

# Harting Primary School Newsletter



## Message from the Head

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It's hard to believe that the half-term holiday is nearly upon us. For the two inset days next week the staff will be considering 'Growth Mindset' as well as looking at how we can improve our literacy teaching. We will be considering how we shift thinking from assuming that our abilities are set at birth to a belief in determination being a key way of succeeding. We have two inspired lecturers from Chichester University leading our day. Friday will be spent with other local schools - again working on how to enhance learning.

I hope, however, that you and your children enjoy the extra days off that have been tagged on to the mid-term break.

Best wishes

Fiona

## Harvest

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Thank you for the generosity of those who gave gifts of food for the Harvest Festival at school. Many of us have so much to be glad about, that it's lovely for children to see us sharing things.

## School Photos

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A reminder that school photos are being taken tomorrow morning, for all children. Pre-school siblings are welcome to come to school for 8.30am. Children going to Forest School should wear school uniform and bring a change of clothes.

## Open afternoon

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Parents and prospective pupils are welcome to visit to see the school at work on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Please let anyone who may be interested know.

## Poetry Competition

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The judges have been booked for the annual poetry competition on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> November. Children are encouraged to recite the poems at the end of this letter to them and we hope to share some of the recitals later in the day at the sharing worship assembly - all welcome. Should the children wish to write their own poetry and recite it, then we are happy for them to present this. The judges are very encouraging, having worked with children themselves for years, and all participants will be rewarded in some way.

## Bikeability questionnaire

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We have been asked if parents would consider their opinions on Bikeability as the County are having to consider its funding very carefully. The link below will allow you to share your views:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/bikeabilitysurvey>

### Clowns

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Several parents have expressed concern about the news article about clowns and how it is affecting their children. In response to the concerns of parents and staff about media coverage, our worship assembly today has focused on most people in the world being kind and wanting to do good. Additionally the 'stranger danger' message was reinforced so that children know not to be alone with adults they don't trust. Hopefully this will allay fears without making them vulnerable.

### Fairer funding - WorthLess Campaign

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As you are aware, West Sussex have significantly less money allocated to the education of each child than the vast majority of other counties. Thank you to those of you who have 'liked' the Facebook page for the WorthLess Campaign which aims to rectify this situation. There is now also a link to a petition which will go to parliament that you may wish to 'sign':

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/167761>



Attached is a campaign letter to keep you informed.

### Parent Governor

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We are grateful for all the work that the governors do for us, as a school. They are extremely supportive and, at times, are snowed under with school documents. Sheena Hulme is one of this group and has been re-elected, as parent governor, unopposed.

### Operation Christmas Child

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Our Shoebox Champions will be collecting items to send to children in need overseas, so that they receive Christmas gifts. Please can you consider looking through your children's rooms with them? Small good-as-new toys, which have an immediate appeal, are really welcome for the shoebox appeal eg soft toys (with CE label), toy cars, etc.

Other items that would be welcome include:

School supplies eg pencils, pens, crayons, soft calculators, etc

Hygiene items eg toothbrush, flannel, wrapped soap, etc

Other items eg hats, scarves, sunglasses, jewelry, wind-up torch, sweets, etc

Things not to send: chocolate, toys linked to war, handmade toys, anything political or religious, liquids (a more extensive list is available on: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox/> )

On Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November at 12.45pm we would love parents/carers to help the children to pack boxes. If you are free, please let Jules Thistleton-Smith know via the office.

### After School Care

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The school continues to run Breakfast club daily and After School Care on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 3.05-6.00pm - run ably by Wanda Grosvenor and Tracy Robertson. We are exploring the possibility of extending the afternoon provision to include Thursdays and/or Fridays, depending on numbers of pupils and staffing. Please speak with Viv Wilson to register your interest.

## PTFA events

Please note the dates in the calendar below:

Coffee at the White Hart next Monday at 2pm - all parents welcome. This is an opportunity to meet up and chat.

Please bring and/or buy cakes for the Autumn cake sale in the Roundhouse after school on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

## Cleaning

We are delighted to now have cleaners back in our school and welcome YBC's two new employees - Christine Brennon and Diane Scanlon.

## Key dates for your diary

Please note the term times for year in your diary so that children's learning at school is not broken by additional holidays or days out, which we cannot authorise.

