

Harting Primary School Newsletter



Message from the Head

This half-term has flown by. Although the Spring term is considered to be a quiet one, we seem to have had plenty of activity going on and the school is a hive of industry, albeit generally very calm when the children are learning.

Many of the governors have enjoyed popping in, during the school day, and have spoken to plenty of children to gather their views on a range of things. The enthusiasm for learning is inspiring and we are always pleased to hear the children's perspectives. These governor visits, along with a school council walk of the school, feed how we improve the school.

If you have suggestions to make, please do let me know - constructive ideas are really welcome.

Thank you all for the support.

Best wishes,

Fiona



Snow fun!

Thank you for sending your children to school on the snowy Friday. After a short assembly, the staff and children enjoyed snowballing and making snowmen. We had such fun before returning to classrooms!

Key Harting values: love and respect
'Love others as yourself'
Worship Theme: Lord's prayer

School disco

Although it was hard to have to postpone the school disco because of the weather almost two weeks ago, I am relieved that it was the right decision. It was a struggle for some of the staff to get home that evening and there were plenty of abandoned cars on Harting and Compton hills.

I am delighted, however, that the PTFA have fixed a date in March - do put this in your diary so that your child can go. If, on that date, you are likely to be using a different contact number, please let the office know so that you can be contacted in an emergency.

Fairtrade in Petersfield

Like many local organisations, we are creating displays (related to Fairtrade) to go in a public place in Petersfield. The children's work will be in Buriton church and the window of the Great British Cake Shop during Fairtrade fortnight which starts on 25th February.

PEANUT FREE +

Please do keep checking the foods that your children bring to school especially if you allow your child to add treats to their own packed lunch. This can mean that it is easier for unsuitable foods to pass you by! On this subject, can I remind you to **avoid sending in chocolate bars or sweets** which seem to be appearing, from time to time.

School lunches

There have been some production issues with pizzas so Chartwells inform us that for week 1 menu (28.1.19 and 21.3.19) cheese and tomato pasta will be offered instead. For week 3 menu (12.3.19 and 2.4.19) it will be replaced with sausage and mash.

Homework

We are really working hard to get homework right and have listened to a range of views - thank you to those of you who shared them with us. We know that the 'wow' books have met mixed responses so for those children who thrive on adding things to these, we plan to continue them.

In addition to the 'Wow' books, we intend to send home 'Learning conversation' prompts. After half-term, your child should receive information written on three speech bubbles most weeks. They will give you a flavour of the learning within your child's class. We encourage you to have conversations, from these. The benefits are likely to be:

- Short, 'do-able' conversations to further your child's thinking (approx. 10 minutes)
- Your child should enjoy having the opportunity to be the expert
- Children's language skills should improve - fundamental to good learning
- It doesn't feel like homework so is easy to do (and could even happen in the car)
- As parents, you hear more of the key things that are going on in school to talk about at home

An example of what you might see would be:

Maths: we are learning about telling the time (quarter to, quarter past, half past and o'clock). Ask your child to look at the clock at home and tell you what the time is at three points during your evening (make sure it's one of the times above).

English: We are learning about poems. Share with your child a poem that you like (it might be a song, a silly-ditty, a traditional poem, etc)

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PE: We have been learning how to balance using two or three points of contact with the floor (a point might be a hand, foot, knee, elbow, etc). During the evening, ask your child to make such a balance and pose. Musical statues is a good game for this.

Passport forms

Thank you for finding other people to complete these for you. Although I will do them (at a small charge for the school), my heart sinks when I see them on my desk! They terrify me as it's so easy to make a mistake and they are an additional task, which adds to my paperwork. I would much rather be working with the children!

Open Mic

Do join Jamie, our guitar teacher, and crew on Friday, March 15th in the Roundhouse for their usual mix of music. It is a really relaxed session, for adults, to enjoy talents of local players.

Book Day - cats!

