

## NEWSLETTER

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

### Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents/Carers

What a busy term we've had. We're almost ready to break up for Christmas and a well-earned break. The children have worked so hard this term, both in the classroom and in various performances and curriculum events. We're very proud of all they have achieved – thank you to families for coming along to support the children this term.

#### Christmas Concert at St John's



Last Friday, over one hundred children took part in a Christmas Concert at St John's Church. Our school choir, Year 5 and 6 brass, ukulele and violin clubs, soloists and small groups on guitar, flute, violin and piano provided musical entertainment.

The programme included some festive numbers, a little jazz, Caribbean and German pieces and an Irish jig. We have so much talent at our school – it was a joy to hear the youngsters all under one roof, in such a beautiful building.

Thank you to parents/carers for coming to the concert, and also for encouraging your children to practise throughout the year!

#### Choir on High Peak Radio

Our school choir have taken part in the High Peak Radio schools' choir competition. Please click on the link to vote for us: [Vote here](#)

#### The Snowman

The infants went to the Octagon last week to watch a performance of The Snowman, accompanied by a live orchestra. The children learned about the different instruments and also heard pieces from The Nutcracker.



## Ned's Christmas Discovery

A huge well done to all the children who performed in our infant Nativity, 'Ned's Christmas Discovery'. It was a heart-warming tale about a little donkey who was searching for what Christmas is all about. Thank you to families for joining us – we hope you enjoyed it!



## Festive Entertainment for the Residents

Last Thursday, we had a visit from some of our neighbours, Harpur residents, WI members, grandparents and friends of our school. Year 5 and 6 welcomed the guests and everyone enjoyed a cup of tea and a mince pie, followed by songs and performances from the infant nativity, the choir and musicians. Some of our guests were also former students of the school and had a quick tour of our school after the show.

## Learning for Life Awards



Last week was our Learning for Life Awards assembly. A huge well done to all the children who received Learning for Life Awards for determination, confidence, growth mind-set and reading. Super Learning for Life!

## Bronze STARS Award

In November, we were presented with a Bronze level STARS award for our efforts to increase levels of walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable transport on the journey to school. Well done, everyone!

Michael Reardon, Senior Transport Officer for Derbyshire, presented the award to our Head Boy and Girl and members of Buxton Town Team came into a special assembly where they sang a song about walking to school.

In the New Year, we will be promoting walking to school, cycling, car sharing and park and stride to reduce congestion on the roads near school and play our part in reducing carbon emissions.

## Finally...

On behalf of everyone at Harpur Hill Primary School and Nursery, I would like to thank you for supporting our wonderful school. We wish you a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2020!

## Mrs V Giliker (Headteacher)



| Class or Year           | Next term's learning journey topic and books of interest  |
|-------------------------|---|
| Nursery                 | 'Cold Habitats'<br>Books - Gruffalo's Child, The Emperor's Egg, Snow Cloud, Cave Baby and Polar Bear Polar Bear What do you Hear? |
| Elephants and Flamingos | 'Frozen'<br>Books - Winnie in Winter<br>What can you see in Winter?<br>Animals in Winter<br>The Last Polar Bear                   |
| Jolly Giraffes          | 'Why did people want to explore the Antarctic?'<br>Books - a range of non-fiction books linked to Polar Animals                   |
| Year 2                  | 'Can we get around the world in 30 days?'<br>Books - various stories from different cultures.                                     |
| Year 3 & Year 4         | 'What Makes the Earth Angry?'<br>Book - Escape from Pompeii by Christine Balit  |
| Year 5                  | 'How did the Shang Dynasty fall?'<br>Books - The Firework Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman                                      |
| Year 6                  | 'Were the Vikings always victorious and vicious?'<br>Books - Viking Boy by Tony Bradman<br>Viking Myths and Legends.              |

## Traffic and Safety

Please could we remind you to park safely and responsibly near school. We have had reports of parents parking cars that have blocked/obstructed the roundabouts outside school and this makes it dangerous for children and other drivers. Please keep your speed to a minimum.



## Class News

### Christingle at St James' Church

Elephant and Flamingo classes have had a fantastic time learning about Christmas and Christingles. We made our own Christingles in school, then walked to our local church, St James', where we had a short service and sang some songs. Reverend Liz led the special service just for us and told us all about the Christmas Story. Thank you to all the parents that helped too - a wonderful afternoon!

