

HARPUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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



NEWSLETTER

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back!

We have had a great start to the new school year! I am pleased to let you know that the new starters in Nursery, Reception and other classes are settling well into their new school. We have several new families who have joined us this term too. A very warm welcome to you all!

Communication

I am usually around at the main gate (next to the park) for a chat in the morning and teachers are also available at the start/end of the day. We will continue to send newsletters out at the start and end of each term. These will be emailed to you and available on the website. We use a range of methods to communicate with our families as follows:

- Text Messages – used to send a quick short message to the whole school/classes/groups or individuals.
- Tapestry – (Nursery, Reception & Year 1) teachers use this to send whole class/individual messages to parents/carers. You can also message your child's teacher and upload photos from home.
- Class Dojo - (Year 2 to 6) teachers use this to send whole class/individual messages to parents/carers. You can also message your child's teacher.
- Email – used to send longer messages, letters and documents to the whole school/classes/groups or individuals. Your child's teacher can also be emailed (they will send their email address on their class newsletter).
- Letters home – class letters, learning journeys and other information, for example educational visits, will be sent home on paper (we do try to limit the amount of paper letters we send).
- Website – lots of information about our school available here: <https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk>.
- Facebook – where we share the 'good stuff' including photographs of children and their work, as well as other useful information: <https://www.facebook.com/harpurhillprimary>.

Please let the school office know if you have changed your email address or mobile phone number over the summer and we will update our records. We encourage all families to download either Dojo or Tapestry as this is the most frequently used form of communication that teachers use to get messages and updates out to parents/carers. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about anything at all.

Music Update

Research shows that the benefits of singing and playing an instrument extend beyond music, into other areas of learning. It is also great fun, builds confidence and teamwork skills.

We have a range of musical opportunities available:

- 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 coming soon.

- 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 to all of Year 4 (as part of the Wider Opportunities. Programme). He also teaches brass to any Year 5 & 6 who wish to continue.
- 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.
- Mrs Howe runs an after school ukulele club on a Friday for Year 3 upwards

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 - please help...

A few of our children have nut allergies and therefore we are a nut free school. Please do not send your child into school with nuts or products that contain nuts. This includes nut-based cereal bars and peanut butter. Thank you.

Finally... It has been a fantastic start to the new term. Thank you for all you do to support our school and your children's learning.

Here's to a great school year ahead!

Mrs Giliker

(Headteacher)

ATTENDANCE

Thank you for sending your children to school every day, and on time. Research shows that the higher a child's attendance, the better they do in school; and this in turn improves their life chances. If a child is 10 minutes late each day, this is equivalent to missing 6 days of school in a year. We will continue to follow national guidance, and procedures from Derbyshire County Council about the issue of penalty notices for unauthorised absences. Holidays during term time will not be authorised. Leave of absence may be requested, and will only be authorised for exceptional circumstances. At the end of this term, children will be receiving attendance awards for improved attendance and a termly award for 100% attendance. Let's aim to keep our attendance well above the national average, so Harpur children can make the most of their learning! Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL CHOIR

This term, our choir will be on a Monday starting on the 25th September. It's straight after school, in the hall and finishes at 4:15pm. The choir is open to children in years 3 to 6. A letter will be available from your child's class teacher from next week with more information and a permission slip. Please complete this and return to Ms Stanway.

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.

Please encourage your children to read at home, they should be reading for ten to twenty minutes, according to their age, every night. Teachers will be checking reading records and homework every week.

Below there is a list of recommended reads for your children. There are some fantastic books out there and we enjoy finding out about your children's favourite books.

<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/>

OUR LIBRARY NEEDS YOU!

If your children have any books that they would like to donate to our library, we would love to give them a new home.

Please send books in to school if they are in a good condition; we will accept any genre and age group, although more books for KS2 would be much appreciated. Thank you for your help.

Mrs Nuttall
(Deputy Headteacher)

SPORT, CRAFTS CLUB & AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION

After School Clubs are from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and after school provision is available from 3.30pm to 5pm each day in school, please log in to School Money and book on for the days you wish your child to attend. You will be given the option of booking 3.30pm to 4.30pm at a cost of £6 or 3.30pm to 5pm at a cost of £10. You can book for half a term at a time, and it doesn't matter if it is for a club or provision you book the one slot.

The option to book or unbook a slot will be active up to midnight the night before. If you wish to book your child into after school provision **on the day**, then please contact school and we will make the booking for you. Children aged 3 years upwards can use after school provision, provided that they are not in nappies.

At 3.30pm children will be collected from their class and taken to the classroom next to the hall. If they are doing a sports club, then Coach Danny will collect them from there. When collecting children, Coach Danny will meet parents on the Junior playground, but for children not going to a sports club, please come to the door at the main school entrance and press the bell.

