

HARPUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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



NEWSLETTER

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Thursday 26th October 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

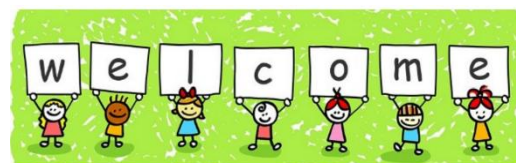
What a great start to the new school year we have had this term! I am so proud of how the new Nursery and Reception starters have settled, as well as children who have joined us in other year groups. It has been a busy term with lots of great learning. You will see highlights from each year group in the School News section of this newsletter.

Parents' Evenings

It was good to see so many of you coming into school for Parents' Evenings over the last few weeks. Most teachers have now met with parents of all children in their class, which is fantastic – thank you! If you haven't yet spoken to your child's teacher, please get in touch with them via Dojo/Tapestry or call the office to arrange an appointment at the start of next term.

Reception Intake September 2024

We were delighted to see so many families at our Open Afternoon and Evening for Reception starters in September 2024, earlier this week. If you were unable to make it, or know someone who may be interested in a place for September, please give us a call, or pass on our details, and I will be happy to give them a guided tour of our school.



Holiday activities – Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust

The **Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust** are hosting a range of autumn and winter events for the holiday and beyond. These include:

- Craft Activities on Tuesday 31st October from 10.30am – 12.30pm & 2pm – 4pm at the Assembly Rooms, inspired by the discovery of some old shoes during the Crescent's restoration, stepping into the world of '**Spooky Shoes**'! Free, but donations are greatly appreciated.
- **Gargoyles Workshop** at the Pump Room with Creeping Toad on Wednesday 1st November 10.30am – 3pm. Join the artists to make your own little gargoyles to take home. They might have wings, long tails, big claws or wobbly tongues. They might be dark or bright, glittery or fluffy. They might be all sorts of things, but they will definitely be wonderful! This workshop is free and materials are provided. No booking needed, just drop by and join in.

Click on the link for more information:

<https://explorebuxton.co.uk/autumn-winter-events-at-the-pump-room-and-the-assembly-rooms/>

Finally...

We hope you all have a great holiday. Thank you for all your support this term.
Best wishes

Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

SCHOOL NEWS

Nursery - Bear Cubs

The Bear cubs have been learning all about autumn. We have talked about the changing colours and what happens to the leaves and seeds on the trees. We have shared a story about a squirrel who thought there was a 'leaf thief', decorated hedgehogs using collage, and created hedgehog homes from a range of materials.



Nursery - Brilliant Bears



This term in Literacy, Brilliant Bears have read a series of books that are all about themselves and their families. They have studied themselves closely in the mirror and painted or drawn a wonderful self-portrait. Daily name writing practice has been a big success and some children have made so much improvement already in such a short time. As always, the children have been so creative in their play and physically at the craft table, making various inventions to take home. Imaginative play has featured highly both inside and outside the

classroom. The children have put on lots of shows, playing the instruments a little more skilfully each time they perform. The children have been practising their riding skills using scooters, and 2 or 3 wheeled bikes. Snack times have become a little easier as children have started peeling their own oranges, bananas and they can put spread on their own crackers. The staff have linked this to practising the verbs which they have been learning from their weekly books: spreading, eating and crunching. Well done, Brilliant Bears! A super 1st term. We are all so proud of you.

Reception

The new children in Reception have settled in brilliantly and we have really enjoyed getting to know them. This term we have been looking at the books 'We're all Wonders', 'Room on the Broom' and the 'That's not my...' series. The children have been getting to know the routines in school and becoming familiar with their new inside and outside play areas.

They have been working hard in phonics and maths and it is amazing to see how much they have learned already.

Thank you to all of you for your support with weekly homework, designing space rockets or helmets and coming to parents' evening. We hope you have a lovely half term break.



Year 1 and 2



The children have enjoyed learning about how Buxton has changed throughout history. We found it especially exciting to find out that there used to be an outdoor roller-skating rink in the Pavilion Gardens! The children did a fabulous job of drawing and shading pictures of Solomon's Temple and have carried out some exciting science experiments, too. All children have settled well into their new classes and are impressing us more each day!

