repeat short sequences. Our children are beginning to understand using levels and directions when travelling and balancing

Year 1 & 2 have explored gymnastics this half term. They have learned, explored and developed basic gymnastic actions on the floor and apparatus. They have further developed gymnastic skills such as jumping, rolling, balancing and travelling individually and in combination to create short sequences and movement phrases. The children have started to develop an awareness of compositional devices when creating sequences to include the use of shapes, levels and directions. They have also learned to work safely with and around others also while using apparatus.

Year 3 - In this gymnastics unit the children have developed balancing, rolling and jumping. They used these skills individually and in combination. They developed their sequence work, collaborating with others to use matching, contrasting actions, shapes and develop linking sequences smoothly with actions that flow.

Year 4 – have developed balancing, rolling, jumping, inverted movements and used these skills to create more complex sequences. The children were taught to demonstrate control in their behaviour, creating a safe environment for themselves and others to work in. They worked independently and in collaboration with others to create and develop sequences

Year 5 – In this gymnastics unit the children have developed balancing, rolling, jumping and inverted movements. They explored partner relationships such as canon and synchronisation, matching and mirroring.

Year 6 – The children used their knowledge of compositional principles e.g. how to use variations in level, direction, pathway, how to combine and link actions, how to relate to a partner and apparatus, when developing sequences. They build trust when working collaboratively in larger groups, using formations to improve the aesthetics of their performances.



All of our KS2 children were given opportunities to receive and provide feedback in order to make improvements on their performances. In gymnastics as a whole, the children developed performance skills considering the quality and control of their actions.



### **Inter School Competitions**

This half term saw our year 5 classes go to and attend a fun & competitive dodgeball tournament at Buxton Community School. Their focus was on teamwork and tactics, they all had a great time.

We attended the Buxton cluster basketball competition a couple of weeks ago with 2 teams and I am pleased to say one of our teams finished 1<sup>st</sup> qualifying for the High Peak Final. Our second team actually finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place which was also a great achievement.

In the High Peak basketball competition our team won 3 out of 4 games finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the High Peak! We only lost to the eventual champions, who were a very good team.

I am so super proud of our children!

Our breakfast clubs will now be focused on SportsHall Athletics and Netball.

Lastly our Afterschool clubs have been hugely successful yet again. The children have played lots of football. The multisports has been great, exploring different sports! Look out for the link for next half term, which will be sent to all parent/carers by email.

Danny