

NEWSLETTER

28th MARCH 2024

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Dear Parents/Carers,

As the Spring Term draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your support. We have seen many of you in school this term, attending various family learning events, helping out on visits and Welly Wednesdays, coming to Parents' Evenings, and helping at sports events. Children have completed some wonderful home learning projects, including a totem pole in Year 6 and some amazing volcano models in Year 3. We have been impressed with the reading and phonics in Reception and Year 1 this term. The children are making great progress, and this is helped by lots of practice at home – thank you! Year 4 have been working super hard at school and at home, learning their tables and practising on TTRockstars.

It has been a great term; several classes have been out on visits, and we have welcomed visitors into school too. Year 6 went to the National Holocaust Museum as part of their World War 2 History topic, learning about the life of a boy who came to England as part of the Kinder Transport. Year 5 had an interesting and exciting time learning about space at Jodrell Bank. Reception children enjoyed finding out about animals, including giant snails, tarantulas, frogs and snakes when Jungle Jo visited. Our sports teams have had a great term too – see Danny's report for more information. Well done to all children who have represented their school!

Music News



Our Year 4 Wider Opportunities Brass, Year 5 & 6 follow on brass and Clarinet Club gave excellent performances at the Octagon last Friday, taking part in a jazz workshop with the Peak District Music Centre and two other primary schools. The children played brilliantly and were great ambassadors for our school. It was lovely to see so many of our families at the event and we hope you enjoyed it too! As a follow up, the children have been invited to go along and try one of the Music Centre's Beginner Wind bands.



On Friday evening, four of our musicians took part in the Music Centre's Gala Concert at the Octagon. It was another great concert and opportunity for our children.

We are one of two schools taking part in a pilot project where Year 2 children learn violin or cello in a class music lesson.

Previously, this teaching model was used more commonly with older children, but the Derbyshire Music Partnership asked if we would help with the pilot. Of course, we said yes and this week, our Year 2 children played their instruments for the first time. The sessions are delivered by specialist string teachers, and they have been very impressed with our children so far! Letters with information about the children bringing instruments home will be coming out soon.

Parents' Evening

Thank you for attending our Parents' Evenings this term. It was great to see so many of you and most classes have now seen all of their parents/carers. If you haven't met with your child's teacher, we will be in touch to arrange an appointment.

Start and End of Day

Please may we remind you to take extra care and be considerate of other members of the school community when dropping off and collecting children. We would like to encourage families to walk to school as much as possible, as this reduces traffic in the area, and also impacts positively on the environment. We want the journey to and from school to be as safe as possible for our families.

We can do this by:

- Walking to school if you can
- Encouraging children to walk, scoot or cycle to school
- Sharing lifts with other parents/carers
- Driving carefully on the roads around school and on site
- Observing the voluntary 'one way' system – enter via Trent Avenue and leave via Ferneydale Avenue
- Not blocking pavements, drive ways or roundabouts
- Keeping young children with you at all times
- Taking extra care when reversing
- Parking a few streets away from school and walking the last part of the journey
- Not driving beyond the vehicle gates
- Taking care when opening car doors
- Dropping your child off quickly and leaving straight away

Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our Governing Board. Documentation will be sent to parents/carers separately. For more information about our Governing Board, and what the role involves, please click on the link to the Governor section of our website:

<http://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/about><http://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/about-us/governorsus/governors> or call into school. I will be happy to discuss what is involved as well as answering any questions.

Staffing Updates

We have a few changes to staffing to update you about:

- Mrs Rowntree (Nursery teacher) will be returning following her maternity leave and will be in Nursery on Thursdays and Fridays after Easter, and then return to full time in June. Mrs Dowland will continue in Nursery on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays, until Mrs Rowntree returns full time.
- Miss Marsh will be stepping down from her post as SENCO after Easter, and Sandra Orme will be taking over in this position, alongside her Family Support Worker role.
- Miss Marsh will be in the Jolly Giraffes class full time after Easter.
- Miss Samadram will be joining Mrs Stanway, teaching in Reception Terrific Tigers after Easter.
- Mrs Torkington and Mrs Stocker have started to work as Teaching Assistants in Reception.
- Miss Miller and Mrs Smith have started working as Teaching Assistants in Year 1.
- After working here for 25 years, Tracy Alsop is retiring from her posts as Midday Supervisor and After School Club. We thank Tracy for all her hard work over the years and wish her the very best for the future.

