

Harting Primary School Newsletter



Message from the Head

I hope that you have all had a lovely Summer break and that the new academic year proves to be very happy for everyone. We welcome back all our old friends as well as new children. We hope that they settle in really quickly and both parents and children soon feel part of our school family.

The coming term promises to be filled with interesting learning opportunities - the teachers have spent plenty of time working on an engaging curriculum. Topics for this term are:

Rother- 'Carnival of the Animals' followed by 'Oi, Get Off My Train!'

These broad topics are used as a stimulus and are further developed to reflect the children's interests. This is regarded as good Early Years' practice.

Warren - 'Dungeons and Dragons' will be a History led theme. After half-term, the topic changes to 'Fire! Fire!' which is more Science based. Again, children influence the direction of the topic when involved in the learning.

Downlands - 'The Flintstones' and 'Asterix and Friends' will enable learning about the Stone Age and Roman civilisations. There will be plenty of links with others subject other than History, including Art work. Forest Schooling will be offered to year 3 pupils this term.

Torberry - 'Around the World in 80 Days' will allow comparison between countries all over the world. There are opportunities to link this topic with DT and PE as well as Geography.

Beacon - 'Rulers and Tyrants' will include the study of Islamic civilisations, linking History and RE. There will be further aspects of History taught from other times and places.

If you are interested in finding out more, there are maps of our subject planning on the school website.

I look forward to seeing children immersed in their new topics and the school buzzing with excited learners.

Best wishes

Fiona Mullett

Regional winner - Forest School writing

Congratulations to Matthew Stevens who has won books for the school, following submission of a piece of his work: a news report. This writing was stimulated by Forest School activities, linked to literacy. We are grateful to the Forest School team for their part in this - Debs Pattinson dressed as a builder and Lucy Wall-Palmer tied herself to a tree to protest at the 'potential destruction of the natural space' and worked closely with Jane Maybury. We are really fortunate to have such support.

Key Harting values: love and respect
'Love others as yourself'
Worship Theme: Thankfulness

Library books

We have just spent a large sum of money on library books so there is plenty for the children to read. This is instead of using the library service which cost us over £1000 per year. We ask, therefore, that parents help keep a track of books that go home and that they are replaced if lost or damaged. This will help us to continue to have a really well stocked library for all to enjoy. We thank you for your support with this - we want the children to love and cherish books.

Clubs

I am delighted that we are able to offer a range of staff led clubs, as usual this term. Unlike several other local schools, these will continue to be free.

We now have a new pottery teacher to run clay club, which is really exciting. For this club, we will be charging £5 per session to cover costs. Sadly the demands on the school budget are such that we have to ensure that we are not dipping into the general 'pot' for clubs, which incur a cost, so can no longer subsidise them. This means that there will be a nominal charge for Art Appreciation club (£2.50 per session) and Music club, with Nicky Bennison, (£5 per session). Aspire coaching will continue to be £48 per term.

We will be asking for payment for the half-term in advance so that we are assured of the income for staffing costs. We thank you for prompt payment, once your child has been allocated a place. We are still finalising some of the club days but hope to send out club letters at some point next week.

PTFA

The first meeting of the PTFA will be held at the White Hart Pub on Monday 18th September @ 9am (tbc): an opportunity for coffee, catch up and to pencil dates in the diary. We will be looking for a new Chair who will be supported by Lyndsay Bhattacharjee (in the background) who has headed the team for the last two years. Equally, the PTFA has evolved so that specific events are led by those who are familiar with them, which makes being the Chairperson less onerous.

Please do come to the meeting and consider if you might be the one to head up the team.

Open Afternoon

Please encourage families, who might be considering sending their children to Harting School, to visit us at our Open Afternoon on 11th October from 1.15-3.30pm. It will be an opportunity to see the school at work and are happy to meet with parents at other times, if they are not free that day - to be arranged through the office.

Textiles wanted

Please could you look in your cupboards for old balls of wool, embroidery threads and unwanted white sheeting. The school would really appreciate such donations for some textile work this term.

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Free school meals

Although all infants (Reception - year 2 pupils) are offered free school lunches, it would really help the school budget if you are eligible for free school meals to let us know and apply. The office staff is happy to support, in confidence, anyone to make such an application.

Eligibility for free school meals:

Is Your Child Eligible for Free School Meals?

Pupil Premium Grants are given to schools to support children whose parents fit the criteria below:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income of £16,190 or less, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

It also means that they can have free school meals. Currently all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have these automatically but we still need parents to apply so that the children benefit from the extra funds in school. If you think you may meet any of the requirements (listed above), the office will be happy to help you complete an application form, in confidence.

