

Harting Primary School Newsletter



Message from the Head

Don't be friends with your children!

At a recent Heads' meeting, there was a general discussion about children of today. In essence, the messages that came out were that parents are increasingly finding it difficult to say 'No' to their children.

I know that is not true for many of us but I did think it was worth supporting you by stating that parents need to be more than friends. We do not have to be fun all the time and that children need and like having clear boundaries for behaviour. It makes them feel safe and secure. The odd 'No' allows children to cope with disappointment better, something that happens less often in a small school like ours.

We are more resilient if we do have failures or things don't go to plan so do not be afraid to carry on providing clear sanctions, as well as the rich rewards and times, that you share with your offspring. By not providing entertainment every minute of the day yet giving clear rules you are allowing your children the opportunity to be creative, relax and feel secure.

By writing this, I am not claiming to be the expert at parenting! I hope that I have been and still am a 'good enough' parent to my own 'children'!

Best wishes,

Fiona



Football success

Hooray! Harting won the football tournament at Midhurst Rother College (MRC) where there were more than a dozen local schools competing. The team worked well together and scored plenty of goals. Well done!



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

Worship Theme: Importance of rules and being valued

Spotlight on safeguarding – loot boxes

During some online games, children can come across loot boxes. They contain in-game items such as unique skins, which are costumes players can apply to make their character, weapons and armour more visually pleasing.

Loot boxes are designed to offer gamers a way to enhance their gaming experience and the contents can only be obtained through hours of gameplay or paying a fee. Therefore, many consider this gambling as gamers are paying to enhance their game purely based on chance.

What can parents do?

- Investigate whether the games your child is playing include loot boxes.
- Turn off in-app purchases on games and make sure a credit or debit card isn't attached to the console they're playing on.
- Speak to your child and explain to them that loot boxes are designed to entice players to spend hours playing the game and spend money.
- Explain that most games can still be played and completed without using loot boxes.

Shoebboxes

Message from Marylou Thistleton-Smith, who is organising for us this year:

As many of you know, the filling of Christmas shoeboxes for less fortunate children is a very popular event in the school calendar but we simply could not do it without all the amazing donations from the children and their families. This year we are working with T4U which has been set up by the same man who set up Operation Christmas Child, but is a smaller charity that collects and sends these shoeboxes to deprived communities in Eastern Europe and Africa. If you'd like to find out more information about their amazing work, please visit their website – www.teams4u.com.

On Friday 15th November every child will be filling a shoebox at school and after half term there will be large gift wrapped boxes in which to collect donations. We value anything that you can spare or offer, but we do ask that if it is used, it is not dirty or tatty. Please take half term as an opportunity to rifle through your cupboards and find anything that you might be willing to part with, from last years' stocking fillers, to those items in your present drawer that you'll never give anyone! The pound shop is also a great source of items that really help us make sure that every child in the school can fill a box.

Here is a list of things to consider:

Practical supplies -

Toothbrush & toothpaste

Hairbrush / comb

Facecloth / soap

Stationery / pens / pencils / paper/ pads

Gloves / hats / scarves

Small gifts -

A soft toy

Sweets

Ball

Game

Puzzle

Bubbles

Musical instrument i.e. harmonica / recorder

We cannot take any food apart from sweets

Nor are we allowed to include any toys that relate to war

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Parent governor

We are pleased that Iain Gibbons has offered to be our next parent governor and we look forward to having him help steer the school over the years he is on the board.

Belgian student(s)

We are keen to have a Belgian student come into school for three weeks from 20th January (until 7th February). They would, however, need accommodation locally. Is there a family who might be interested in offering this? Students pay for food and lodging (half board on weekdays and full board at weekends). Please let the office know if you would be willing to do this.

Lunchtime staff

We have a position for a midday meals supervisor and would be pleased to hear from anyone suitable for the role. Clearly, we take safeguarding seriously so any candidate will be asked for references and usual DBS checks, etc, will be made.

Archeological dig

Despite the weather on Friday, the children had a great time at the archeological dig near Froxfield. They came back full of enthusiasm about their learning, which linked so well to their history topic. Mrs Day said 'This was a dream trip.' Clearly, it was enjoyable for all with enthusiastic archeologists inspiring the children.

Portchester Castle

Warren and Downlands class enjoyed a day at Portchester castle and came back with much knowledge, some of which was included in last Friday's sharing assembly. Even the teachers said that the day could have been longer! This was a testimony to the behaviour of the children; the parental support; and the learning opportunities that the visit provided.

Dress the head day!

Children are invited, by the School Council, to 'Dress the head day' on 6th December. This will be a day when the head teacher can be asked to wear a silly outfit! Raffle tickets will be on sale on 28th and 29th November, for those who would like to decide her outfit (nothing rude or too bare – outfit to be provided by the winner!). Each ticket will cost 10p each.