Easter Holiday activities

There are lots of activities available for families during the Easter break, including Springtime Family Fun, storytime and craft activities. Please click on the link to the leaflet: [Easter Activities for Families](#) and Crescent Heritage Trust website for more information:

<https://buxtoncrescentexperience.com/events-2-2/>

Finally...

Thank you for your continued support of our school. Have a lovely Easter break.

Best wishes,

Mrs Giliker (Headteacher)

LEARNING JOURNEYS

Class	Topic	Books
Brilliant Bears	Understanding the World	Commotion in the Ocean, Clem and Crab, Would you rather..., The Storm Whale.
Reception	The Great Outdoors	Literacy Texts What the Ladybird Heard, Jack and the Beanstalk. Reading for Pleasure Oliver's Vegetables, The Enormous Turnip Superworm, David Attenborough, Marcus Rashford (Little People Big Dreams).
Year 1 and 2	Why did we go to the Moon?	Yeti and the Bird by Nadia Shireen, Julian is a Mermaid by Jessica Love.
Year 3	How did John Carr and the 5th Duke of Devonshire build Buxton and what land uses can we find here today?	How to Live Forever by Colin Thompson.
Year 4	What is our landscape like?	Shackleton's Journey by William Grill, Theme Unearthing civilisations.
Year 5	Were the Anglo Saxons really smashing?	Anne Frank by Josephine Poole and Angela Barrett.
Year 6	How does the Mayan civilisation compare to the Anglo Saxons?	The Wind in the Wall by Sally Gardner and Rovina Cai.

BUSY SCHOOL NEWS

Nursery Bear Cubs



This half term, the bear cubs were very excited to invite a grown up into Nursery to plant Sunflower seeds. We are thinking about what makes our world beautiful, and have decided that flowers are one of the things which add beauty.

Nursery Brilliant Bears



Brilliant Bears have had a wonderful spring term exploring the exciting topic of 'Planting and Growing'. We have planted our magic beans to match the 'Jack and the Beanstalk' story.

We progressed in our language development again this term, using words like 'trowel', 'hoe', 'orchard' and 'ripening'. Ask your child what these words mean. The children have continued their enjoyment for daily phonics groups and are working their way through lots of phonemes (sounds) and continue learning how to blend. We have covered e,u,r,h,f,b. We have continued to play lots of blending games that use body parts or animals and their sounds, e.g.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? We have also used other sounds e.g. 'boiiiiing boiiiiing' for a ball 'wheeeee' for a slide going down and 'brrrrr' when cold.

The children have created their own crafts and taken home their hand-made creations.

The children have LOVED our new 'Mystery Reader' sessions and 'Tuesday Toddles' – thanks to all parents/carers for their support. It has been lovely to chat to you along the way too.

'Curiosity Corner' has now become 'Curiosity Cube' and we have linked the items in it to the sound of the week. We also still place interesting items that they might not have seen before from 'real life.'



Reception

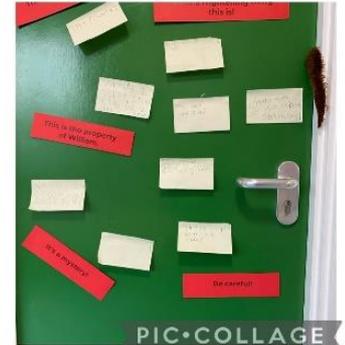


This term the children in Reception have been learning all about the Jungle. We have learned about different creatures, learned The Animal Boogie and explored the work of artist Henri Rousseau, and created pictures based on his work.

Our highlight was the visit from Jungle Jo who brought in lots of creatures for us to learn about and hold.

Year 1 and Year 2

Have had a brilliant half term and have especially enjoyed our English work. We have been reading 'The Bear under the Stairs' by Helen Cooper, which explores conquering fears! We began by finding something furry and mysterious in our classroom, then we began to hear growls and smell strange smells in the cupboard. We used statements, commands and exclamations to create some quick warning signs to make sure nobody went in the cupboard. We spotted footprints, had sticky honey left in our classroom and were left notes and pictures. We used our inference skills to work out that there was possibly a bear in our cupboard. After lots of letter, story writing and fact file creating - we decided to open the door and face our fears. As in the book, we took our brooms, just in case the bear wasn't friendly, but luckily there was nothing there - just a broken chair and a furry rug. The children have been so enthusiastic about their writing this half term and we have loved sharing our fears and discussing how we might overcome them.



