Harpley CofE Primary School

United. Resilient. Respectful.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

'I will instruct you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.' Psalm 32:8

Dear Parents/Carers,

It hardly seems like five minutes ago that term was starting. Now we are five weeks in and the children are settled into their new year groups, including our new reception children. Keystage 2 children have enjoyed a trip to Norwich castle (thank you to Miss Harrold for organising this as our federation history lead), parent cafes have begun with the first of Harpley's this week (year 3/4 reading cafe), and the first of Great Massingham's next Wednesday (Years R/1/2).

Harvest festivals are on the horizon. Please see the dates for your school below. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Collective worship:

The children have been working on humility as their collective worship theme but will move onto preparations for the harvest festivals from next week. They will begin to learn about the purpose and meaning of harvest and why we celebrate.

'For those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great' - Luke 18: 14

Attendance:

Our whole school attendance from 3.9.26 -1.10.26 is as follows.

- Great Massingham 97.77%
- Harpley 94.41%

This is an excellent start. Thank you to all our families for getting your children into school and on time.

Free schools meals:

The criteria for this has changed. If you are unsure if you are eligible or not please visit the office and we will be happy to help you.

I am free school meals anyway - my child is in year R/1 or 2. School receive additional funding for all children who are eligible for free school meals, even if they would receive them anyway. This money helps us support our children so please do still apply.

Time for tea in church.

Many thanks to those families who joined us for time for tea in church this half term. The Purfleet Trust (a charity supporting the homeless) in King's Lynn was the recipient of the hygiene boxes the children made and Miss Makins kindly dropped these off. The trust will be arranging to come into our schools to talk more about their work later this term. We have made a slight tweak to arrangements to enable children to use the free choice time in church more effectively, while tea and cake is being served and enjoyed.

Our next date for tea in church is Friday 11th December 1.30-3.30pm

Parent Marketplace Café

Is on Thursday 22nd October 2.00-3.30pm.
A range of professionals, including Schools and Community Team and FamilyHub. We will post more details of who is attending as soon as possible.

The amphitheatre:

Our school amphitheatre has been out of use for children for some time due to the need of significant repair/replacement. The structure is unsafe and replacement costs are out of our budget. Repairing in sections was considered but this is also too expensive and would take a significant amount of time to complete. School has to work within Norfolk County Council guidelines for repairs, installations and removals. Whilst the amphitheatre is attractive, it has limited uses. After careful consideration and consultation with the school's surveyor, it has been decided to remove it and replace it with a wildflower bank.

Benefits:

- Curriculum links. We await the details of the new national curriculum, but knowing and naming wild flora is currently a curriculum area. The science curriculum has units around habitats, biodiversity, seasonal change, knowing and naming plants, structures of plants and lifecycles and so on. This would support outdoor learning and these curriculum areas.
- Easy and affordable to maintain going forward - Replenishing seed when species out compete each other is very straightforward, quick to resolve and affordable.
- Climate action plan- teaching children about caring for the planet, providing for pollinators and supporting wildlife such as birds, butterflies/moths and insects, is a requirement and essential learning. The wildflower bank would significantly attract pollinators and other insect species. This would support our action plan.
- Opportunities for participation in wide nature projects such as the 'make a metre matter' initiative.

I will keep you informed of when work will begin and it is intended to involve all our families in the initial planting when that time comes.

Staff recognition:

Congratulations to Miss Harrold and Mrs Fisher on their recent nominations for staff recognition. They have both received a personal letter from the chair of governors and I'm sure you will join me in echoing thanks for their hard work and commitment.

Kind regards and have a lovely weekend,

Hilary Myhill
Executive Headteacher

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Online safety news

The NSPCC have created a quiz to test your child's knowledge on how to stay safe online. It's a great way to start a conversation with your child about their online life. You can access the quiz here: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keepingchildren-safe/online-safety/quiz/

New toolkit from parentkind. Search under 'for parents' to also see links to webinars on how to keep children safe online. https://www.parentkind.org.uk/online-safety-toolkit#

From the government guidance: These resources will support you to talk to your child about a range of online safety issues, set up home filtering in a child-friendly way and set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices:

● *Thinkuknow* by the National Crime Agency - Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (NCA-CEOP) - resources for parents and carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online

● *Childnet* has developed guidance for parents and carers to begin a conversation about online safety, as well as guidance on keeping under-fives safe online

● Parent Info is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP - support and guidance for parents and carers related to the digital world from leading experts and organisations

● National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) - guidance for parents and carers to help keep children safe online

● UK Safer Internet Centre - tips and advice for parents and carers to keep children safe online - you can also report any harmful content found online through the UK Safer Internet Centre

● Inclusive Digital Safety Hub and Online Safety Hub, created by South West Grid for Learning in partnership with Internet Matters - support and tailored advice for young people with additional learning needs and their parents or carers

● Parents' Guide to Age Ratings explains how the British Board of Film Classification rates content, and gives parents advice on choosing online content well.

Youtube - what you should consider.

● YouTube Kids – a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age category you select: Preschool (ages 4 and under), Younger (ages 5–8) or Older (ages 9–12).

● Supervised accounts – a parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access. You can select one of the following options:

Explore - Generally for viewers aged 9+.

Explore more - Generally for viewers aged 13+

Most of YouTube - This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+. Find out more:

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420

What do I need to be aware of? Potential YouTube risks:

● Inappropriate content

● Excessive Screentime – particularly due to the autoplay feature.

● Unwanted contact / cyberbullying – particularly via comments if your child is sharing videos.

● Algorithms – algorithms influence what we see to keep us engaged. This can lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.

● Adverts that may not be aimed at or suitable for your child's age.

What can I do?

● Set up appropriate parental controls.

● Show your child the reporting and blocking tools available.

● Watch YouTube together or supervise use.

● Further information https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-searchengines/youtube-app/