Issue 5: 12.11.20

Harting Primary School Newsletter

Message from the Head

Instead of heading to the memorial, as planned yesterday, we held a silence here in school to remember those who have died in wars. We are sharing the story of a local soldier, from World War II – a great-grandfather of some of our children.

We have sprinkled white poppy seeds in the school grounds – symbols of peace, our theme for assemblies. It will be interesting to see what grows! If they do, they may provide reminders to us all to be kind to each other.

In this difficult time, I believe that kindness is pivotal to our lives. We are also trying to focus on all the things which make us glad. To never have lived through a war in our country has to be something for our children to celebrate but appreciating the small things may also keep us sane! We will continue to encourage the children to be thankful.

Take care everyone.

Best wishes,

Fiona

Torberry teacher

Although we are sad that Jane Maybury will be leaving to live in Scotland at the end of term, we are pleased to inform you that Ciara O'Dea will be joining us in January as the new Torberry class teacher. She has had plenty of experience and worked with this age range before. We look forward to welcoming her to the school.

Parents' evenings

Most parents will have had the opportunity to speak with their child's teachers this week (or earlier if in Rother class). We hope that, by sending home the children's reviews of their learning beforehand, it meant that you were able to have really useful conversations. We did try to send documents well in advance so that they could be quarantined!

Forest school

We are delighted that our two year 3 bubbles have enjoyed whole days of forest schooling. Our leaders tell me that the whole days have allowed the children to immerse themselves in this learning. Being outside and the opportunities that forest schooling allows, encourages our children to develop a range of personal, as well as practical skills. All good for their well-being too!

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'Love others as yourself'
Worship Theme: Peace (doing the right thing)
Everyone is special

Muddy children!

I apologise for increasingly muddy shoes! Having had conversations with the children, we have decided that the healthiest playtimes are for them to use most of the space available for play.
The DfE require us to keep 'bubbles' of children together and avoid crossing over, as much as possible, which proves quite difficult. As you will have noticed, we have zoned the outdoor spaces to maintain these class groups. Areas are used in rotation and changed weekly.
When the field was very damp, we were restricting the children to the artificial grass and gazebo, which meant the older children felt very cramped. On this basis, the older children have agreed to take off their shoes as they enter school after playtimes and clean their own shoes at home, so they can be on the field too!!

Spotlight on safeguarding – information from West Sussex digital team

Are you a 'sharent'? Many children's digital footprint starts before birth nowadays with ultrasounds, birth dates, etc, being posted online on social media platforms for others to view and 'like'. A recent article, from West Sussex digital team indicates risks for you to consider:

- Innocent photos, if in the wrong hands, can mean that they are uploaded to other websites without your permission; identities are stolen; or something later embarrasses your child

To minimise these risks, recommendations include:

- Avoid location tagging images
- Avoid use of the school name
- Use master privacy settings so that your posts are not in the public domain
- Review what is about to being posted beforehand to ensure that a comment isn't taken out of context
- Check older children are happy with your posts beforehand
- Avoid sharing posts/photos of your children

Much of this may be obvious to many of you but it is always worth sharing to avoid risks to any of our children.

Birthday treats via school

Unfortunately, in this COVID climate we need to continue to minimise the risk of its spread. On this basis, we ask that you no longer send sweets or treats (even if wrapped) to be distributed to the children's classmates on a child's birthday.

For some families this will be a relief as they find it difficult to refuse their child such treats, which they did not choose for their child to have, so we will review this at the end of the academic year when things may be clearer from a COVID perspective. At least this way, it will feel fairer to the children.

Texting app – nearly there!

We are really grateful to all of you who have signed up to the new App. It will make a significant difference to the costs of the system and ensure that we have an additional way of communicating with you all. Thank you!

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After school care

We now have an online booking system for the school's wrap around care. You should have received this information by email from the office.

Christmas lunch – 9th December

The school Christmas lunch will be combined with 'jolly jumper day' so that the children can wear fun or seasonal knitwear that day too. If you would like your child to have the Christmas lunch (roast turkey or Quorn fillet) that day, you need to book it in the following way:
If your child is in Year R, 1 or 2 and does **not** normally have hot lunches, please inform Susan Broadhead in the office by **Friday 27th November**.
If your child is free school meal eligible and would like the Christmas lunch, please inform Susan Broadhead in the office by **Friday 27th November**.
If your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 and would like the Christmas lunch, please order it online at www.mealselector.co.uk The cost is £2.35 and it must be ordered by **Sunday 29th November**. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be accepting any cash orders.

PTFA fund raising -

Bottles of coins are sitting in the playground at the end of each day. Do empty your pockets and purses of change. Remember that every coin acts as a token of equal value, irrespective of the denomination. Every bronze coin adds one point to the total, whilst every silver coin subtracts a point!! This is a peaceful war!! Beware, some of the teachers are proving to be quite competitive as they want their class to win the prize!!

Reception places for academic year 2021-22

The window for applications is now 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.

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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
2.4.21	Good Friday (school closed)
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

Events for Autumn term

Autumn term 2020	
Week beginning 9.11.20	
10.11.20	Parents' evenings by zoom (y1-6)
11.11.20	Remembrance assembly - no longer at memorial
12.11.20	Parents' evenings by zoom (y1-6)
Week beginning 30.11.20 Posada figures in school	
4.12.20	Mufti day - 50p per child
Week beginning 7.12.20	
9.12.20	Christmas lunch and jolly jumper day
Week beginning 14.12.20 (Creative Christmas week)	
18.12.20	?Christmas light service(s)/celebration (tbc) - this is likely to be for children only due to the pandemic

We apologise for not being able to give you the usual notice for any events. Sadly, much of what had been organised, has had to be postponed due to the pandemic. We are very much working day to day. The children, however, appear settled and happy – it is a joy to hear their voices singing out through the school!

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