

# Harting Primary School Newsletter



## Message from the Head

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As a school, we have decided to review our homework policy and have looked at the research evidence to inform our decisions (<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework-primary/>). With this in mind, your children will be receiving a 'Wow' book to share their successes and practice of skills at home.

We would like you to continue to hear your children read and to read to your children at home. Increasingly, we are told that bedtime stories are still enjoyed but I-pads are favoured instead. Can we encourage you to be old-fashioned and share books with your children?

By sharing stories, children's language skills develop and it can induce sleepiness before settling down at night. Electronic light produced by devices, are, however, believed to prevent normal melatonin levels from changing which can induce poor sleep patterns. So avoiding computer time in the evening may be beneficial for the whole family as well as your child!

In addition to story times and reading, we would welcome the practising of basic maths knowledge e.g. quick addition and times table recall. This can often be done on a journey whilst you and your children are trapped! Your child might want to write down their practice in their 'Wow' book to show their expertise.

Practical maths can often be done readily at home. Cooking provides lots of mathematical opportunities e.g. weighing; time; multiplying/ratios of ingredients or patterns of multiplication (buns in a tray); fractions of different shapes when cutting up foods, etc. Shopping also offers chances to do maths (adding totals, counting money and working out change). Talking about the time can help children to begin to learn how to read it and is best done little and often.

We would love to see any writing your children choose to do in the books. They might like to write about some of the high spots in their lives e.g. a sports match in which they excelled.

Rather than setting formal homework, which has a debatable impact on learning, we hope that by providing these books the children will be inspired to show us what they enjoy doing and give them a chance to embed skills.

We look forward to seeing all sorts of things being recorded in the books - photos of art work or pictures stuck in; annotated sports successes; Lego models; science experiments, etc. It will be a chance to celebrate with our children!

Best wishes,

*Fiona*

Key Harting values: love and respect  
'Love others as yourself'  
Worship Theme: Temptation

### Conker competition - year 2 upwards.

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Several children dressed in an array of gloves, goggles and gloves to enjoy playing with conkers with varying degrees of success. For some of them, the most successful way of winning was to include the stamping rule as actually knocking conker against conker was far more difficult than anticipated. Despite only having sufficient time for one round of 'conkering', it was fun and there was plenty of laughter. Thank you for supporting this event.

### Greek day

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Torberry class enjoyed a day of feasting and Greek activities just before half-term. They arrived in splendid costumes and enjoyed tasting a huge range of foods. The children have begun to bring in and make items for their Ancient Greek museum.



### Application for reception places 2019

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Attached is the information for application for places to the school. We welcome children from a wide area, including surrounding Hampshire and West Sussex villages, along with those from Petersfield. The office staff is happy to help but the easiest method is to apply on-line: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions)

### Old sheets, duvet covers and packing boxes

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Rother class would welcome old sheets and duvet covers for den making. If you should have any they would be most grateful to receive them.

Thank you for sending in over-sized cardboard boxes - more welcome!

### Poetry Sharing

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Again, there is an annual focus on poetry this week. Instead of individual entries for the recital competition, classes are learning and sharing poetry which they will present at the sharing assembly this Friday. Do come and enjoy.

### 'Wow' book suggestions

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Maths: photograph some home-baking and the arrays (bun tins to show multiplication) and record calculation underneath e.g.  $4 \times 6 = 24$  or show workings out to double a recipe.

Writing: ask your child to create a shopping list, using first sounds or whole words, depending on their skills. Older children could write a blog.

DT: create a model and photograph

Art: Christmas card design

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Sports: Draw around a trophy or medal and ask your child to say (or write) how they won it or share a photograph of the activity and write why it was such fun.

### Information for parents - courses available to support families

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Coastal West Sussex MIND have arranged a range of events including:

- Emotional regulation;
- making sense of autism;
- making sense of anxiety (for children as well as a course for those with autism);
- information about ADHD;
- Autistic spectrum condition
- anxiety

along with a range of other wellbeing courses. If you are interested in any of these, details can be found at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/coastal-west-sussex-mind-8288439768>

### Spotlight on safeguarding

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NSPCC assemblies were well received by the children and helped raise their awareness of how to stay safe.

The website link below looks really good. It is **recommended by the police** to help parents keep in touch with the latest digital trends - this may be a way of keeping ahead of your children and knowing how to protect them:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/advice/parent-guides>

### Operation Christmas Child

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This year we plan to collect gifts for more needy children across the world. Please see the flier attached below for further information.

### New lunch menu

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The new hot lunch menu started this week and will continue until Easter 2019. Please view the website for details: <https://westsussex.mealselector.co.uk/Page/149/Menus.html>

### Key dates for your diary

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

Sharing assemblies are for all families to attend if they wish.