Thank you to Morrisons for donating the oranges!



### Jolly Giraffes

The Jolly Giraffes enjoyed the topic, 'Where do the Leaves go in Winter?' They've loved reading the story 'Can't you Sleep Little Bear?' and produced some super independent work. They enjoyed the 'Bear Cave' role play area and worked collaboratively in pairs to make their own bear caves, inspired by the story.

### Year 2

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their topic this half term about the Victorian times. We have learned all about Victorian toys, hobbies, clothing and transport. We even dressed up in Victorian costume and the children experienced a Victorian school day. To finish off this exciting topic, we had a visit from the 'History Van' who taught us all about the origins of our Christmas traditions today and gave us an insight into how the Victorians celebrated Christmas.



### Year 3

In Year 3 this half term the children have enjoyed learning about 'Who First Lived in Britain?' finding out about the Stone Age and early Bronze Age. They have read Stone Age Boy, Stone Girl Bone Girl and How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth. Children have created some wonderful cave art and silhouette paintings of Stonehenge. We finished our topic with a wonderful day with Katherine from the History Van entitled 'Surviving the Stone Age', where they lived the lives of early hunter-gatherers, discovered how they found and prepared food, made clothes and tools, kept warm, communicated, traded and what they believed.



They used stone tools, made stone-headed arrows, practised 'spear' throwing, cleaned animal skins, hammered guts and as they began to settle to farming they milked 'sheep', ground corn and wove sticks to make housing. They identified 12,000 year-old bones to discover what animals lived there at that time and made cave art paintings from ground stone.

## Year 4 Stone Age

Year 4 pupils have shown commendable interest and enthusiasm for our Stone Age topic. We have made tools from wood and stone, gathered from the woods next to school. We have developed the skills of drawing texture and tone when sketching pictures of our tools. We have written stories and diaries based on lifestyles in the neolithic era. We understand the importance of preserving Skare Brae and Stonehenge. Our topic concluded with Surviving the Stone Age; a full day of learning experiences with a visit from The History Van.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in encouraging your children to engage in topic home-learning, and in completing homework weekly, it really does make a difference.



## Year 5

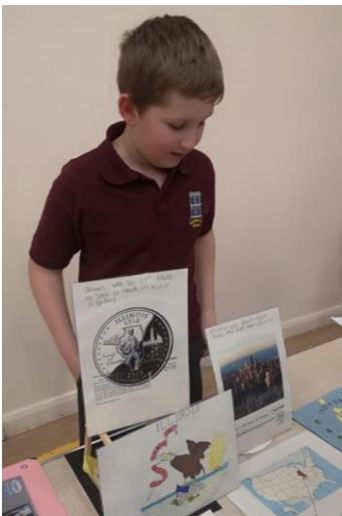
This term, in Year 5, we have been learning about the English Civil war as part of our topic “Why should gunpowder, treason and plot never be forgotten?”



During these history lessons, the children have learned about Guy Fawkes' gunpowder plot and the part that this played in the Civil War and the overthrowing of the monarchy by Oliver Cromwell. We have learned about the role of parliament and have taken part in debates as well as writing to persuade. In English, we have been reading Wonder by R.J Palacio. The children have thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and writing various pieces, including poetry and their own story in the style of the author.

We have also had our first design and technology unit, where children have learned sewing skills in order to create a felt phone-case. The children have been learning how to do calligraphy writing in order to make their Christmas cards! We look forward to our next term, where we will be learning all about the Shang Dynasty!

## Year 6 American Exhibition



Year 6 have been learning about America this term. They have read the book, 'Holes' by Louis Sachar and written some great stories in the style of the book.

Children worked in groups to research the geography of the USA, including famous buildings and landmarks. They designed and built models of them, using maths, design and technology skills.



They presented their projects in an exhibition for families in the hall. This included tasting a Mississippi mud pie – delicious!



## Team Harpur (PFTA)

A big thank you to Team Harpur PFTA, for all of their voluntary hard work throughout the year!

The Christmas Fair was very successful; everyone enjoyed the tombolas, craft stalls, hot dogs and mulled wine! We had some very special raffle prizes too!

Today (19<sup>th</sup>) the children had an exciting time with face painting, glitter tattoos, a visit from Father Christmas; each child received a present and had a special 'snow ball' fight in the hall!