Clubs available from 3.30pm to 4.30pm are:

Monday - **craft club** with Mrs Featherstone and Mrs Ryde - this is open to all children from aged 3 years upwards.

Tuesday - children in Key Stage 1 (years 1 & 2) - **football with Coach Danny**

Wednesday - children in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) - **football with Coach Danny**

Thursday - children in Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 – **multi sports with Coach Danny**

Friday - **craft club** with Mrs Featherstone - this is open to all children from aged 3 years upwards.

If your child isn't taking part in a sports or craft club, they will be able to play board games, do drawings, play, chat etc. All children will be offered a drink and children staying until 5pm will also be offered a snack.

Payment for after school clubs/provision - There are several payment methods, these include:

- * via School Money.
- * you can use your child's Tax Free ChildCare account if you have one, if you wish to pay by this method, please send an email to info@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk once you have paid the payment from your Childcare account, stating the child's name, amount paid and what this
- * Please contact school if you would like to pay by any other method, for example Childcare vouchers.
- * Children in Nursery who have a 30 hour code, can use any spare hours to pay for after school provision. Please come into school and change your FE1 form if you wish to do this.

After School Provision from 5pm to 6pm will be provided by Playdays, so please book directly with Playdays via enquiries@greenlanenurseryltd.co.uk.

Children will be collected by minibus from school at 5pm and taken to the Playdays after school club at Buxton Infant School for collection. Playdays will charge £6.50 for this provision.

Breakfast Club from 7.30am to 9am will continue to be run at school, by Playdays, so please book directly with Playdays via enquiries@greenlanenurseryltd.co.uk.

Please don't hesitate to contact school if you have any queries.

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

For children in Reception to Y6 only - Information from the NHS

If you would like your child to receive the flu vaccine in school, please follow this link to complete an online consent form:

<https://nhsimms.azurewebsites.net/session/7190a86a>

The vaccinations will take place at school on the 6th October. The link will close on the 3rd October.

If your child has already had the Nasal Flu vaccine since Sept 2023 please disregard this message.

If you have any problems accessing the link, please telephone 0333 358 3397 option 5.

Free School Meals

Some parents may be eligible for free school meals based on their income, and we would encourage everyone to apply if they haven't already done so (even if your child gets a free meal due to their age). Applying is very quick and simple, just complete this [online application form](#) from Derbyshire County Council. You only need to complete the form once for each child, if you are not eligible now, you may become eligible in future years and the system will pick this up without you having to re-apply. Children who attend all day in Nursery may also be eligible, so please complete the form above.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school office or you can also contact the Free School Meals team on 01629 536481 at checking@derbyshire.gov.uk.

Start and End of the Day

All children start at **9am** and finish at **3.30 pm**. To ease congestion on the roads/car park, the gates are open from 8.45am and children may arrive from this time and go straight into class. Parents/carers may enter the KS1 playground, but please do not enter the building to avoid congestion in corridors.

If you have any questions or difficulties with the start or end of the day arrangements, please discuss them with your child's teacher. We will do our best to help things run as smoothly as possible.

Parking Issues and Road Safety

In order to keep your children safe, please may we remind you to:

- Take care when driving on the school site and nearby roads
- Please park safely and considerately – do not block driveways, footpaths or roads
- Do not park in disabled spaces – these are only for badge holders
- Please drop your child and leave fairly quickly to make room for other parents/carers
- Keep younger children with you and do not let them run around in the car park or roads near the school

We know that the majority of parents/carers park considerately and safely – thank you. Also, you may like to consider the following:

- Walk or cycle to school when you can
- Use parent or neighbourhood groups on social media etc such as Whatsapp to arrange a walking bus or take it in turn to bring each other's children to school
- Park a little further away from school and walk the last five minutes to avoid the roads next to school

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 25 th September & Tuesday 26 th September	Year 5 to visit White Hall outdoor education centre
Tuesday 3 rd October	Rowan class to visit Poole's cavern - details to follow
Friday 6 th October	Children from Reception to Year 6 only, NHS flu vaccine, please see the above information under administration update
Wednesday 18 th October	Parents' Evening – details to follow
Thursday 19 th October	Active Photographic to take family/individual/sibling photographs
Monday 23 rd October	Open day for prospective, new reception starters 1.30pm – 3pm & 4.30pm-6pm
Thursday 26 th October	PTFA's Halloween disco – details to follow
Thursday 26 th October	School closes at 3.30pm
Friday 27 th October	Staff INSET day
Monday 6 th November	Start of a new term