

Harting Primary School Newsletter



Message from the Head

We are delighted that many parents were so positive about the new way we have chosen to report the children's learning. The forms seem to capture the children's understanding well - both where they are and their next steps, which in most cases is really accurate. It is particularly pleasing to discover that children are already sharing these documents with other family members, showing pride in their learning. We look forward to seeing them continue to make progress and watching the children share their books with you again, later in the term, at the 'Open classrooms' (7th December). Please do note the date in your diary. It should be a lovely afternoon for the children as it will be preceded by the visit by the Open Box Theatre Company. If you are unable to come into the school that day, please let us know so you can find some time to look at your child's books towards the end of term.

There has been much publicity about the state of the Education system in recent local and national news. Harting School, like all other small schools, is having to be really careful with funds - I have tried to be prudent for a long time. This has meant that our position is better than many rural schools. We cannot, however, be complacent and moves to make some of the schools in the Midhurst area larger may affect our numbers in the longer term. We would therefore be pleased if you continue to encourage families to visit us, even if they live in Hampshire, as we do have some spaces in the middle of the school.

With this in mind, we have a poster to distribute. If you know of a suitable place for this to be displayed, please let me know and I can ask for it to be placed there. Of course, the most powerful way of promoting our lovely school is by word of mouth - we appreciate so many positive comments, thank you.

Best wishes

Fiona

Fiona Mullett

Remembrance



It was lovely to see how respectful the children were on Friday, 10th November when we went to Harting's war memorial at the church. They always manage the minute silence and take the opportunity to reflect. Thank you to Abigail and Yann who had written poems and to all the year 6 who shared with us the numbers who have died for us in conflict since the first world war - it was quite humbling. Children spent time, looking at their 'teardrop' and considering those who had been bereaved.

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Worship Theme: Being trustworthy

Planetarium trip

Torberry class had a wonderful trip to the planetarium last week. Here is an excerpt from one of the children's writing about it:

ON 9 NOVEMBER 2017, TORBERRY CLASS WENT TO CHICHESTER PLANETARIUM. ELLEN- FROM THE SCHOOL-QUOTED "I LOVED THE STAR DOME," AND CHARLEE (THE REPORTER OF THIS) SAID "IT WAS EPIC!"

While they were going in, Daisy -from Harting primary-told us "It was very interesting and factual and exciting . . ." and Ethan, from the school, said while pointing at this: "Is that trump?"

Then . . . Lucy -from the school-told reporters "My favourite part was the star theatre and seeing the constellations." Callum, from the school, told reporters "I thought it was beautiful

Thank you to all those who accompanied the children and to the Harting drivers who supported them. One of the children's reports has been submitted to the Petersfield Post for publication - we wait to see if it makes copy.

Wanted - plastic milk bottles (about 200!)

Thank you to those who have already brought in plastic milk bottles. We still need more though! Warren class is collecting: four pint and six pint plastic milk bottles with lids. They need to be thoroughly washed so they can be used.

Reminder: Reception class for 2018

Applications opened on Monday, 2nd October and close on Monday, 15th January 2018 for reception places. These are made via West Sussex admissions:

www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions or via Hampshire county admissions, if living in Petersfield or local villages.

Hockey at MRC

Nearly two weeks ago, we sent a team to MRC to participate in a hockey tournament. Having been coached by Mrs Clarke the team came fifth of ten teams, which was really pleasing. Most importantly, the children enjoyed participating and were great representatives for the school. Well done for making us proud!



Shoebox appeal

Tomorrow is the last opportunity to bring things in for the shoeboxes. We would welcome additional adults to help too so if you are free from 12.30pm onwards, you can join those

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who will be packing boxes with the children. Thanks go to Jules Thistleton-Smith who is masterminding this activity, along with the Shoebox Champions from year 6 who have worked hard to rally others.

Creative Christmas

We are, as usual, planning to have a 'Creative Christmas' week. This year we are intending to have most activities that are based in the children's own class with some additional ones. If you are able to offer to help that week, we would be really grateful for the extra pairs of hands on some of the afternoons (week beginning 11.12.17).

