

# Harting Primary School Newsletter



## Message from the Head

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Who would believe that the last newsletter was drafted at the beginning of January? What a lot has happened since then.

I would like to toast all the parents who have made it through the weeks of home schooling! You've done a fantastic job of keeping your children going and if you're a working parent (and you've remained sane in the process) you have done remarkably well!

Thank goodness we have the children back! A joy to have their voices in the background and see their smiling faces.

Thank you for continuing to stick to social distancing rules; avoiding car shares and play dates; and leaving the site quickly to avoid cross-contaminating our class bubbles. Some of our staff are 'no spring chickens', especially me! To keep going, we need everyone to remain well. It is remarkable that we have done so for one and a half terms – long may this continue – but we all need to play our part in keeping the school open!

Best wishes,

*Fiona*

## Plans for learning

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Our aim, this week, has been to gently settle the children back into school life. There have been reminders of expectations and routines to encourage the children to be independent learners. Returning to these school routines should help them to feel safe and feel quickly feel part of the community again.

Each afternoon, we have worked on personal and social skills as well as thinking about how we feel. In addition, the children have been learning new playground games and practising collaborative challenges. This will remind them how to play in larger groups and enable them to re-integrate into school (and for some newcomers to feel part of the Harting School community)

Once settled, we will take time to assess where the children are academically – something which teachers do every day! We look forward to seeing the children shine as the teachers review learning and move thinking on.

At a fairly early stage next term, we envisage having parents' evenings – probably by zoom so that we can celebrate all that the children know and share their next steps.

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

### Welcome

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I wrote something about our new Torberry teacher, Ciara O'Dea, in January but it was never sent out! Many of you now know her from regular zoom meetings. She has been amazing as she only worked with her class for one day before the latest lockdown.

Thank goodness Miss O'Dea has plenty of experience, working with this age range. We are grateful that she came into school to meet the children and work with her predecessor on planning, at the end of term, so that she was 'up to speed' with our school's curriculum.

We know that some children joined the school after Christmas too. It is lovely to become a part of our community too. Welcome!

### Nut-free school

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Thank you for continuing to avoid sending foods into school which contain nuts in packed lunches. We do have a couple of pupils who are significantly at risk, should they come into contact with nuts, so appreciate your support.

### Kind messages

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Thank you to those of you who sent lovely messages after I announced my retirement from headship. They were very much appreciated and made me tearful - it has been such a big decision. Rather than spill more tears, I decided to write a note here to say that your thoughts were very much appreciated.

### Thank you

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My thanks go to the many parents who have communicated with us so closely about their children's coughs and colds. To those of you who kept them at home until a COVID test had been done we are exceptionally thankful. And I am grateful too, to the teaching staff for sending out home learning whilst children waited for their own or siblings' results.

It seems that we are going to have to continue to be vigilant now there are more of us together. Please therefore **do not** send a child or their siblings into school if **they or anyone in the family have symptoms of COVID (even, if the person with symptoms, has had a negative lateral flow test ie one done at home - you need a PCR COVID test ie done at a test centre).**

Symptoms which indicate a child or family members should stay at home continue to be:

- A new persistent cough (**even if you think it may be due to a cold**)
- A high temperature
- Loss of taste or smell

Please ensure that your contact details are up-to-date in case your child is unwell for any reason.

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## Computers

Thanks go to the Rotary Club of Midhurst for their generous donation which has enabled us to buy two new high quality laptops to add to the set that we purchased recently. We are really grateful to them, as well as the PTFA who have given funds generously too so that the school have an up-to-date set of computers. We look forward to seeing them in use.

## Reading books

The PTFA have generously given us some additional funds for more reading scheme books which, combined with school money, has enabled us to buy plenty more texts. Many of our old stock had started to look tatty so we will be gradually be phasing in new titles so that the children enjoy sharing them at home.

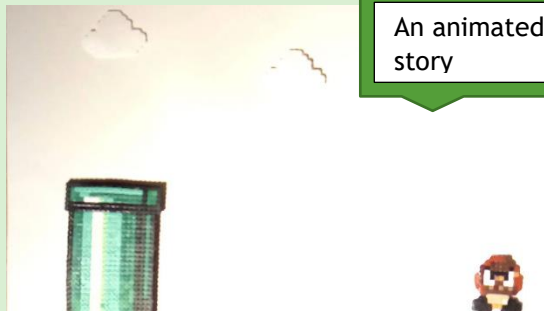
Please ask your child to look after these and other books so they fair well and are enjoyed by many other children too.



### World Book Day

We loved receiving images of children reading in unusual places on World Book Day along with some amazing creations to submit to the Midhurst Rother College competition. Many of the pictures are now on display in the library, reminding us that we can read in the crazy of places!

Our submissions to Midhurst Rother College will be sent to them later in the week! We will let you know the outcomes. In the meantime, can you guess the books to which these images link?



An animated story



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### Subtitles

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There has been some recent coverage in the press of the use of subtitles to aid children's reading and language skills. We do not know where the research is from but it may be of benefit to your child simply by switching them on the TV.

Stephen Fry promotes this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-zISnJ-oao&safe=true>

### School uniform

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Our bursar, Nicky Kemp, has worked hard to find a uniform provider who charges significantly less for school badged sweatshirts, etc. We are pleased that this makes them more affordable for families.

From Easter uniform can be bought from:

#### **New supplier details:**

Banana Ink

[www.bananaink.co.uk](http://www.bananaink.co.uk)

07525395276

[dee@bananaink.co.uk](mailto:dee@bananaink.co.uk)

Parents can continue to order from the current supplier until the end of March.

We also have a small stock of good-as-new uniform. Do email the office if you need some extras. The usual charge is 50p, although we are just delighted that they are worn again.

Before Easter, we will be a little more relaxed about school shoes as we understand that some children may have outgrown footwear and been unable to find more. We would prefer, however, that children wear clothes as near to school regulations as possible and shoes are dark and low-heeled.

### 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
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

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**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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