Year 3

Rowan Class have settled brilliantly into Key Stage 2. They really enjoyed learning about 'Who First Lived in Britain?' The class have visited Poole's Cavern to find out about how Neolithic farmers used the cave as a shelter in wintertime. In music the children have loved learning to sing and play the glockenspiel to 'Let Your Spirit Fly', an R&B song. The class have produced some super artwork including cave paintings, a clay lion man and a watercolour silhouette painting of Stonehenge. The children have been developing their handwriting, correctly forming and joining their letters, with some pleasing results.



Year 4



The children have been learning all about the Peak district in their geography topic: 'What Rocks About the Peak District?' In their art lessons, they have been focusing on developing their pastel blending. The children have been studying different picturesque views of areas in the Peak District and have carefully sketched the foreground before adding pastels to create an atmospheric sky. They have developed their understanding of foreground and background and perspective to create detailed finished pieces.

Year 5



Year 5 have had a super start to the year. We have conducted various scientific investigations as part of our 'Forces' topic, including 'Why things fall when we drop them?' and 'How air and water resistance affect moving objects?' In geography, we have learnt about famous mountains and rivers in the UK and worldwide, and considered why people live near water sources. Year 5 also enjoyed two action-packed days at White Hall where we showcased our teamwork skills on the zip-wire, our perseverance on the adventure walk and bags of courage on the rope climbing challenge!

Year 6

Year 6 have enjoyed learning about the Vikings this term and have questioned whether the Vikings were raiders, traders or settlers. They have produced work on why the Vikings came to Great Britain, looked at their way of life, found out about their gods and goddesses and learned about the Viking justice system. Our art work shows some lovely watercolours of Viking mythical creatures and some of the children's long term projects.



ATTENDANCE

Research shows that the higher a child's attendance, the better they do in school; and this in turn improves their life chances. We continue to follow the national guidance for school attendance and procedures from Derbyshire County Council about the issue of penalty notices for unauthorised absences. We monitor all children's attendance regularly and will be in touch if your child's attendance is becoming a concern. The table below shows how we categorise attendance:

100%	99.9 – 95.1%	95 – 90.1%	Below 90%
Excellent	Good	Attendance is concern	Serious concern

If a child misses 19 days, this will mean their attendance is 90% and classed as persistent absence by the Department for Education. It is also important that children are here every day on time. If children are just 5 minutes late each day, this means that they will be missing 25 minutes each week. If a child is late 10 minutes a day, this is equivalent to missing 6 days of school in a year. Missing the start of the day every day is damaging to children's learning as they miss out on the start of the lesson.

Holidays during term time will not be authorised. Leave of absence may be requested and only authorised for exceptional circumstances. We will be rewarding the children with 100% attendance for this term when we return after the holiday. We will also be rewarding children whose attendance has improved significantly since the last review.

RELATIONSHIPS AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The Department for Education (DfE) require that all schools in England teach relationships and health education (RHE). Many of the topics required by the DfE are taught as part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum, as well as in other subject areas.

As part of relationships education pupils have to be taught:

- families and people who care for me
- caring friendships
- respectful relationships
- online relationships
- being safe

As part of health education pupils have to be taught:

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body

At secondary schools, sex education is mandatory; however, this is not the case with Primary schools. Primary schools can still also choose to teach sex education for example as part of Y7 transition but **parents/carers will retain the right to withdraw your child from this area of the curriculum**. We inform parents/carers before teaching this in Year 6, and give families the opportunity to view the content before we teach this.

We have reviewed our RSHE policy and provision to ensure it is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and/or disabilities

You can find more information and the policy on our school website:

<https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/our-classes/rshe>

The DfE have produced guides for parents on Relationships and Health Education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

At Harpur Hill Primary School, we welcome feedback from parents and carers. This helps us to review our practice and provision and to ensure that we are meeting the needs of children and parents. After kindly taking the time to read our RSHE policy, we would be grateful if you could fill in the following questionnaire: <https://forms.office.com/e/dt5msRMq5g>
If you would like to know more about Relationships and Health Education, please contact your child's classteacher.