Lunch staff

Sadly, Charlene Gaunt, who has been a lovely lunch supervisor will be leaving, later this month, to enable her to work more hours than the school can offer. This means that we are looking for someone to replace her. The role is five days a week (11.45am-1.15pm). Should you be interested or know someone who might be suitable, do drop in to talk about the position.

Chartwells (our lunch provider) are also looking for a replacement for Petronella Johnson, who has moved to Wales. Please contact: resourcing@compass-group.co.uk for further information.

We are really fortunate to have a lovely lunch team so please do consider if you know someone who might work well with our children.

Italian lunch!

Chartwells are making a special Italian lunch on Thursday, 5th October. If you would like your child to enjoy this meal, please order by Sunday, 24th September.

Chickens

A huge 'Thank you' to the families who looked after the chickens so well during the Summer holidays - it is very much appreciated. Torberry class will continue to care for them during the term and are keen to let you know that eggs are available for a small donation.

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Piano lessons

Sandra Fowler-Bennett, who has taught in the school for many years, still has some extra capacity to give piano lessons. She is planning to come in on Wednesdays. Should your child be interested in learning this instrument, please let the office staff know.

Piano available

The school has a piano available to go to a 'good home'! We also have access to piano trolleys, should you be interested in having it.

Quiz night

The PTFA invite you to attend their Quiz night - on Thursday 19.10.17. Do join the light-hearted evening and bring a team.

Key dates for your diary

Note: Inset days; PTFA events; new dates added to calendar

We respectfully ask that you log the dates of the school calendar in your diaries as legislation does not permit us to authorise leave, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Therefore you are asked to take family breaks in school holidays only. The school website has the Absence policy, should you need clarification.

Autumn term 2017		
Week beginning 4.9.17 (Year R in for half days + home visits: afternoons)		
Week Beginning 11.9.17		
15.9.17	9.30am	Herald - photos of year R
	2.30pm	Sharing assembly - welcome to the year (all welcome)
	7.30pm	Open Mic
Week Beginning 18.9.17		
18.9.17	Am	PTFA meeting at The White Hart after drop off
19.9.17		Y5/6 residential
20.9.17		Y5/6 residential
21.9.17		Y5/6 residential
22.9.17		Y5/6 residential
	Pm	Forest School y3 starts (tbc)
Week Beginning 25.9.17 Most teacher led clubs begin		
27.9.17		MRC y6 day
29.9.17	Pm	Harvest assembly
Week Beginning 2.10.17		
6.10.17	pm	Y3 Forest School
Week Beginning 9.10.17		
10.10.17	4pm	Rother Parents' eve
11.10.17	1.05pm - 3.30pm	Open afternoon ('School at Work') - for prospective pupils' families
12.10.17	3.30pm	Rother Parents' eve
13.10.17	2.30pm	Sharing Assembly
Week Beginning 16.10.17		
19.10.17	Eve	PTFA Quiz night
20.10.17	INSET DAY	
23.10.17	Half-term holiday	
Week Beginning 30.10.17		
30.10.17	Back to school	
3.11.17	Am	Poetry Competition
	2.30pm	Poetry sharing assembly
Week Beginning 6.11.17		
	?6.30pm	Rotary Club Concert, MRC
10.11.17	11 am	Remembrance at memorial
Week Beginning 13.11.17		
14.11.17	Pm/eve	Parent evening (tbc)
16.11.17	Pm/eve	Parents evening (tbc)
17.11.17	Eve	Open Mic
Week Beginning 20.11.17 -		
24.11.17	pm	Operation Christmas Child
	2.30pm	Sharing assembly - Rother (+Operation Christmas Child)
Week Beginning 27.11.17 Last week for most clubs		
Week Beginning 11.12.17 (Creative Christmas)		
15.12.17	tbc	Christmas service in the church (times to be confirmed)
Week beginning 18.12.17		
19.12.17	7pm	Carol singing around the village with Salvation Army
20.12.17		Last day of term

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Spring Term 2018		
Week Beginning 1.1.18		
4.1.17	Back to school	
29.3.18	11am	Easter service (Congregational church)
	Last day of Spring term	
2.4.18	Easter holiday	
Summer Term 2018		
Week Beginning 16.4.18		
16.4.18	Back to school	
25.5.18	Last day of half term	
Half term: 28.5.18-1.6.18		
Harting Festivities 28.5.18		
Week beginning 4.6.18		
4.6.18	INSET DAY	
Week Beginning 11.6.18		
13.6.18	pm	Sports day (tbc)
20.6.18	pm	Reserve Sports day
22.6.18	INSET DAY	
24.7.18	Last day of school year + Leavers' service (Parish church)	
25.7.18	Summer holiday starts	

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