

Harting Primary School Newsletter



Message from the Head

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to school. It is wonderful to see you all. We truly missed children, who were not with us last term, and are really pleased to see old friends and welcome all our new children. We hope that this will be a truly happy school year for everyone.

Over the summer, teachers have prepared for the new school year and planned many exciting learning opportunities, as usual. We continue to aim to provide a rich, topic-based curriculum that will inspire plenty of thinking and acquisition of new skills.

Themes for the term include:

- 'Carnival of the Animals' but in the Early Years, learning will be moulded by the children's interests (Rother)
- 'Look in the Mirror' (Warren),
- 'Dinosaurs', which will be followed by 'Rainforests'(Downlands)
- 'Meet the Greeks' - Ancient Greeks (Torberry)
- 'War and Peace'(Beacon).

There are topic maps on the school website, with more details of class planning, at the bottom of the curriculum section (under key information).

We have already shared some of the children's lockdown experiences with them – important as we all have 'baggage' related to the effect on our lives. Talking about this, should help the children.

It is a joy to see how pleased the children are to come to be back into school. Long may this continue! Our wish for the year is that everyone remains healthy; that schooling is not disrupted; and we continue to be a community of happy learners.

Best wishes,

Fiona

IMPORTANT: contact information

We particularly need contact information to be up-to-date in the current climate as, if your child is ill at school, we need them to be picked up rapidly. Should any child develop symptoms of coronavirus, whatever the cause, they should leave the school quickly, to protect the community and so they can be checked for COVID-19.

Key Harting values: love and respect
'Love others as yourself'
Worship Theme: New beginnings + values

Coronavirus information

Nobody should be in school if they (or family members) have COVID-19 or symptoms. These include:

- Headaches
- A temperature
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of smell (or taste)
- Persistent cough
- Poor appetite (common in children)

We ask you to err on the side of caution, rather than come into school. 'If in doubt, don't go out!' and ring the school office to inform us.

Please avoid giving calpol to your child, prior to them coming into school, for any of the above symptoms as it may mask illness and risk cross-infection.

Nut free

Thank you for sticking to our nut-free rules. We have some children who are highly allergic to anything containing peanuts. Please avoid sending any products known to have nuts in them, particularly in lunchboxes. Your help is much appreciated.

Paracetamol and anti-histamine

Many parents have signed permissions for their children to be given either of these drugs in an emergency. Please ensure that you have agreed to their use, if you are happy to do so. **You need to let us know if your child can no longer** be given these drugs and wish to withdraw your consent, as a matter of urgency. Please contact the school office **by midday next Monday** if you wish to do this.

Please also note that we are less likely to be giving paracetamol for a child temperature as guidance suggests that children should be at home. NO CHILD WITH A TEMPERATURE should be sent to school.

Open Afternoon

This year, for obvious reasons, we won't be having a formal open afternoon. We will, however, welcome parents to 'View through the window' the week beginning 5.10.20 (or, indeed, another day).

If you know of any local families, who might be interested in joining the school, please encourage them to visit. They will be able to see the school, at work, from the outside but will need to make an appointment by email or phone (office@harting.w-sussex.sch.uk or 01730 825388)

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.

After school and breakfast club

We are again running these clubs. If you are interested in a place for your child, please email the school office: office@harting.w-sussex.sch.uk Information on the

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timings, costs, etc, is available on the school website: https://www.harting.w-sussex.sch.uk/website/breakfast_club_and_after_school_care/246167

There will still be some spaces available ad hoc but these need to be booked by email (to the office – see above) **by 4pm on the day beforehand**. Requests after this time are unlikely to be accommodated as the office is not manned later most days.

'Meet the teacher'

We are keen to give you an opportunity to meet teachers and ask questions, if you so wish. With this in mind, we will be inviting you to a zoom meeting at some point next week to 'Meet the teacher'. There is no compulsion to join the session but you might like to hear about the new routines and ask any questions you have.

Free School Meals

We would be grateful if you would apply for 'free school meals', should you think you're your family circumstances might match the criteria (see below), even if your child will automatically receive them along with all other 'infant pupils'. By applying, you will help the whole school budget as there is an element of it linked to this register.

