

Harting Primary School Newsletter



Message from the Head

It has been lovely to welcome you and your children back to school and it is good to report that everyone is settling back into the learning groove. Although classrooms are arranged in such a formal way, especially for the older age groups, we are trying to spend time learning outside, as much as possible.

Much of the school has now had the cold, which has spread pretty rapidly across the community. It exemplifies how careful we all need to be with the potential risks of COVID in the background but also how responsible families have been in their responses.

The staff and I wish to thank you for being so prudent; checking symptoms; and finding tests for those children who could possibly have COVID. We are relieved that, to date, no one has had a positive result but we should continue to be cautious and vigilant.

We appreciate your support at this difficult time. The more we work as a community the safer we will all be and, I hope, that our efforts will strengthen our relationships and make Harting a closer 'family' and that we will remain virus free.

Best wishes,

Fiona

Coronavirus information - reminder

Nobody should be in school if they (or family members) have COVID-19 or symptoms. These include:

- Headaches
- **A temperature**
- Shortness of breath
- **Loss of smell (or taste)**
- **Persistent cough**
- Poor appetite (common in children)

The **emboldened** symptoms are those which require anyone to be tested for COVID-19 and off school. This needs to be completed within five days of onset. If anyone in a household displays these, everyone in a household should self-isolate.

We ask you to err on the side of caution, rather than come into school. 'If in doubt, don't go out!' and ring the school office to inform us. There are now a couple of useful documents on the home page, which may clarify things, should you have to consider what to do. Thank you to Lucy Crabtree for sharing these.

Please avoid giving Calpol to your child, prior to them coming into school, for any of the above symptoms as it may mask illness and risk cross-infection.

Key Harting values: love and respect
'Love others as yourself'
Worship Theme: New beginnings + values

Flu vaccinations

Many of you have already returned the consent forms for the children's flu vaccines. It would be helpful if the remainder could be sent back to the school office, as soon as possible, so that office staff do not need to chase you and your child does not miss this important protection.

Leaving the school site

Thank you to you all for socially-distancing and adhering to the rules. We feel that the departure of children from school is working much better, so plan to continue with the way in which we are now ending the school day. We will therefore be releasing Downlands pupils from the front entrance and Torberry children from the side entrance to the school, rather than classroom doors.

This has resulted in the Warren parents and their children being able to readily walk down the path without fear of contact. We are glad that our systems have improved, thank you for your support.

Open Afternoon

This year, for obvious reasons, we won't be having a formal open afternoon. We will, however, welcome parents to 'View through the window' the week beginning 5.10.20 (or, indeed, another day).

If you know of any local families, who might be interested in joining the school, please encourage them to visit. They will be able to see the school, at work, from the outside but will need to make an appointment by email or phone (office@harting.w-sussex.sch.uk or 01730 825388)

Our catchment area includes Harting and surrounding villages but we are often able to accommodate children from further afield, including Petersfield and other Hampshire locations.

After school and breakfast club

We are again running these clubs. If you are interested in a place for your child, please email the school office: office@harting.w-sussex.sch.uk Information on the timings, costs, etc, is available on the school website: https://www.harting.w-sussex.sch.uk/website/breakfast_club_and_after_school_care/246167

There will still be some spaces available ad hoc but these need to be booked by email (to the office – see above) **by 4pm on the day beforehand**. Requests after this time are unlikely to be accommodated as the office is not manned later most days.

Lunchtimes

We are delighted to have a lovely team of staff for the children's lunchtimes. They make a big difference to their happiness. Our two newest members are Miranda Sanders and Anna Prudente-Poulton.

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Violin lessons

On reflection, we have decided to split whole class violin lessons, this academic year, so that both the y3 groups have an opportunity to have these music lessons. This will mean that Torberry class have 15 violin-based music lessons and then be taught music by Cathy Day and the other y3 group will have the same diet. This seems like a really good compromise and as fair as we can be with our provision.

The benefit will be that both sets of children will enjoy general, broad musical opportunities in addition to some instrumental tuition.

PTFA

Every member of the school community is welcome to be part of the Parents' Teachers' and Friends' Association (PTFA). The date for the AGM is in the calendar below. We anticipate the meeting taking no longer than 40 minutes and are looking forward to welcoming newcomers.

Please contact Michelle Carter, the current Chair, if you would like to attend and an invitation can then be sent to you: thekeeperssister@yahoo.com
The agenda is on the school website.

Free School Meals

We would be grateful if you would apply for 'free school meals', should you think you're your family circumstances might match the criteria (see below), even if your child will automatically receive them along with all other 'infant pupils'. By applying, you will help the whole school budget as there is an element of it linked to this register.

Eligibility for free school meals:

- income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Further information can be found: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>

You are welcome to talk to our office staff, in confidence, for guidance too.

Year 6 applications for secondary school

Applications for secondary school can be made from Monday, 7th September until mid-October. The closing date is **31st October**. Information on how to apply, from the West Sussex Admissions Team, will have been sent from the office this week.

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Do check your email account and look out for secondary school open evenings to help with you and your child make a decision.

School attendance

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

Key dates for your diary

Holiday dates for 2020/21	
26.10.20-30.10.20	Autumn half term break
21.12.20-1.1.21	Christmas holiday
15.2.21 – 19.2.21	Spring half term break
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
26.7.21 – 2.9.21	Summer holiday
Further inset day	To be arranged – staff training (this may be in the Autumn term)

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

Teachers invite you to 'meet them' for an informal briefing about the year ahead – see times and dates below. Sharing assemblies are currently suspended due to COVID-19.

Events for Autumn term

Autumn term 2020		
Week Beginning 20.9.20		
25.9.20	All day	Y3 Forest School - Downlands group
Week Beginning 28.9.20		
2.10.20	All day	Y3 Forest School - Downlands group
	2.30pm	Harvest - please send gifts from your 'pantry', if you can. We will quarantine these, before taking to a local food bank.
Week Beginning 5.10.20		
<i>('View through the window school visits' - prospective parents to call school to arrange)</i>		
5.10.20	7pm	PTFA AGM - by zoom
6.10.20	pm	Rother Parents' eve
8.10.20	pm	Rother Parents' eve
9.10.20	All day	Y3 Forest School - Torberry group
Week Beginning 12.10.20		
16.10.20		Flu vaccine - whole school (nasal spray)
Week Beginning 19.10.20 (poetry week - choral presentations)		
23.10.20	2.30pm	Poetry assembly - as possible (no visitors, sorry)
	All day	Y3 Forest School - Torberry group
Week beginning 26.10.20 HALF TERM BREAK		

Other planned events, for the term, cannot yet be confirmed at this stage.

We apologise for not being able to give you the usual notice.

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