Year 3

Rowan Class have loved learning about volcanoes and other extreme Earth phenomenon. The children have really enjoyed making and then presenting their home learning projects to the class. They loved their edible geography lesson to learn about tectonic plates using Oreo biscuits to represent the three kinds of plate movement. They have used their art skills to recreate Andy Warhol's 'Vesuvius Colourways', used watercolours to paint Hokusai's 'Great Wave' and drew tornadoes creating the effects of movement with colour, line and shading. In English the children have been enchanted by the story, 'Cloud Tea Monkeys' by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham. They delighted in being apprentice royal tea tasters, and wrote some great reports about tea, after reading the story and researching tea production and fairtrade across the world.



Year 4

This term Ash class have worked really hard in all areas of the curriculum. In English, we have written for different purposes in response to our wonderful text '**The Baker by the Sea**'. In maths we have completed the unit on measurement and perimeter and have begun the unit on fractions; we have continued, very successfully, with our work on multiplication tables. Our work on the Romans in history has been very successful and interesting. In computing we have been trainee journalists and have learnt how to change a font electronically. Our biscuit designing has been great fun and very tasty in Design Technology. We have learnt about how sounds are made and how we hear sound in science. And of course, we have continued to work hard and make great progress in learning our brass instruments.



Researching biscuits in Design Technology.....Well, someone has to do it!

Year 5

The children ended a very busy term with a fascinating and fun- filled visit to Jodrell Bank as part of our Science topic 'Space'. We got to see the famous Lovell telescope as well as explore the different exhibitions on offer including the 'Whispering Dishes'. In D&T, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to make different mechanisms to create our very own pop-up books with amazing results! We also spent an afternoon taking part in Playground Leadership training to support the children in their lunchtime role as Harpur Heroes.



Year 6

The children have enjoyed learning about the geography of the USA and have learned about the differing climates, time zones and states.



They visited the Holocaust Centre, which linked to our WW2 topic last term. This was an informative and interesting trip. The children remembered a lot of facts and asked some great questions. During the trip they learned about the life of a Jewish boy, Leo, and explored a room in his flat, a schoolroom and street. They also had the opportunity to listen to an account of life in Germany from Stephen, who was brought to England as part of the Kindertransport.

ATTENDANCE

Attending school every day on time is crucial for equipping your child with skills for life. Research shows that the higher a child's attendance and punctuality, the better their educational achievement. 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.

What you must do:

- Send your child to school every day on time.
- Try to notify the school office (via phone call or text) before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell us in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help.

What we will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Inform you of your child's attendance in reports and at parents' evening.
- Notify you if your child's attendance is becoming a concern.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- If your child is absent and we haven't heard from you, we will contact other emergency contacts.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we or other agencies, may make a welfare home visit.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- Support you to enable you to get your child to school if there are barriers to overcome.

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER REMINDERS

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 8.30am.

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.

Pierced ears

Children should only wear small stud earrings for health and safety reasons. If wearing studs for school they must be taken out for PE and children need to be able to do this for themselves. If your child is having their ears pierced it is best if you wait until the start of the 6 weeks holiday to get this done. Thank you.

Hand Washing

We are reminding the children about the importance of hand hygiene, how to wash their hands correctly and for long enough. Please follow this up at home to prevent the spread of bacteria and viruses.

Mobile Phones

May we politely remind you that unauthorised use of mobile phones by parents/carers, visitors and children is prohibited in the school building. Children should not be bringing mobile phones to school. However, in exceptional circumstances, such as when they are staying with a different family member etc, pupils may bring in their phones on condition that an agreement is signed.