Eligibility for free school meals:

- income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Further information can be found: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>

You are welcome to talk to our office staff, in confidence, for guidance too.

Class emails

We have been battling with Capita over the summer to complete work on our learning platform, which has impacted negatively on our email system! We therefore ask that you do not use the old class email addresses. Any urgent correspondence is best directed to the school office as this is manned each day!

The office staff have now worked through all the summer email correspondence so should be able to respond fairly rapidly, although may not always be able to look at the inbox first thing in the morning.

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Year 6 applications for secondary school

Applications for secondary school can be made from Monday, 7th September until mid-October. The closing date is **31st October**. Information on how to apply, from the West Sussex Admissions Team, will have been sent from the office this week. Do check your email account and look out for secondary school open evenings to help with you and your child make a decision.

Spotlight on safeguarding

Information from WSCC 'Staying safe online':

"Online gambling/loot boxes"



Many online games for children, contain Gambling-like features that are thought to enhance the game and can appear as harmless fun, however it is important to know it can also normalise the behaviour of gambling for children and potentially lead to harmful online habits.

Loot boxes are a key feature in many online games, they offer the gamer a reward in exchange for a purchase. However, there is no guarantee that the loot box contains what the gamer requires. Therefore, this can lead to addictive purchasing, enticing the child to keep making further purchases until they get the reward they want. Often, the chances of them winning what they want are extremely small. This is especially true of loot boxes or player packs, which can cost a lot of money. For example, in Fifa, players can spend a lot in order to unlock a player that they want. It has been known for players to spend hundreds of pounds trying to get the player Ronaldo.

Huge controversy surrounds the use of Loot boxes within games as reports say that even if you are not spending real money when you are gaming, it still encourages gambling-like behaviour, which could pose a risk to children later in life. Research carried out by the Gambling Commission has outlined that children as young as 11 have been found to have problems with gambling.

It's important to be aware of our child's online activity and to look for any concerning signs:

- Your child may appear more withdrawn than usual and seem irritable and anxious
- They may experience trouble sleeping
- They may become defensive or annoyed if you ask them about any regular purchases they have made whilst online gaming.
- You may notice regular transactions for in-game purchases.
- Your child may spend excessive hours gaming and show signs of addictive behaviour.

What can parents do?

- Investigate whether the games your child is playing include loot boxes.
- Turn off in-app purchases on games and make sure a credit or debit card isn't attached to the console they're playing on.

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Issue 1: 10.9.20

- Speak to your child and explain to them that loot boxes are designed to entice players to spend hours playing the game and spend money. Most games can still be played and completed without using loot boxes.

- If you concerned about online gambling. Visit: [BeGambleAware.org](https://www.begambleaware.org) or contact the National Gambling Helpline on 0808 8020 133 "

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
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

Teachers invite you to 'meet them' for an informal briefing about the year ahead – see times and dates below. Sharing assemblies are currently suspended due to COVID-19.

Events for Autumn term

Autumn term 2020		
9.9.20	Timings	'Meet the teacher' by zoom: invitations by email
Week Beginning 20.9.20		
25.9.20	All day	Y3 Forest School - group A (tbc)
Week Beginning 28.9.20		
2.10.20	All day	Y3 Forest School - group A (tbc)
	2.30pm	Harvest - please send gifts from your 'pantry', if you can. Donations to the local foodbank
Week Beginning 5.10.20 (<i>'View through the window school visits' - prospective parents to call school to arrange</i>)		
6.10.20	pm	Rother Parents' eve
8.10.20	pm	Rother Parents' eve
9.10.20	All day	Y3 Forest School - group B (tbc)
Week Beginning 12.10.20		
16.10.20		Flu vaccine - whole school (nasal spray)
Week Beginning 19.10.20 (<i>poetry week - choral presentations</i>)		
23.10.20	2.30pm	Poetry assembly - as possible (no visitors, sorry)
	All day	Y3 Forest School - group B (tbc)
Week beginning 26.10.20 HALF TERM BREAK		

Other planned events, for the term, cannot yet be confirmed at this stage.

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

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