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

### Events for Autumn term

Autumn term 2018		
Week Beginning 29.10.18		
29.10.18	Back to school	
2.11.18	2.30pm PM	Poetry sharing assembly – all classes present (all welcome) Y3 Forest School
Week Beginning 5.11.18		
7.11.18	Eve	Rotary club concert at MRC – strings players

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Issue 4: 1.11.18

9.11.18	11am PM	Remembrance at memorial MRC Hockey Y3 Forest school
Week Beginning 12.11.18		
13.11.18	Pm/eve	Parents eve: Warren/Downlands/Torberry/Beacon
14.11.18	Pm/eve	Later parents eve: Warren/Downlands/Torberry/Beacon
16.11.18	2.30 pm PM Eve	Sharing assembly – Torberry and Downlands Y3 Forest School Open Mic
Week Beginning 19.11.18		
23.11.18	PM	Last Forest School y3
Week Beginning 26.11.18 Last week for most clubs		
28.11.18	PM	Y5/6 football Bedales
30.11.18	2.30pm	Operation Christmas Child + assembly
Week Beginning 3.12.18		
03.12.18	AM	Posada figures in assembly
6.12.18	2.30-3.15pm	Open classrooms
Week Beginning 10.12.18 (Creative Christmas)		
14.12.18	Pm	PTFA gift and wrap
	3.45pm	KS1 nativity
Week beginning 17.12.18		
18.12.18	7pm	Carol singing around the village with Salvation Army
19.12.18	2.30pm	Christingle Service
		Last day of term

Dates for 2019	
3.1.19	First day back after Christmas
15.2.19	<b>INSET DAY</b>
18.2.19	Half-term holiday starts
25.2.19	First day back after half-term
5.4.19	Last day of Spring term
8.4.19	Easter holiday
23.4.19	First day back after Easter
6.5.19	Bank holiday
27.5.19	Half-term holiday starts
3.6.19	First day back after half-term
21.6.19	<b>INSET DAY</b>
23.7.19	Last day of school year
24.7.19	Summer holiday starts

[Information about Operation Christmas Child - from Marylou Thistleton-Smith](#)

As you may know Harting Primary School has a long tradition of taking part in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child appeal which you can learn more about via this link:

<https://youtu.be/KcOrtVxYBi0>.

On 30<sup>th</sup> November the children will all have an opportunity to fill a shoe box for a child somewhere in the world who will be given it for Christmas. These boxes, filled with goodies, which needn't be expensive, help bring joy to children across the globe whose lives are affected by war, disease, famine and disaster and for whom Christmas is nothing like our own. This is an unconditional gift of love, regardless of background or religion and makes a massive difference to the lives of innocent children in unimaginable circumstances.

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In order to do this, we ask everyone to donate as many items as they can for the appeal to put in the shoe boxes. Please see the list below of do's and don'ts:

	✓	✗
<b>TOYS</b>	Cuddly toys, dolls, vehicles, skipping rope, yo-yos, balls, small puzzles, musical instruments, bits of Lego	Nothing related to war or military, no guns or knives, no playing cards, no battery-operated toys, nothing sharp or fragile, no handmade or knitted stuffed toys
<b>STATIONERY</b>	Pens, colouring pencils, sharpener, erasers, crayons, felt pens, stamp & ink pad sets, writing pads, notebooks, colouring & picture books, solar calculators	Nothing used or damaged, no battery-operated calculators, no scissors
<b>HYGIENE</b>	New toothbrushes & toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, combs, hairbrushes, flannels	No liquids or lotions including bubbles, no medicines, nothing sharp
<b>WARMTH</b>	Hats, caps, gloves, scarves, sunglasses,	No other clothing other than listed, no socks, nothing dirty
<b>EDIBLE</b>	Sweets in sealed packets – must have best before date of March 2019 or after	Chocolate, food
<b>OTHER</b>	Wind up torches, jewellery, hair clips	Nothing sharp or fragile

With this list in mind, we ask that you start to collect donations – either by going through the toys and bits at home, or by throwing a few extra things in your basket when you're next at the pound shop - and empty your amazing generosity into the large boxes that will be placed inside each classroom and in the lobby, from Monday 29th October and leading right up to the event on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**PLEASE NOTE:** this is not an opportunity for fly tipping as all donations need to be new or as new and in good working order

This is a fantastic event that the children really enjoy and an emotional day for those involved - it's also a great opportunity for us all to give something back at such an important time of year.

Any questions or want to be more involved? Contact Marylou

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