All this was only possible because of our Team Harpur. All money received in any events are paid into the school fund account to help with the cost of hiring coaches for trips and much more. If you would like to help our Team Harpur (PTFA) in any way please let our office staff know, thank you.

## Sport

We have had a great second half term with physical education and sports here at Harpur.

Nursery have been focusing on their motor skills through fun, exciting games, looking at how to balance and travel around equipment safely.

Infant children have been working on their football and rugby skills working towards playing mini games of each sport.

Our Year 3 and 4 children have worked with our dance coach, CC using their Stone Age topic to explore dance routines, with their other lesson being volleyball.

Lastly our Year 5 and 6 children explored 2 new sports volleyball and dodgeball, again focusing on specific skills needed to play competitive games. Our half term ended with fantastic dodgeball tournaments for each class!

We have also had a busy half term with tournaments wise in spite of the weather. Unfortunately, our cross country finals date was cancelled twice and will be rearranged for next year when the weather improves.



Our Day of Dance kicked things off with 12 of our children attending Buxton Community School for a whole day.

They worked through cheerleading, contemporary ballroom and musical theatre before choosing one and performing in the afternoon.

We then attended a Boccia Christmas event at Chapel High School which was fantastic. One of our teams got through to the quarter finals and just lost out on a semi-final place.



Just last week we were at the Pavilion Gardens' swimming pool for the Christmas swimming event which our children loved. There were visits from Santa's elves and some fun swimming races. We can't wait for next year's already!

Next half term we have hockey and basketball in P.E. for the infants with netball and basketball for the juniors.

This should help us prepare for our basketball competition in February!

## **Administration**

### **Flu Vaccinations**

If you registered online with the NHS for your child to have a flu vaccination in school, these have now been administered. If your child did not receive their spray in school and you wish for your child to have the vaccination, please contact your doctor for advice.

### **Communication**

The school website lists our diary dates. You can sync the school calendar with your mobile phone to keep you up to date of our planned school activities simply by using our mobile app.

### **Head Lice**

We have had a few head lice in school. The break from school will be a good time to check and treat your child's hair if necessary in readiness for the new term. Thank you.

### **Uniform**

We would like to ask all parents to kindly make sure that all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name. We have a lot of lost property and find it difficult, without names, to find the owner.

### **Eduspot – Teachers to Parents Security Update**

At SchoolMoney, the security of schools and parents is a top priority. Eduspot have released an update which helps to keep parent accounts protected.

#### What will change?

Parents' daily use of SchoolMoney will not be affected. When a parent logs in, if they have not yet changed their temporary password they will be prompted to do so before they continue. Their new password will have to conform to our minimum password requirements: at least 8 characters long, containing at least one number, and containing at least one uppercase letter. If the parent does not wish to change their password at this time, they may log out. However, they will be required to change their password if they wish to continue and use their account to make payments, bookings, etc.

#### How will this affect parents?

Parents who have not yet changed their temporary password will be asked to change their password on login. Parents who have already changed their password will not be affected. All parents will still be able to change their password at any time by clicking the 'Change Password' button in the top right corner of their account.

## Online Safety

With the season of goodwill upon us, it is an ideal time for everyone (especially parent/carers) to brush up on their children's online safety. Lots of children access at least one electronic device capable of connecting to the internet. Whilst these devices can give countless hours of entertainment, there can also be hidden dangers if the children have inadequate protection. This protection can take various forms, such as an informal chat with a trusted adult or an update of your own security systems. If you would like additional advice regarding this, DCC have provided the school with this useful link:

<https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/news/12-days-of-christmas-online-safety.aspx>

### Dates for your diary (subject to change)

|                                     |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December    | End of term   | School closes as 3.30pm                            |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January      | Staff INSET day   |  |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January     | Start of a new term   |  |
| Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February  | Reception and Year 6<br>NHS height and weight<br>to be recorded |  |
| Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February  | Visit from author –<br>Ruth Eastham                             | KS2 assembly and workshops                         |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February   | Year 4 topic presentation                                       | Information to follow                              |
| Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February   | Year 6 Viking Day   | Parent workshop at 1.30pm                          |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February | Team Harpur (PTFA)<br>Valentine's disco                         | 3.45 - 4.45pm Nursery and KS1<br>5.00 – 6.00pm KS2 |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February | Reception NHS vision check                                      |  |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February  | End of term   | School closes at 3.30pm                            |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February    | Staff INSET day   |  |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February    | Start of a new term   |  |