LEARNING JOURNEYS

Year	Topic	Book/authors
Nursery - Brilliant Bear	Celebrations	<u>Poems and stories</u> Where's Lenny, It's My Birthday Cake, Kipper's Birthday, The Christmas Pine.
Reception	Traditional Tales	The Gingerbread Man, The Enormous Turnip, Oi Frog and many more traditional tales. We will also be reading texts around celebrations such as Diwali, Bonfire Night, the season Autumn and Christmas.
Year 1 & Year 2	What is life like in the Arctic?	The Rainbow Bear by Michael Morpurgo A Dot In The Snow by Corrinne Averiss and Fiona Woodcock, The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish by Chloe Savage
Year 3	Who Are Our European Neighbours?	Paddington by Michael Bond.
Year 4	What impact did the Romans have on Buxton?	Farther by Grahame Baker-Smith
Year 5	How did the Shang Dynasty fall?	The Lightning Thief and Percy Jackson by Rick Riordan.
Year 6	Why should the rainforest be important to us all?	The Hidden Forest by Jeannie Baker. Can we Save the Tiger? by Martin Jenkins.

ADMINISTRATION

Vapes and Smoking

May we remind you that smoking and vaping are prohibited on the school grounds. Please could we ask parents/carers to be considerate and mindful of others if smoking and vaping outside school, particularly at busy times on the roads and pavements close to school. Thank you.

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 reapply. 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 off 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

Thursday 26 th October	End of term.
Friday 27 th October	Staff INSET day.
Monday 6 th November	Start of a new term.
Monday 6 th November – Thursday 9 th November	Bikeability – parents advised.
Monday 13 th November – Thursday 16 th November	Bikeability – parents advised.
Monday 13 th November	'Odd Sock Day', everyone is invited to join together to show that it's okay to be different and to stand up against bullying and discrimination.
Friday 17 th November	Team Harpur – PTFA's AGM commencing 9.05am in school. Everyone welcome.
Monday 20 th November	Year 4 to visit the Haddon Hall Care Home.
Wednesday 22 nd November	Year 3 and 4 to visit the Buxton cinema.
Wednesday 22 nd November	Online Safety with Year 5/6 children and parents, 2.30pm – 3.30pm, details to follow.
Thursday 30 th November	Reception children's 'Polar Express Evening' at school from 5.00pm – 6.00pm, details to follow.
Tuesday 5 th December	'Deck the classroom' – Reception parents to be invited from 3.00 – 3.30pm, details to follow.
Thursday 7 th December	'Christmas Jumper Day.'
Thursday 7 th December	Buxton Opera House 'Hare & Tortoise' workshop for Reception and all Infants, details to follow.
Thursday 21 st December	School closes at 3.30pm.
Friday 22 nd December	Staff INSET day.
Monday 8 th January	Start of a new term.

SPORT

Hello all,

We've had a great start to the year in P.E. and Sports.

All Nursery pupils visit 'big' school every Tuesday morning and have been exploring taking turns and playing with others.

Reception have been exploring Fundamentals of movement including balancing, walking, running, throwing and catching.

Years 1 & 2 have worked on tracking, sending and receiving as well as other ball skills such as dribbling and rolling for accuracy.

Year 3 & 4 children have explored fundamental P.E. skills alongside ball skills, working on skills like balancing, running, dodging, catching, tracking, rolling and throwing for accuracy.

Year 5 & 6 have learned all about being competitive in handball and basketball, mastering different skills such as dribbling, defending, passing and shooting

Onto our Inter School competitions. We had so many children attend the cross country event earlier in the half term. We finished a respectable 2nd, which means we have successfully qualified for the High Peak Finals in late November!

We also attended the Buxton Round of the Year 5/6 boys & girls football. We took 2 boy and 2 girl teams which is the most we have ever taken! Our 2 girl teams mostly contained pupils that had never played competitive or structured football outside of school before, which was incredible. Both teams had some fantastic performances and one of the teams finished 3rd! Our boy teams again featured lots of pupils who had never played competitive football and yet still had some great performances, matching the girls, the teams finished 3rd narrowly losing to the eventual winners!

Our last competition was an orienteering competition (map quest) at the pavilion gardens. Our year 5s attended and had lots of fun with one team of 3, winning the whole competition! Well done.

Our breakfast clubs have been full of children who have been practising for the football and now the cross country competitions.

Lastly our afterschool clubs have been hugely successful. The children have played lots of football and multisports, it has been great exploring different sports!

Have a lovely half term everyone!

Danny