

HARPUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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



NEWSLETTER

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

JANUARY 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very happy New Year to you all! I can't believe we've already been back for 2 weeks - the new term has got off to a busy start and the weeks are flying by! Ahead of us, we have some exciting events planned to bring our curriculum to life. Next week, Mary Queen of Scots will be coming in to see Year 1 and 2, and children will also be going to the Crescent and Pump Room to find out about Royalty in Buxton. Year 3 will be exploring Ancient Egypt with historians from Macclesfield Museum. Year 4 have planned a route to Manchester using mapping skills, and will be visiting the Museum of Science and Industry later this term.

Reading

Children love to read at Harpur! Evidence shows that children who read for enjoyment every day achieve well in school, and also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of the world and other cultures. Please make sure you continue to support your child with reading at home by:

- Hearing your child read regularly. Ideally, all children should be reading every day at home as well as at school.
- Using the local library.
- Enjoying a bedtime story.
- Talking about books and stories.
- Reading a range of fiction, non-fiction, books, magazines and web pages.
- Encouraging children to read for pleasure and read a range of books by different authors.

Winter Weather



Reception children have been enjoying their Welly Wednesdays.

This week they enjoyed a winter walk in the woods, looking for signs of winter, making snow angels and playing speckled frogs on a log.

Thank you for getting your children into school this week during the winter weather. We always try to keep school open in the event of heavy snow/extreme weather, but we have to consider a number of factors in the morning: site and road conditions, staffing levels, availability of school meals etc. In the event of severe weather, we will make a decision to close (or open later) as early as possible and inform you via text message. If you are not able to send your child in due to the snow, please inform school. We appreciate that the office can be busy at these times, but please leave a message or send us an email/text if you cannot get through, as we need to know that children are safe. Occasionally it snows heavily during the day and we may need to close early. If we make this decision, we will inform you via text message. If we do decide to close early we will, of course, look after your children until you get here so please be assured that your children will be safe.

Nursery

As you may be aware, from April 2014, some children who will be 2 years old before 31st March 2024 may be eligible for 15 hours nursery provision. To see if you are eligible, please visit the Childcare Choices website:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

Those most likely to be eligible will be working parents/carers. Unfortunately, eligibility for these hours does not guarantee a place at any nursery. Our school nursery is very popular and we are experiencing high demand for places. If you or anyone you know, is interested in a nursery place, please get in touch for a registration pack. We already have bookings for September 2024 and beyond. Places for 2 year olds are very limited and we encourage you to apply for a place as soon as possible.

We are holding an open evening for prospective parents/carers of 2 year olds (Bear Cubs) to come and view the nursery and meet staff on Tuesday 30th January from 3.45 – 4.15pm. Everyone is welcome, so please come along.

Finally...

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

Best wishes,

Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

ONLINE SAFETY

Internet Safety Day will be on Tuesday 6th February this year. We will be doing various activities in school this week to re-enforce online safety both in and outside of school. If you wish to discuss this with your children, further information is on the school website or on the UK Safer Internet Centre website:

<https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/online-safety>
<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

Thursday 25 th January	SENCO parent forum @ 2.45pm
Thursday 25 th January	Year 3 to have a visit from Macclesfield Museum
Thursday 25 th January	Year 1 & Year 2 to walk to the Crescent/Pump Room
Tuesday 30 th January	Bear Cubs Nursery open event 3.45-4.15pm for prospective 2 year olds
Friday 2 nd February	Year 4/5 & 6 brass performance for parents/carers @ 9.10am
Tuesday 6 th February	Year 3 Egypt, parents curriculum event @ 2.45pm
Thursday 8 th February	Year 4 to visit Manchester Science & Industry Museum
Thursday 8 th February	Northern Ballet Workshop to visit Year 2
Tuesday 13 th February	Buxton Fire & Rescue to talk to Year 2 & Year 6
Wednesday 14 th February	WW2 parents/carers event for Year 6 @ 2.45pm
Friday 16 th February	School closes at 3.30pm
Monday 26 th February	Staff INSET DAY
Tuesday 27 th February	New term

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 late 10 minutes a day, this is equivalent to missing 6 days of school in a year. We follow the national guidance for school attendance, including sharing our attendance information with the Department for Education. We continue to follow 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 only authorised for exceptional circumstances. We will be rewarding the children with 100% attendance, and improved attendance termly.

PUBLIC HEALTH REMINDER

Schools follow Public Health guidelines with regard to rashes, skin infections, diarrhoea, vomiting and infections. If your child is off school due to diarrhoea or vomiting it is absolutely necessary to make sure your child does not return to school until 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

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.