This year we are going to ask children to wear outfits or come as characters from books about cats! All 'Warrior Cat' fans will no doubt be delighted. There are, however, many other texts, based on this animal, so finding a suitable character should be relatively easy. Sadly, I am on a course that day but I look forward to seeing the photographs.

Message from Chair of PTFA

Many thanks for raising funds for the school's new sound system; it should be installed later this term, and will be useful for assemblies, Harting's Got Talent, the school production and various other school events.

The PTFA is now fundraising for a new **reading scheme** for the school, a fundamental 'backbone' to our children's education. In anticipation of 'spring cleaning season', we'll be holding a secondhand clothes sale ... and need your help, please!

When: **Wednesday, 13th March, 3pm (sale).**

Where: **The Roundhouse**

How: This week, you will receive two bin bags in your child's book bag. Please could you put donations of clothes into the bags as follows:

- GREEN bags - clothes in **good** condition to be sold, for any age group. Clothes ONLY please - no towels, toys or bric-a-brac
- BLACK bags - good quality re-usable clothes, shoes, belts, handbags, bedding and soft toys. These will be collected by Bags of Support, who will weigh them and give us 50p/kilo in return. Items in good condition will be sent to a Romanian orphanage or Ugandan community. The company guarantees that nothing will be put into landfill.

All donations in the Roundhouse at morning drop off on Wednesday, 13th March ... and then we look forward to seeing you at the sale!

Parent governors

The governing body is pleased to announce that Fiona Heaton will remain a governor for a second term and Tamsin Cormack has volunteered to be a new governor. They both offer much to the school: Fiona is currently Chair of the Personnel Committee and Tamsin has already been a staff governor at a London school, where she was deputy headteacher.

Reminder: inset day tomorrow!

Tomorrow the teachers have a speaker known as a 'mathsmagician' to further inspire our maths teaching. When one of the governors interviewed the children recently, it was evident that many of the children already enjoy this subject so it will be interesting to see

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how teaching changes. Additionally, we will be reviewing aspects of the curriculum so we expect a busy day. We hope, however, that families enjoy their extra day off.

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.

Holiday dates for 2019	
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. You are therefore asked to take family breaks in school holidays only. The school website has the Absence policy, should you need clarification.	
15.2.19	INSET DAY
18.2.19	Half-term holiday starts
25.2.19	First day back after half-term
5.4.19	Last day of Spring term
8.4.19	Easter holiday
23.4.19	First day back after Easter
6.5.19	Bank holiday
27.5.19	Half-term holiday starts
3.6.19	First day back after half-term
21.6.19	INSET DAY
23.7.19	Last day of school year
24.7.19	Summer holiday starts

Key events for Spring term

Spring Term 2019		
14.2.19	All day	Mufti-day: 50p+ to wear own clothes
	3.05pm	PTFA cake sale
15.2.19	INSET DAY	
Week beginning 18.2.19: half-term		
25.2.19	Back to school	
1.3.19	Pm	Year 5 Forest school (3)
	2.30pm	Sharing assembly Beacon/Warren/Rother
5.3.19	pm	Parents' eve
6.3.19	Pm	Parents' eve
7.3.19	All day	World book day - books about cats!
13.3.19	3pm	Second hand clothes sale - Roundhouse
15.3.19	pm	Y6 MRC netball
	Eve	Open mic
18.3.19	pm	Year 5 Forest school (6)
26.3.19	Pm	RV debate
28.3.19	Eve	RV Arts - dance
29.3.19	pm	Year 5 Forest school (8 'cook out')
5.4.19	11am	Easter service (Congregational church)
		Last day of Spring term
2.4.18	Easter holiday	
Summer Term 2019		
12.6.19	Pm	Sports day (confirmed)
19.6.18	pm	Reserve Sports day (confirmed)
2.7.19	am	Leavers' service at Cathedral (tbc)
11.7.19	6pm	School production
12.7.19	6pm	School production
	Last day of school year	
24.7.19	Summer holiday starts	

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