

Harting Primary School Newsletter



Message from the Head

Although we regret missing out on the many things we would normally do in the Autumn term, we are proud of the children and are looking forward to an enjoyable creative Christmas week.

Bubbles of children will visit the church towards the end of the week too, so they will have some time to reflect on the Christmas story and take a few moments to be quiet and still (see information below). These visits will replace our usual Christingle service, which should be re-instated in 2021 – all being well.

We hope to be able to share the nativity, via the website too. Thanks go to all involved (see later item).

The vaccine gives us hope that, by the end of the academic year, things will eventually return to normal. In the meantime, I would like to thank you for helping us to minimise risks to the whole school community. Next term, sees the continuation of us being extremely careful but I am hopeful (especially as my elderly parents-in-law were vaccinated on Tuesday) that we all enjoy a better summer.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy 2021.

Take care everyone.

Best wishes,

Fiona

Nativity

In light of the nativity having been prepared to be filmed, we decided to continue with this, despite government guidance having recently been clarified. It, of course, future-proofed us from any last minute changes in DfE in advice! Not only do we believe it to be the safest option but hope it will mean that grandparents, who are more vulnerable, will have a chance to see it too!

Thanks go to Lyndsey Shaxson for supporting us with her IT know-how and for editing the film, as well as our school director – Ros Stamper! We are grateful to Cathy Day for her work with the singing, which was prepared in record time! Although, its quality may have to be reduced for the school website, we hope you will see that we have tried our best to enjoy some Christmas moments with the children and to share them with you! We will let you know when it is ready!

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

Carols – 15th December

On the evening of 15th December, I have arranged for the Salvation Army Band to play to you at various points in the village. The vicar will be playing too. We will be sticking to the 'rule of six' with the five players and me (I may be rattling a bucket to support the work of the Salvation Army - my singing voice will hopefully be drowned out!).

We would love it if you were to stand in your doorways and join in by singing carols (some words are attached). This way, everyone will be at a safe distance.

If you live further afield, you are welcome to park your car in the village hall car-park as this is likely to be one of the points where carols will be played. Your family can then enjoy singing safely from within! Of course, windows can be opened so we hear your voices!

Should the weather be inclement or there be a COVID-related problem, then this event will be cancelled. All being well, however, we will be able to share a little joy in these really hard times.

We will be leaving school just after 7pm

First stop: Warrenside flats

Second stop: The Rectory, The Street

Third stop: Intersection – North Lane and The Square

Third stop: Lower Culvers

Fourth stop: Village hall car-park/Pease Croft

We may stop off on route, but this is the plan to date!

Advent windows

The advent windows, organised by the Parish Church, have been opening across the village. Do look out for them in the evenings.

This year, the church is also planning a living crib scene between 4-5pm on Christmas Eve, which you may want to jot in your diary.

Shoe boxes

On Saturday, 28th November, the first lorry was loaded and sent to Western Romania, which has now arrived. Thank you to all of you who sent boxes via the school's team and especially Marylou Thistleton-Smith who master-minded it. I believe that this is always a very special thing to do and can imagine how delighted the recipients will be when they receive them.

Jolly jumpers and mufti-day

Having the children in their own clothes and the staff 'dressed-down', for a couple of days, has really lifted everyone's spirits. The mufti-day made nearly £70 and was sent to the School Council's charity- CLIC Sargent. Thank you for your support.

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Jam jars in church

Thank you for sending in jam jars which will be decorated and filled with night lights.

We are delighted to be taking the children on a trail, in the church, during the final two days of term. The plan is to process around the church and replace the Christingle service with a time of reflection about the Christmas story, using night lights to guide the way.

Again, as long as we are all well, we look forward to having a special time.

IMPORTANT – COVID-19

If any of the children or staff develop symptoms of COVID and/or have a positive test, please inform the school via the email address on the school website. This is so that anyone at possible risk can be informed. Thank you for your help with this. Here is the guidance:

- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Please contact school
- School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching ie Thursday, 24th December.

Spotlight on Safeguarding

This link is a fun way of children beginning to think about what is the truth or not: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/real-or-fake-news-quiz>

It might open up dialogue about what to believe on the internet or in the media and further conversations at home about e-safety.

Food and essentials

We are acutely aware that, for many families, in this climate, finances have become extremely difficult. There is additional support available for those, not eligible for free school meals, via the West Sussex County Council Community Hub: 0330 222 7980 and is open 08:00 am – 20:00 pm 7 days a week and will be operational throughout the Christmas holiday period. More information can be found online via the West Sussex County Council website:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/>

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Reception places for academic year 2021-22

Families are no longer sent reminders to apply for reception places for their children. The window for applications is open and closes on Friday, 15th January, 2021 for children born between 1st September 2016 - 31st August 2017. This can be done online via West Sussex Admissions: www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions

Should you need internet access or help, do contact the school office for support.

West Sussex Admissions team are also happy to advise: 03330 142903

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.

Spare clothing wanted

Thank you for sending in spare pants, socks, etc. Great for younger children when things go wrong!

PTFA meeting

The next PTFA meeting is on Thursday, 14th January at 9am, via zoom. If you would like to attend, please email Michelle Carter (thekeeperssister@yahoo.com) for an invitation.

Note – date for final inset day

The final inset day has been booked on 28th June 2021. It is hoped that, by then, families may be able to spend some time together enjoying a long weekend doing lovely things. Hopefully, there may be attractions to visit too. Who knows? We can at least hope that the weather will be kind and it can be special in some sort of way for you all.

Free office chairs

We have some spare office chairs which are free to a good home. They will be in the school entrance from next Monday until next Wednesday (14th-16th December) if you would like to collect them.

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	
21.12.20-1.1.21	Christmas holiday
Monday, 4.1.21	First day back after Christmas
15.2.21-19.2.21	Spring half term break
2.4.21	Good Friday (school closed)
5.4.21-16.4.21	Easter holiday

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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

Sharing assemblies are currently suspended due to COVID-19.

Events for Autumn term

Autumn term 2020	
Week beginning 14.12.20 (Creative Christmas week)	
15.12.20 7pm	Carol singing around the village
17.12.20	Class - Christmas trail in church
18.12.20	Classes - Christmas trails in church
End of term	Nativity on website (date to be determined)

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

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