

# Harting Primary School Newsletter



## Message from the Head

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We are grateful for the feedback we received via the survey, completed by the governors in the Autumn term, and are pleased that it was so very positive. It is lovely to hear such messages. Although 100% of respondents would recommend the school and their children are happy here, we by no means feel complacent.

Some of the lovely things that were said were really heart-warming. Caring relationships, kindness and being part of a friendly school 'rang out' of the comments. I hope that this is something experienced by all. This ethos seems to penetrate many relationships across our community and I am grateful to all parents who support this by being inclusive with all newcomers to us.

We really welcome the feedback and suggestions we have had. We will be exploring how to improve the school further, as a result. If at any point, you should have concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher (in the first instance) or with me. It is always good for us to have different perspectives to avoid tunnel vision.

Thank you for all your support.

Best wishes,

*Fiona*

## 'Wow' books

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Many of the children are demonstrating rich learning and exciting ideas through their 'wow' books - thank you for encouraging them. You will find that spelling lists have been added for reference.

A couple of parents were concerned that spelling tests were no longer part of class time. This does not mean that learning of them does not help children but that to practise them simply for tests is not of great benefit. Research evidence shows that testing does not impact on most children's correct use of spellings so the time can be better used by practising phonics, letter patterns or spelling.

With regard to homework, one parent felt that it helped them to know what children are learning about. Do ask teachers about what they have been teaching, if it is helpful.

## PEANUT FREE SCHOOL FROM MONDAY

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On Monday we have two lovely new pupils joining the school. One of these boys is allergic to peanuts. We ask, therefore, that packed lunches and any treats distributed or eaten at school during or after the school day, do not include peanuts. Alternative names include: groundnut, earthnut, monkey nut and pindar.

To ensure that this child remains healthy, it is ESSENTIAL that foods do not contain peanuts. Some of the common things that might be put in lunch boxes include: peanut butter, Bamba snacks, cereal and nut bars, peanut cookies and Reese's peanut cups.

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

Although we know that it is not possible to become completely free of nuts within the school, we ask that you try your utmost to ensure that peanuts are not included in lunches or snacks. We know that as a community we will all try to keep our new 'little chap' safe and thank you for helping us in this.

### Fairtrade

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Later in the term, we will be focusing on Fairtrade with the children and plan to do some art work, based on it. We would be grateful if families could collect wrappers from foods, which are fairly traded, for this work. Please send them in with your child to enable this piece of work. We will be celebrating the work by having a display in a shop window in Petersfield so thank you for your help in advance.

### Harting mini-bus

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On Friday, the new Harting mini-bus was officially named as 'Poppy'. This name had been suggested by three members of the community, including Callum in year 6. The whole school enjoyed watching the ribbon being cut and the bus, itself was used by year 6 athletes to go to Midhurst Rother College immediately afterwards. We are really grateful to the team who support us in the use of the mini-bus as it makes it easier for us to access such competitions.



### Athletics at Midhurst

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We were delighted to come fourth in the Midhurst Rother College athletics. Some of our children did particularly well but most of importantly they came into school feeling enthusiastic about doing competitive sports.

### Screen time for children

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This link informs parents of some of the thinking about screen time and when it is best for children to access it: [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/screentime-recommendations-for-children\\_uk](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/screentime-recommendations-for-children_uk)

### Shoeboxes - an additional 'Thank you'

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Many of us were unaware that Selina Thistleton-Smith fund raises to ensure that transport costs for our gifts are covered. Thank you to her for this support. It is wonderful that so many boxes are sent.

### Parent governors

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Fiona Heaton's term of office was completed at the end of last term. Although she is willing to continue in the role, the Governors wish to inform you of this, along with a vacancy due to Jo Mesney completing her term too. If you are interested in becoming a governor, please talk with Susan Broadhead, clerk to the governing body. She would be happy to link parents with governors so they are aware of the level of commitment required.

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### Big cushions and rugs

We would welcome big cushions, beanbags and fleecy rugs for the additional classroom at the back of the library. This room is used by After School club, as well as by the learning therapist and counsellor, so it is lovely to have a cosy space where children can relax. The items we have there currently have been well used so good-as-new, child-friendly contributions would be gratefully received.

### Message from the Parish church

The 4 o'clock service is designed for primary and nursery children, led by the Brindeds whose children attended Harting School. It lasts 45 minutes and is followed by a children's tea. The informal, relaxed service is held in the Law Room next to the church. Dates for this academic year are: 2.2.19, 17.3.19, 19.5.19 and 22.6.19 - all welcome!

### PTFA

**Clothes collection:** please sort through your wardrobes! The PTFA will be sending home two bags:

- one for good-as-new clothes for a sale, in the Roundhouse on 13.3.19
- the other for unwanted textiles eg bedding, towels, underwear - this will be sold by weight

**Easyfundraising:** consider registering and buying goods through this scheme as this is a really easy way to support our finances. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hartingptfa/>

**Mufti-day:** children are invited to wear their own clothes on 14<sup>th</sup> February and bring a contribution of at least 50p as a donation to PTFA funds

### 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          |

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**Key events for Spring term**

| <b>Spring Term 2019</b>           |                         |  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 18.1.19                           | 2.30pm                  | Sharing assembly - Downlands/ Torberry |
|                                   | Eve                     | Open mic                               |
| 1.2.19                            | pm                      | Y6 cross-country at MRC                |
|                                   |                         | Forest School starts y5                |
|                                   | Eve                     | School disco                           |
| 5.2.19                            | pm                      | RV School Council (12.30-2.30)         |
| 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                            | 2.30pm                  | Sharing assembly Beacon/Warren/Rother  |
| 5.3.19                            | pm                      | Parents' eve                           |
| 6.3.19                            | pm                      | Parents' eve                           |
| 7.3.19                            |                         | World book day                         |
| 13.3.19                           |                         | PTFA Clothes Sale                      |
| 15.3.19                           | pm                      | Y6 MRC netball                         |
|                                   | Eve                     | Open mic                               |
| 26.3.19                           |                         | RV debate                              |
| 28.3.19                           |                         | RV Arts - dance                        |
| 5.4.19                            | 11am                    | Easter service (Congregational church) |
|                                   |                         | Last day of Spring Term                |
| <b>Summer Term 2019</b>           |                         |  |
| 12.6.19                           | Pm                      | Sports day (tbc)                       |
| 19.6.19                           | pm                      | Reserve Sports day (tbc)               |
| 2.7.19                            | am                      | Leavers' service at Cathedral          |
| 11.7.19                           | 6pm                     | School production                      |
| 12.7.19                           | 6pm                     | School production                      |
| 23.7.19                           | Last day of school year |  |
| 24.7.19                           | Summer holiday starts   |  |