

Harting Primary School Newsletter



Message from the Head

As you all know, there is a worship assembly in school each day. We are really fortunate to be supported in this by a team of pupils, the Parish Church and Congregational Church. The themes are based on Christian values and we believe that these are reflected in the children's positive attitudes and behaviour. I will try to let you know when the emphasis of these changes so that you can re-inforce them.

Our over-arching values are love and respect. This term we have reflected on generosity, which linked well with Harvest and giving. We have also been considering respect including differences and appreciating special places. I am extremely proud of how the children respond to messages showing their generosity. They are generally considerate towards others - something to be really commended. Our current theme is 'compassion'.

I know that these values stem from families and we are grateful that we have such support from you in strengthening the children's moral compasses.

Best wishes

Fiona



Christmas lunch -URGENT. Is your child signed up?

We plan to have our school Christmas lunch, provided by Chartwells, on Wednesday, 7th December. If you would like your child to have a lunch on this day please sign up as a matter of urgency - names and money needs submitting tomorrow.

Operation Christmas Child



Thank you to those of you who have already sent in items for the shoebox appeal. Tomorrow the children will be filling the boxes, with the help of some parents so please do send in more items in with your children.

If you need reminders of the sort of things to bring in do look at the website:

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox/>)

Thank you to Jules Thistleton-Smith for coordinating this charity work and to the 'Shoebox champions' who have been promoting it.

Contact details for school

If you have not yet returned the information sheet to the school office, with your latest contact details, please do so as a matter of urgency so that we have up to date information.

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

Creative Christmas

The week beginning 5th December will have a Christmas focus. We are delighted to welcome back the Open Box Theatre Company and thank the PTFA for funding the show again, which will be enjoyed by the children that afternoon. As the children will already be excited, it seems a good idea to have a mufti-day that day too. Contributions of £1 welcome.

On the Tuesday afternoon, 6th December, we are really pleased to have a quintet of musicians whose Christmas concert for the children was extremely enjoyable last year. We are extremely grateful that they have chosen to take leave from work to share their musical expertise with us.

Christmas lunch is planned for Wednesday, 7th December, and we welcome parents help in the school hall. Please let the PTFA class reps know if you are available. That afternoon and the following will have Christmas focused activities. We would be really pleased to have help with the running of these by parents - do let me know if you might be free to either support or lead a group.

Friday afternoon, 9th December, the PTFA will be doing their usual gift and wrap (see details in PTFA letter).

Poetry Competition

We are really grateful to Jill Wood and Mari Simpson for their support of the school by judging our poetry recitals. Congratulations go to the winners: Orla Horgan, Fern Langford, Eve Langford, Gordon Thistleton-Smith, Katerina Masic and Tess Langford. The judges also wanted to commend the contributions by Hugo Bruce, Alice Temple, Lucy Heaton, Martin Johnson, Yann Prudente-Poulton and Rufus Ali-Prosser. It was a joy to the judges to spend the morning listening to so many children. 'Well done' to all the contestants!

Closure of the large gate at the end of the day

To avoid forgetting to lock the gate and for me having to walk around in the dark, I will be trying to remember to close the big gate shortly after the end of the school day. This is not to force families off-site but simply so that it's not forgotten and the site remains secure overnight. You are welcome to leave, however, through the front gates so that there is plenty of time to catch up with other families before you leave.

Rotary club concert

Last week our recorder group, led by Cathy Day, participated in the Rotary club schools' concert held at MRC. The children played really well and entertained us wearing their 'duck feet' whilst they played the tune. In addition to this group, Eliot Santos played two pieces on his violin - his performance was stunning. Thank you to Trea Langford for accompanying Eliot on the piano and, of course, to Cathy for giving up their evening.

Key dates for your diary

Please note the term times for the 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		
18.11.16	Pm	Shoobox appeal - packing. Assembly: 2.30pm - all welcome
18.11.16	7.30pm	Open Mic - Roundhouse
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)	
5.12.16	Openbox Theatre & Mufti day	
6.12.16	Musicians	
7.12.16	Christmas lunch	
9.12.16	PTFA - Gift & Wrap	
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	

Letter from PTFA

Dear Parents/guardians

This term is flying by & soon enough we'll be drinking mulled wine & eating mince pies!! A big 'Thank you' from us all for your support & precious time. Below are up-coming PTFA events which will certainly make the festive period start with a sparkle!

Dates for your attention:

Film Night - 2nd December @ 6pm - 8pm showing "Arthur Christmas"

Such a fun evening, the children love coming to school dressed in PJ's (remember to keep the children in cool PJ's as it gets very hot!!) tickets include popcorn & an ice lolly. Tickets go on sale this Friday the 18th - £3 for 1, £5 for 2 & £7 for 3. Collect tickets from the school office & Viv will take your contact details.

Mufti Day - 5th December

On this day the Open Box Theatre visit our school to perform to the children, (a PTFA funded event) This year we thought the children could dress in home clothes with a hint of Christmas. £1 donation - please give to the class teacher.

Gift & Wrap - 9th December

This is an opportunity for the children to select, wrap & write a tag for whoever they like. It's always a fun afternoon with carols playing in the background and children excited about the prospect of choosing a gift. There will be quite a few to choose from - although what we think they will pick is often very different to us!! Gender specific doesn't really apply & frankly quite right too! Its £2.50 per gift, please pop in an envelope to give to your teacher & state who it's from and who the gifts will be for.

Salvation Army Carols - 13th December

To put yourselves into the festive mood please come along to our wonderfully jolly evening spent singing carols in the Roundhouse; drinking mulled wine & hot chocolate for the children; eating hotdogs & mince pies; & warming yourselves round the fire pit. There will be a Lucky Dip & Glow toys, ('It's very cool to see lots of coloured flashes all around the playground'- so my 6 year old says!) Needless to say wrap up warm & bring your best voices too!

We will be needing help with the above fundraisers so please if you can speak to your class reps & put yourself down - honestly it's a great way to have a giggle & catch up. Thank you so much in advance.

Ho ho ho!

Lyndsay
Co-Chair

PS Last, but oh so not least, we raised £140 at our last cake sale – brilliant! Thank you for your wonderful cake donations.