ONLINE SAFETY UPDATE

As part of Online Safety Day 2024, the children and parents took part in different surveys about their behaviour online. 133 children in years 3-6 completed the survey in school. 39 parents/carers completed the online survey. This was emailed out to all families from Reception to Year 6. Thank you for completing it. Here is a brief summary of the findings:

- 97% of children said that they have access to the internet at home.
- 100% of adults said that their children have access to the internet.
- 40% of children have access to the internet in their own bedrooms.
- 20% of adults said that their children have access to the internet in their own bedrooms.
- 63% of children spend **2 hours or more per day** using the internet.
- 78% of adults said that their children spend **less than 2 hours a day** using the internet.
- 24% of children said that there are no privacy controls on their device(s).
- 94% of adults know how to check their child's privacy settings.
- 35% of adults infrequently check their child's privacy settings.
- 72% of children said that adults at home rarely or never talk to them about safety rules while browsing.
- 92% of adults said that they regularly talk to their children about safety rules while browsing the internet.
- 58% of children have felt uncomfortable with something they have seen online.
- 89% of children know what to do if they see something uncomfortable online.
- 79% of adults know how to stop online bullying.
- 92% of adults know how to monitor/block/report inappropriate activity online.
- 62% of children would like to learn more about online safety in school.
- 43% of adults would like to learn more about online safety in school.

We would like to encourage all parents/carers to check your children's safety settings and to talk to your children about this regularly. For more information, please visit the school website <https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/online-safety>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 28 th March	End of term - school closes at 3.30pm
Monday 15 th April	New term
Thursday 18 th April	Grandparents invited to the Nursery to help with the Bear Cubs' garden makeover at 1.15pm
Friday 19 th April	'Wonder Dome' Year 1 & 2 planetarium in school
Tuesday 23 rd April	Bear Cub's Nursery (2 year olds) 'Open Evening' for our prospective parents/carers from 3.45pm – 4.30pm
Tuesday 30 th April	Year 6 SATs meeting for parents at 3.45pm
Thursday 9 th May	Year 2 visiting RE workshop, the children will be learning about the religion of Islam and exploring some significant artefacts
Monday 13 th May – Thursday 16 th May	Year 6 SATs
Tuesday 14 th May	Year 3 Rowan class to visit the pump room and Buxton Crescent, 'Build Buxton' workshop
Friday 24 th May	End of term – school closes at 3.30pm
Monday 3 rd June	Staff INSET day
Tuesday 4 th June	New term

Both Nursery classes have had an exciting half term with the weather finally allowing us to get outside more often and explore different ball games and even more sports equipment.

Reception have been exploring ball skills such as rolling, catching, bouncing, dribbling with their hands and their feet using different insects as the theme.

Year 1 & 2 have worked on 'target games' and fitness. We have used different equipment to throw, kick, roll for accuracy, height and distance. The children have begun to explore and develop agility, balance, co-ordination, speed and stamina

Year 3 – dodgeball & tag rugby. The children have improved on key skills used in dodgeball such as throwing, dodging and catching. They have learned how to apply simple tactics to outwit their opponents.

Year 4 – dodgeball & tag rugby. In dodgeball alongside improving their basic skills, children were given opportunities to play games independently and were taught the importance of being honest whilst playing to the rules.

In tag rugby Year 3 and 4 children have developed their understanding of the attacking and defending principles of invasion games. In all game activities, children have had to think about how they use skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition.

Year 5 - were set challenges for distance and time that involve using different styles and combinations of running, jumping and throwing. As in all athletic activities, pupils think about how to achieve their greatest possible speed, height, distance or accuracy and learn how to persevere to achieve their personal best. They learned how to improve by identifying areas of strength as well as areas to develop.

Year 6 – were given opportunities to lead when officiating as well as observe and provide feedback to others. They competed in long jump, vertical jump, shotput, discus and chest push as well as numerous running events.

Onto our Inter School competitions. This half term saw us compete in a netball event in which one of our teams finished second in the Buxton event and then 3rd in the High Peak Finals! Amazing achievement!

We also competed in the Buxton cluster Sports Hall athletics event and won by an absolutely huge margin! Our incredible athletes then went onto the High Peak Finals and I am so proud to say they won again, therefore qualifying for the County Finals for the second year running! What unbelievable sportspeople we have!

Our breakfast clubs will now be focused on sports hall/cricket and more athletics for the summer term.

And lastly our Afterschool clubs have been hugely successful yet again. The children have played lots of football, and multisports have been great exploring even more different sports! Look out for the link for next half term!

Have a lovely Easter.

Danny.