

Harting Primary School Newsletter



Message from the Head

I just wanted to finish the year with a newsletter after what can only be described as a very tricky year for many of us. My understanding, however, is that most of the Harting School community have remained well until now – long may that continue.

As parents, you have had to face the challenge of managing children; home schooling them; and keeping them busy throughout the day. Thank you to all of you, especially those who have been juggling many commitments. This is not something any of us would have chosen to happen.

We are now really looking forward to being together, as a whole school, and hope that a further lockdown does not prevent this from happening. We have very much missed those children who have not yet returned. It has been a joy to see some of them in the roundhouse, after school, over the last two weeks and it will be wonderful to welcome them all back, along with our newcomers.

Attached are the arrangements for our September return to school, which will go on the school's website home page. This will be subject to any changes in DfE advice during the holiday.

In the meantime, I wish everyone good health and a happy summer break.

Take care.

Fiona

Year 6 leavers

We are sorry to see our y6 children leave us but know that they have a good foundation ready for secondary school. The last week has been made special with Forest schooling; a walk and picnic; a sports afternoon; a late-night event; and leavers' service in the roundhouse for them and their parents.

On Friday, we celebrate with a final water fight – something that is a rite of passage. I have my wet suit and super soaker ready!

Although it is sad to say 'Farewell' we wish them well and look forward to hearing of their future accomplishments.

Coronavirus – general information and September arrangements

Please see the additional information sheet. It may need to be updated, should government guidance change over the summer. As already mentioned, it will be housed on the home page of the school website, for reference.

Library service

West Sussex Library service will be running their annual Summer Reading Challenge over the holidays. It is online and it is free to take part. Children can register at www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

They can read any books of their choice. This includes eBooks, eAudio or eComics. Reading can then be recorded online, unlocking rewards as children reach targets.

The library can be joined online for free:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/join-the-library/>

Piano lessons

Sandra Fowler-Bennett is keen to re-start piano lessons in the autumn term. If your child is keen to have these, within the school day, please contact her by email so that they can be arranged: sandrafowlerbennett@yahoo.co.uk

Wrap around care

We are looking forward to being able to run our after school care and breakfast club from the beginning of September. You should have received the information, from our bursar, Nicky Kemp, about charges and payments.

Although we will continue to offer some ad hoc provision, it needs to be booked by email. We advise that such communications need to be sent to the school office by 4pm the day beforehand. In the past, there has been an expectation, by a few parents, that their children can attend the club that day, which embarrasses staff running the session and risks compromising care. We therefore need to be strict with the bookings.

Our care will be in the school hall, or outside, to ensure that there is plenty of space.

Relationships curriculum

I wanted to enlighten you on the proposed government changes for the Relationships curriculum and how we are developing our policy. In essence, we have always taught children about relationships, as part of 'Personal and Social' (PSE) curriculum, and do not propose to change how we teach the Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) aspect.

For the latter we are advised by an expert in the relationships curriculum that, although old, the videos that we use are the most up-to-date and matter of fact about sexual relationships. They include content on human development (including reproduction), which is statutory as part of the science curriculum. The element that parents have the right to request that their children are not taught is 'How babies are conceived' ie sexual intercourse. This is currently taught late in year 5.

Should you wish to remind yourselves of the elements of the school's SRE curriculum, they are outlined on the school website: <https://www.harting.w-sussex.sch.uk/website/curriculum/144129>.

We plan to continue to encourage respect for others, including that families can be in different forms but still love each other. We will take care to avoid

stigmatisation of children, based on their home circumstances, along with reflecting sensitivity that some children may have a different structure of support around them eg young carers or children who are 'looked after'. There will be no explicit promotion of life-styles, in line with the school's Christian ethos. 'Respect others as ourselves' will be key and theological thinking is not part of this curriculum.

If you have concerns or wish to discuss the curriculum further, please do contact the school and we would be happy to have a conversation about it. As this aspect of the curriculum has been missed, during lockdown, we are likely to teach two years' worth next academic year.

Midday meals supervisor

If you are interested in this role, we are hoping to have a full complement of staff next term. There is likely to be a job-share opportunity please contact the school as early as possible.

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
31.5.21-4.6.21	Summer half term break
26.7.21 – 2.9.21	Summer holiday
Inset days	Three further days tbc

Autumn term 2020		
Week beginning 1.9.20		
3.9.20	Inset day – school closed	
4.9.20	Inset day	School closed to pupils, except Reception pupil meetings
Week beginning 7.9.20		
7.9.20	8.30-8.45am	First day back Y1-y6: all return to school