Early morning drop-off

A reminder: please be aware that teaching staff do not supervise children before 8.30am, unless they attend breakfast club. Although I do try to be on the playground to greet children and their families early morning, I am not always there and am concerned that there may be a gap between parents dropping off and school supervision, when we might not know that a child is missing. Although we do check school registers, and confirm attendance if we have not heard from families when a child is absent, this may be done later in the morning as the office can be really busy first thing. Please review whether you are happy with the arrangements you have made for your children. I understand that older children are quite capable of making their own way to school but just want parents to be sure that younger pupils are not left vulnerable.

School Council news

We would like to raise some money for our two charities: Gaucher's Association and Pets as Therapy so are planning some events. The first of these is: 'Odd shoes and socks day' on 1st December. If your child would like to join in, they need to choose what they wear on their feet and bring in £1 to go towards our charities.

Violin concert (y4-6 only)

Parents and carers are invited to listen to the violinists (y4-6), who are taught by Helen Dromey, at 2.45pm on Wednesday, 6th December.

Christmas Journeys

We look forward to welcoming families to our Christmas Journeys on 15th December. We are ringing the changes this year by having Rother and Warren class presenting a nativity and journeying to the Roundhouse! Our year 6 may be recruited to help support their year R partners too but we need to see how rehearsals go before deciding. In order for this to work, we would be pleased to have some help during the day to set up gazebos and seating. We are also likely to need to borrow some things to make it successful. These include: waterproof gazebos/party tents, hay bales, microphones and Christmas lights. If you are able to help on the day or offer things on loan, we would be really pleased to hear from you - please contact the school office.

Key dates for your diary

Note: Inset days; PTFA events; new dates/ information added to calendar

We respectfully ask that you log the dates of the school calendar in your diaries as legislation does not permit us to authorise leave, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Therefore you are asked

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to take family breaks in school holidays only. The school website has the Absence policy, should you need clarification.

Autumn term 2017		
Week Beginning 20.11.17 -		
24.11.17	pm	Operation Christmas Child
	2.30pm	Sharing assembly - Rother (+Operation Christmas Child)
Week Beginning 27.11.17 Last week for most clubs		
1.12.17	All day	Odd sock and shoe day - £1 for charity
Week Beginning 4.12.17		
6.12.17	2.45pm	Y4-6 violin concert (parents/carers invited)
7.12.17	3.05- 3.45pm	Open classrooms
Week Beginning 11.12.17 (Creative Christmas)		
13.12.17	Midday	Christmas lunch in school
15.12.17	3.45pm	'Christmas Journeys'
Week beginning 18.12.17		
19.12.17	7pm	Carol singing around the village with Salvation Army
20.12.17	2.30pm	School Christingle service in Parish Church
20.12.17		Last day of term - please no book bags and any packed lunches in disposable containers. Children to be picked up from the church, please.
Spring Term 2018		
Week Beginning 1.1.18		
4.1.18		Back to school
Week Beginning 05.2.18		
9.2.18		Last day before half term holiday
Half term: 12.2.18 to 16.2.18		
19.2.18		Back to school
29.3.18	11am	Easter service (Congregational church)
		Last day of Spring term
2.4.18		Easter holiday
Summer Term 2018		
Week Beginning 16.4.18		
16.4.18		Back to school
Week Beginning 21.5.18		
25.5.18		Last day before half term holiday
Half term: 28.5.18 to 1.6.18		
Harting Festivities 28.5.18		
Week beginning 4.6.18		
4.6.18		INSET DAY
5.6.18		Back to school
Week Beginning 11.6.18		
14.6.18	pm	Sports day (tbc)
Week beginning 18.6.18		
20.6.18	pm	Reserve Sports day
22.6.18		INSET DAY
Week beginning 23.7.18		
24.7.18		Last day of school year + Leavers' service (Parish church)
25.7.18		Summer holiday starts

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