

# Harting Primary School Newsletter



## Message from the Head

In light of the most recent terrorist attack in London, we are aware that for children whose parents commute that there may be anxiety. It is a difficult balance for schools to have conversations with children which allay fears, especially when the children may not have been worried in the first place. Can I suggest that if your child expresses any concerns that they are told that attacks are rare so it is unlikely to ever happen to them or anyone they know? If an older child does know about the attack, it may be helpful to clarify facts about exactly what happened; what is happening now; and how we know. Talking about fact and rumour is a good starting point. Speculation can be addressed through considering how words like: 'it seems that ...'; 'the story is ...'; and 'witnesses say...' are just someone's view of an event and not necessarily the whole truth.

It is always good to allow children to talk about their feelings and some of the above suggestions (taken from some national guidance) can lessen any worries. Equally, it is important that we all avoid stereotyping groups as this can lead to children being less respectful and the risk of them not appreciating the wonderful diversity we have in this country.

Best wishes,  
*Fiona*

## Police and fire brigade come to Harting School

Reception children loved their most recent visit by the police force last week. The patrol car on the school playground proved a brief distraction for all as the sirens blared a few times!

Additionally, the fire brigade has been working with some year groups. The teaching could prove pivotal to the children one day. We hope that important messages have been shared at home to ensure the everyone is safe

## Request for milk bottles with tops

Downlands and Warren classes are planning to do exciting things with plastic milk bottles in the new year! Please send them into school (any size) - washed, labels removed but with lids.

## 'Dress the head day'!

Looking forward to wearing the outfit selected for me tomorrow!! Your child also has the chance to wear something interesting on their head, as well as their own clothes! This event has been organised by the School Council to fund-raise for their chosen charities – please send your child with a donation.

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

Worship Theme: 'Right and Wrong' – taking responsibility

### Gift and Wrap

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Children are invited to take part in the 'Gift and wrap' session, organised by the PTFA. If you would like your child/ren to participate please send your child in with £2.50 per present (max. two presents per child), detailing who the presents will be for. It may be easier to have the money in an envelope with your child's name, class and names of gift recipients eg Mary, Beacon class, Granny', etc

### Nativity – 13<sup>th</sup> December at 3.45 pm

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We look forward to welcoming families to our nativity in the Roundhouse next Friday.

As all the infant classes (Rother, Warren and Downlands will be involved), please ensure that your child is able to stay after school that afternoon. We will give them a drink and snack to ensure they are ready for the performances. Do check that they have plenty of layers to wear under their clothes as, although the log burner will be lit, it can be chilly.

### Carol singing with Salvation Army – 17<sup>th</sup> December 7 pm

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We look forward to joining the Salvation Army band for caroling around the village. Last year a storm stopped us going but the previous year's visits were very much appreciated. Please do join us as this is a small way of thanking the community for supporting us.

### Christmas lunch – 18<sup>th</sup> December

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We look forward to sharing time together for the children's Christmas lunch. It is always fun. On that day, children are welcome to wear jolly jumpers to make everyone feel more festive!

### Christingle – last day of term 20<sup>th</sup> December

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As you know, we plan to finish our term with a Christingle service. This means that on the last day of term we would like children to bring in:

- Oranges
- Sweets, small marshmallows or dried fruit to decorate
- NO book bags
- Packed lunches in disposable containers eg paper bags/greaseproof wrappings

We envisage the service ending at the usual end of the school day so **please pick your child up from the parish church.**

### Holiday lunch boxes

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If you find that funds are extremely tight and you need an extra bit of help, the school holds vouchers for lunch packs for children. This is not exclusive to those eligible for free school meals. You are welcome to pop in to speak with me, in confidence – it would be a privilege to help.

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### Local libraries: festive story times for children and teddies!

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West Sussex libraries are putting on a series of **free** family Christmas story times (just before bedtime). They are suitable for under 7s, who can come along wearing pyjamas and bring a torch and teddy!

Festive story times will take place at libraries across the county; see [listings](#) page to find your nearest one. You may just drop in for these but you might want to telephone your library to book ahead to avoid disappointment, if very busy.

### School Council request

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Our year 6 school councillors returned from the Rother Valley School Council meeting keen to put in place ways to reduce single use plastics and improve our recycling. At our council's meeting this week, it was decided that we would start to recycle crisp packets and pens. In the new year, there will be places where they may be left.

In the meantime, the School Council would love you to collect stamps so they can be sent to their chosen charity – CLIC Sargent - after Christmas.

We are delighted that the PTFA is also taking up this gauntlet so this year's gift and wrap will be more environmentally friendly too.

### Spotlight on safeguarding

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Advice from West Sussex's team: 'Make sure that your child's device is set up safely, if they receive new technology for Christmas, so they can enjoy being online with minimal risk.

- Ensure your child has strong, separate passwords for all devices and explain to them not to share these with others.
- Show your child how to set up privacy settings so that only their true friends can view their posts and images.
- Explain to them the dangers of oversharing information online.
- Check to see if their apps and devices have location settings enabled and turn them off if they do not want their location to be shown.
- Explain to them how to report, block or mute if someone is upsetting them online.

Ensure your financial details are not linked to your children's online accounts and disable in-app purchases to avoid any unwanted bills!

Additional Parent Carer Online Safety Guide:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/12312/parent-carer-guide.pdf>

### Lunchtime staff

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Do you know anyone who would love to work with our children during the lunch hour? An extra pair of hands each day would be most welcome! Should you know of someone, who might be suitable, please direct them to the school website for information.

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## Reception Places

Parents of children, who are eligible to join next year's reception class (2020), can still apply for school places. The window for applications is open and **closes on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.**

If you know any local families who might be interested in joining the school, they are always welcome to visit. Let them know to contact the office and we would be happy to arrange.

## PTFA – pamper and crafts evening (29.11.19)

The hall was full of beautiful gifts and a sense of cheer on Friday evening and I certainly went home with some lovely items. We are grateful to all those involved in the evening, thank you for being such a great team.

## 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

<b>Autumn term 2019</b>		
Week Beginning 9.12.19		
13.12.19	3.45pm	KS1 nativity (Roundhouse)
Week beginning 16.12.19		
17.12.19	7pm	Carol singing around the village with Salvation Army starting at school
18.12.19	Midday 1.10 pm	Christmas lunch: wear jolly jumpers YR and Y2 to luncheon club
20.12.19	2.30pm	Christingle service – children picked up from church. Families welcome.
06.01.20		First day back of Spring Term
Holiday dates for 2019/2020		
<b>25.10.19</b>		<b>INSET DAY</b>
28.10.19 to 01.11.19		October Half Term
<b>04.11.19</b>		<b>INSET DAY</b>
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
<b>20.07.20</b>		<b>INSET DAY</b>
21.07.20 to 02.09.20		Summer holidays

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