

# Harting Primary School Newsletter



## Message from the Head

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The press have had a field day with their comments about children's return to school! They successfully worried parents and teachers with their repeated reminders that the children would have lost learning and have mental health issues.

At the weekend, I read an article reminding me that children may have some gaps in their curriculum knowledge but that most children have not 'lost learning'. This terminology is unhelpful. Humans are amazingly resilient, especially children!

We are reassured that the children have slotted back in well, having spent a week or two remembering how to work as classes and play with their peers. Children have not necessarily 'gone backwards' and many have made leaps forwards. We continue to assess their needs and are reviewing how we can best support each child but 'all is not lost'! We thank parents for all that they have done towards this.

We love having the children back and look forward to a more settled summer term with plenty of learning – which they, of course, also did during the lockdown.

Best wishes,

*Fiona*

## Lateral flow tests - COVID

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Parents are welcome to apply for lateral flow tests for use at home. If you fear that there may be a risk that someone in your family has symptoms of COVID, do not rely on these to check their well-being.

They are less accurate than PCR tests (done at a centre) as they may give false negatives. Over time, however, they are a good check and frequent use means that some cases may be picked up to protect families and school communities.

## Library Easter activities

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There are many Easter activities to encourage the love of books at West Sussex libraries:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/news/spring-into-action-with-exciting-activities-for-kids-at-west-sussex-libraries-this-easter/>

Key Harting values: love and respect  
'Love others as yourself'  
Worship Theme: Gifts and Promises  
Justice

## Farewells

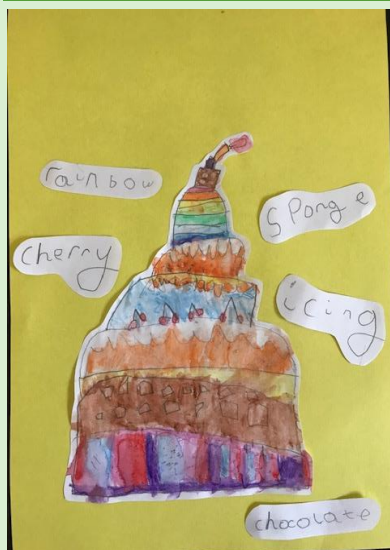
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Karen Trickett, who works with Warren class, will be leaving us at Easter. This is exciting for her and the family as they are moving across the border into Hampshire but it is sad for the school. We are really pleased to have had Karen on our staff as she has been a true asset, supporting children in their learning and a strong member of the team. We will miss her but wish her and the Trickett family happiness in their new ventures and at their new schools.

Rob Bray has also decided to leave us after Easter. He has made such a difference to the work of the school in his capacity as caretaker. Projects he has overseen have included refurbishment of the loos and conversion of the changing rooms into a learning space. He re-discovered the pond and has also improved most other areas of the school. It has been really reassuring to know that the premises have been well maintained and are safe.

## World Book Day

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Thank you for all the wonderful entries to the competition. There are many pictures on the walls in the library for us to enjoy. We are delighted that Evie Perry's entry won overall for the KS1 age range so she will be receiving a token from MRC. Evie created a cake from coloured dough, inspired by Winnie the Witch's Birthday, along with a labelled painting. Well done, Evie!



## PTFA fundraising - message

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During the last six months, the school needed to replace the aging school laptops which no longer offered the curriculum software required and many were beyond repair. 15 new laptops were required to make a real difference and hugely benefit the children's learning.

The school PTFA offered to donate £3,000 of the much needed £5,000 to purchase the new laptops. However, with many of the usual fundraising activities not an option at the moment, we're hoping to raise as much as possible via donations from families, grandparents and the local community. Your contribution to the final £3,000 would be an amazing boost and whatever we don't raise, the PTFA will fund. If we raise more, we will start another fund to further benefit the children of Harting Primary.

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Please visit our webpage - no donation is too small:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/PTFA-computers-3000>

### School attendance

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Please avoid booking holidays in term time as we are unable to authorise such absences. The government expect all children to be back in school, when the school is open, so such absences risk penalty fines.

Key dates for your diary

Holiday dates for 2020/21	
1.4.21	Last day of Spring Term – next Thursday
5.4.21-16.4.21	Easter holiday
4.5.21	Inset day
31.5.21-4.6.21	Summer half term break
25.6.21	Inset day
28.6.21	Final inset day
26.7.21 – 2.9.21	Summer holiday

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

### **Events for Spring term**

**We apologise for not being able to give you the usual notice for any events and the lack of our usual activities. We look forward to being able to reinstate them when COVID guidelines permit**

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