

Harting Primary School Newsletter



Message from the Head

As the term continues, we are pleased that the children are working hard and enjoying their learning. We notice that they are becoming more independent learners – something which is harder to be under the 'beady eye' of a parent or two, when at home!

This has helped children to gain confidence in their own abilities and be more persistent in their efforts to tackle new challenges. We are keen for them all to feel able to 'have a go' and not worry about mistakes, as we learn from these.

Another observation, is that many children have had to re-learn how to share with their peers eg turn taking at play and being patient within discussions. Again, something which many have rapidly remembered to help school life be more harmonious.

At this point in the term, we are extremely grateful if you have kept children at home due to temperatures, coughs, etc or self-isolated and, of course, for accessing tests really quickly. I wish to thank everyone for their continued vigilance regarding COVID.

Take care.

Best wishes,

Fiona

Retirement

It is with sadness that I am informing you of the retirement of Cathy Day at Easter. She will have a 'big birthday' just before this holiday! As she has been a committed teacher for her whole working career, her plan has always been to take some time for herself when she reached this milestone.

We are grateful to her for all her work with the children, especially overseeing and delivering inspiring music lessons and clubs. Her enthusiasm for this subject, working with Helen Dromey and the teachers, has strengthened this aspect of the school's curriculum.

For a few years, she also worked as our SENCO so she has 'worn many hats' within the school. We appreciate all the work she has done. Like Jane Maybury, we are really sorry to lose Cathy from the staff yet wish them both happy times in their new lifestyles.

We are delighted, however, that we have been able to appoint experienced teachers to step into both roles. Because we advertised the Torberry post as a

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possible job-share (to ensure a rich field of candidates), we had two excellent applicants (among many). After socially-distanced interviews (before the latest lockdown) we opted for a full-timer to replace Jane, rather than the other person who wanted to work fewer days.

Michaela Lockrose, the other strong teacher, has now been appointed to work with Hayley Kay and Downlands class. She will also release different class teachers on Wednesdays. Not only will she be happy to teach music, but she is a modern foreign languages specialist (as well as an experienced primary teacher).

Michaela is well-known to us as she has worked in a variety of roles at the school, including a maternity cover. We are glad to have 'bagged' her for three days a week!

Spare clothing wanted

It is really helpful to have items of underwear, etc, for the odd 'accident', which happens from time to time. We would be grateful for donations of good-as-new items listed (ages 4-7 years) below:

- Girl's pants
- Boy's pants
- Uni-sex jogging/tracksuit bottoms
- Socks

Leaf blower

The school have a leaf blower that is no longer used. If anyone is interested in making a donation for it and taking it off our hands, please let Nicky Kemp (our bursar) know.

Groups of families/parents gathering in the park

Earlier this week, we had a complaint from a member of the public about Harting School families gathering in the local park. This is not, of course, within my jurisdiction but know that none of us wish to unintentionally aggravate or alarm others. I am very aware that we all have different thresholds for the need to socially distance and views about current restrictions, so simply ask that we continue to consider risks to others.

Mufti- day

On Friday, 4th December children are welcome to wear their own clothes to school. We ask that they bring 50p for charity on that day.

Posada figures

One of the loveliest Christmas traditions in Harting is the journey of the Posada figures around the village. As there is very little 'foot fall' in the front lobby or the

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school hall, due to COVID restrictions, I hope to display them in one of the windows at the front of school. Do look out for them!

Christmas cards

We regret that this year we will be avoiding the exchange of Christmas cards between children and staff across the school. This is again due to COVID and we will try to provide an alternative option.

Christmas lunch + jolly jumpers – 9th December

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.

On this day, we invite all children to wear jolly jumpers to add the festive spirit!

Jam jars

We would like each child to bring a clean, empty jam-jar into school, please. This is for one of the activities planned during our 'Creative Christmas' week, which we hope will be fun.

Spotlight on safeguarding

The link below is a short video to help parents share information about online safety with their children. All you need to do is watch it with them:

[The Legends Family Adventure](#)

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 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	
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

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 30.11.20 Posada figures in school	
4.12.20	Mufti day (own clothes to be worn)- 50p per child
Week beginning 7.12.20	
9.12.20	Christmas lunch and jolly jumper day (children to wear a fun jumper)
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.

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