Dress the head day also means that children can wear their own clothes and wear something silly on their own heads too - £1 donation to the School Council's charities (our sister school in Sierra Leone and Clicsargent).

Old library chairs

We will be disposing of some of the wedge-shaped library furniture at the beginning of next week. If you are interested in up-cycling one or more of them, please come and collect from the front of school.

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Christmas lunch booking

Our Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday, 18th December. If you would like your child to have the lunch please book by 25th November –either contact Sue Broadhead (in the office) if your child is in yR, 1 or 2 and normally has packed lunches. Otherwise, order on-line www.mealselector.co.uk or pay in the office before this date. The lunch costs £2.35.

Visitors to the school

Last Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome visits from families, who are interested in the school, at our open afternoon. Our year 5 and 6 pupils gave excellent tours, providing the children's views and showing the school as it really is. We were visited by several families from Hampshire villages and Petersfield, who can apply for places, along with those from Harting itself.

If you know any local families who might be interested in joining the school, they are always welcome to visit us on another day. Please let them know how to contact the office and we would be happy to arrange.

Reception Places

If you know parents of children who may be eligible to join next year's reception class (2020), do let them know that the window for applications is now open. It **closes on Wednesday, 15th January, 2020.**

Year 6 applications for secondary school

Applications for secondary school can be made between Monday, 9th September to **Thursday, 31st October.** Information on how to apply, from the West Sussex Admissions Team has been given to all year 6 pupils already.

PTFA – pamper and crafts evening 29th November

You will have seen notices dotted around the school letting you know about this evening, which promises to be good. If you are interested in having a stall, there are just a few left so do contact the PTFA if you have a suitable business that you wish represented. Otherwise, please keep the evening free.

Key dates for your diary

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

Sharing assemblies are for all families to attend if they wish.

Events for Autumn term

Autumn term 2019		
Week Beginning 14.10.19		
17.10.19	2.30-3pm	Meeting about reading for Rother parents
18.10.19	Pm	Y3 Forest School
Week Beginning 21.10.19		
24.10.19	1-2.30pm	CFT drama with Beacon
	2.30pm	Poetry assembly – all classes present: parents welcome
25.10.19	Inset day	
Week beginning 28.10.19 HALF TERM BREAK		
Week Beginning 4.11.19		

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4.11.19	Inset day	
5.11.19		Children back to school
6.11.19	7pm	Rotary club music concert (string orchestra to play)
7.11.19	1-2.30pm	CFT drama with Beacon in hall
8.11.19	Pm	Y3 Forest School
	2-3.45pm	MRC y6 hockey
Week Beginning 11.11.19		
11.11.19	11am	Remembrance assembly
12.11.19	3.30-6.00pm	Parents eve: Warren/Downlands/Torberry/Beacon
13.11.19	7pm	Butterfly Lion at CFT (y5/6)
14.11.19	4-6.30pm	Late parents eve: Warren/Downlands/Torberry/Beacon
15.11.19	Pm	Y3 Forest School
	2.30pm	Sharing assembly – Torberry (y4 only) and Downlands. Shoebox appeal
	Eve	Open mic (tbc)
Week Beginning 18.11.19		
19.11.19	Am	Fire brigade yR,y2, y5
22.11.19	2-3.30pm	KS2 dance festival MRC
	Pm	Y3 Forest School (last)
	3.05pm	PTFA cake sale
Week Beginning 25.11.19		
29.11.19	2.30pm	Read to me (parents invited)
	5-7.30pm	PTFA Pamper and Craft evening
Week Beginning 2.12.19		
5.12.19	3.05-3.30pm	Open classrooms (parents invited to look at work with their children)
6.12.19	2-3.45pm	MRC y6 Basketball festival
Week Beginning 9.12.19		
12.12.19	1.10pm	Carols at luncheon club – y6 + Rother
13.12.19	3.45pm	KS1 nativity
Week beginning 16.12.19		
17.12.19	7pm	Carol singing around the village with Salvation Army
18.12.19	Midday	Christmas lunch
20.12.19	2.30pm	Christingle service – children picked up from church
Holiday dates for 2019/2020		
25.10.19	INSET DAY	
28.10.19 to 01.11.19		October Half Term
04.11.19	INSET DAY	
23.12.19 to 03.01.20		Christmas Holidays
17.02.20 to 21.02.20		February Half Term
06.04.20 to 17.04.20		Easter Holidays
08.05.20		May Bank Holiday – FRIDAY
25.05.20 to 29.05.20		May Half Term
20.07.20	INSET DAY	
21.07.20 to 02.09.20		Summer holidays

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