Two further inset days to be confirmed. Note date changes/additions:

Autumn term dates 2016		
17.10.16	2pm	PTFA coffee at White Hart - welcome to new parents (and old). Come for a chat.
19.10.16	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Open Afternoon for prospective parents - 'School at work'
19.10.16	3.05 pm	Autumn cake sale after school in Roundhouse
20.10.16	Inset day	
21.10.16	Inset day	
24.10.16	Half-term holiday	
31.10.16	Back to school	
4.11.16	am	Poetry competition
	Pm	Sharing assembly - poetry (all parents welcome)
14.11.16	Pm	Parents' evening (not Rother)
16.11.16	Pm	Parents' evening (not Rother)
25.11.16	2.30pm	Sharing assembly - Rother, y2, Beacon (all parents welcome)
2.12.16	6pm	Cinema night (current pupils)
5.12.16	Creative Christmas week (days to be confirmed)	
13.12.16	7pm	Salvation Army Carols
15.12.16	5.30pm	Celebration of Christmas (in church)
16.12.16	Last day of Autumn term	
19.12.16	Christmas holiday	
3.1.17	Inset day	
4.1.17	Back to school	
17.2.17	Last day of half term	
20.2.17	Half-term holiday	
27.2.17	Back to school	
7.4.17	Last day of Spring term	
10.4.17	Easter holiday	
24.4.17	Back to school	
1.5.17	Bank holiday	
26.5.17	Last day of half term	
29.5.17	Harting Festivities/ half-term holiday	
5.6.17	Back to school	
25.7.17	Last day of school year	
26.7.17	Summer holiday starts	

## Poems for competition

The Messages (1917), Wilfrid Wilson Gibson

'I cannot quite remember...There were five  
Dropt dead beside me in the trench—and three  
Whispered their dying messages to me...'

Back from the trenches, more dead than alive,  
Stone-deaf and dazed, and with a broken knee,  
He hobbled slowly, muttering vacantly:

'I cannot quite remember...There were five  
Dropt dead beside me in the trench, and three  
Whispered their dying messages to me...

'Their friends are waiting, wondering how they thrive –  
Waiting a word in silence patiently...  
But what they said, or who their friends may be

'I cannot quite remember...there were five  
Dropt dead beside me in the trench – and three  
Whispered their dying messages to me...'

'Letter' Hugh McMillan,

Here is a letter  
come across the ocean  
over the back of a world  
curved like a whale.  
I unwrap it, like tissue,  
and sentences spill out,  
as though the seal on a jar has broken,  
coils of cornflower blue  
on paper thin as shell.  
I saw a sailor's valentine once  
in a museum in Nantucket Sound,  
a mosaic of broken scallop  
glued in a compass rose.  
'Writ from the heart' it said.  
Words come best like that:  
in ink or blood,  
when the source is from a major vein.  
I read, and understand this much:  
if ink sees off time and miles, then so must love.

Cracking the Code, Ciari MacLavery

When we feed nuts  
to the squirrel  
at our back door  
he seems remarkably clever  
to come back for more.  
Yet if, after day one,  
he failed to come  
then squirrels would seem  
incredibly dumb.

Text, Imtiaz Dharker

I am sending a message again.  
Maybe you can't hear it  
through all the noise of lights  
and the dangerous way things move  
in that other city  
where I think you are,  
if I have the dates right, though  
of course I could be wrong.

If you expected the message,  
you would stand like this,  
with your eyes open and focussed  
on the screen, your ears closed.

The city I am in has lost  
its volume control.  
Every person in the place  
is tuned to maximum.

Can you see the text?  
Just to ask if you are safe  
and well?

A phone shrills, a clock explodes,  
in the next room, a TV switches on.  
Everywhere, the sound of sirens, drills.  
Cars screech, horns blare.

Where are you?  
Why have you stopped singing?

The Pillar-Box, Meg Bateman

My card waited for the postman,  
Saturday night, Sunday night,  
arrived in Edinburgh, was opened,  
stood a while on the piano;

But my heart is still  
like the pillar-box through the night –  
unseen, red-raw,  
full of undeliverable messages.

Invitation, Louis Greig

Open house for crocodiles  
Dress Code : Wear smiles  
Juicy children for tea!  
R.S.V.P.