

Welcome to Mrs Davies'
weekly newsletter

The Voice



10th March 2017

Note from the Chair of Governors

Dear Harpenden Academy Community

I wanted to let you all know that my family and I are off for a 2 year adventure to New Zealand, swapping the turf mound for some rather grander, snow-capped mountains. I am therefore stepping down from the Governing Body at the end of this term, handing over to our excellent Vice Chair Geoff Newman until new elections are held at our May Board meeting.

I have had the enormous privilege to be part of the Harpenden Academy team since its inception, and have seen my own and my girls' lives transformed by the experience. Our shared vision to 'celebrate children, leading and learning', has guided us throughout; and our whole community has learned perhaps as much as our children over these 5 years - about the challenges and rewards of starting something so precious from scratch.

I would like to thank so very many of you for your incredible support - including the many Governors who volunteered their professionalism, time and emotions, and had the bravery to make tough decisions that always put the children first.

Over these past 5 years, I have seen the HA community at its very strongest, coming together in the interests of our children to create a truly magical school. And I can see that is happening once again now we have a stable foundation, the clarity of direction and catalysed progress under the leadership of Mrs Davies and within the Trust family.

I will miss the magic, but look forward to seeing what spells you have all conjured together when we return.

Emma Kissack
Chair of Governors

Dear Parents,

Well what a fabulous week the children and staff have had during Science week.

The learning the children have experienced over the past 5 days has been quite phenomenal. The children have absorbed knowledge and concepts like sponges. Teachers and visitors have been impressed by the children's knowledge, behaviour and thirst for learning. They have been a credit to you as parents and to us as a school.



Teeth: Year 4 learning about being Dentists and mixing the formula to make impression paste and a set of teeth.



Energy: The children cycle to see how much energy they need to expend to boil the water to make a cup of tea.



Year 1 investigate which materials **float and sink**.



Year 3 learnt how different elements burn different colours and the **science behind fireworks**.



Moondome visited us and Reception-Year 3 gazed at star constellations and planets in the solar system.



Learning about forces



Year 6 heart dissection

Reception took part in a finger printing workshop with Mark!

Family Challenge Evening

Thank you to all parents and families who attended this event—we believe we had over 160 people in the hall on Tuesday night to make Formula 1 race cars.

The level of competition was high as was the quality of the cars - with the winning car travelling over 10m powered by only electric bands!

The lovely Mark will return next year with more Scientific excitement for us all! Watch this space.

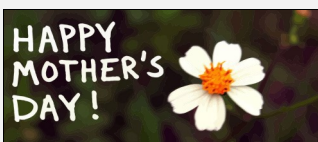


Mother's Day Breakfast, Friday 24th March

On Friday, 24th March we will be holding a Mother's Day breakfast in the library after assembly. The FoHA will be providing tea, coffee, orange juice and croissants. I do hope you can come and join us on the Friday to celebrate our Mums!



Mother's Day Flower Sale, Friday 24th March



The FoHA are also organising a plant sale so children can buy a potted plant for their Mum, Grandparent, Aunt or significant lady in their life. The plants will be for sale in the school hall for £1.00 each. Please send your child to school with some money for a plant which will come in a bag, labelled and ready for Mothering Sunday on 26th March.



Red Nose Day 2017

This year we will be supporting Red Nose Day on **Friday 24th March**. On the day itself everyone is invited to dress up in **RED** for a minimum donation of £1 per person and to bring in their red noses.

Class Assembly dates: 9.00-9.30am. All Parents/Carers welcome.

Date	Class
Monday 13 th March	Elmer Year 1 (9.15-9.30)
Monday 27 th March	Potter-Kipling Year 3
Friday 5 th May	Ladybirds Reception
Monday 15 th May	Dahl Year 4/5
Monday 12 th June	Austen Y4
Monday 26 th June	Aslan and BFG Y1/2
Friday 14 th July	Shakespeare Y6

FOHA WEEKLY UPDATE

Thank you so much to parents who have been donating Easter eggs and chocolate across the week: what an amazing response! I hope you are looking forward to seeing the Easter Hampers our reps in BFG and Dahl have been tasked with creating for the raffle – don't forget to buy a ticket.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to help at the Egg Hunt so far, **we really need some help 9-10 (or earlier) on Saturday 1 April or 2-4 pm on Friday 31 March**, to move some heavy furniture in the cricket club - so any Dads (or Mums) out there who fancy volunteering - please get in touch via Classlist (with Geraldine).

We now have 95% of parents with one or more parents on Classlist – a fabulous level of take up and one which even the founders have been really surprised with – well done parents and if you aren't on board yet – please come, it's such a useful tool for parents. We are planning a Classlist surgery if there is any interest, where parents can ask questions and have things demonstrated in the library at pick up – please talk to your class rep if you are interested.

Checkmate!

Velko in Year 5 won himself a 'Go set' playing in the Cambridge Novices Go Tournament last weekend. He was a credit to the school showing bravery and boundlessness as he was drawn against the strongest player in the tournament for his first match! He persevered and applied some of the things he learned from early losses and won his fourth match, securing a magnetic 'Go set' for his prize.

Velko was by far the newest Go player in the tournament and learned a lot about the game and competing. I know he rightly felt very proud of his efforts and I was delighted by the growth mindset he brought to each game.

Congratulations Velko!

Pierre

Harpenden Academy Fun Run Thursday 30th March

On Thursday 30th March 9.15 – 10.15am the children of Harpenden Academy will be taking part in a fun run organised by the Year 6 children. The run is part of our whole school **Small Acts of Kindness** project in which each class is leading a local community project, from taking old toys to a local charity shop to singing at a local old people's home. Year 6 have been learning about refugees as part of their **Around the World in Eighty Days** topic and were inspired to take action to support refugee children who often lose months, if not years, of their education.



One of our former pupil's parents set up a school to support children on the border of Sudan and Uganda so he is coming in to talk to Year 6 next week about the valuable work his school does; the money from the run will be donated to his school.

A quote from Louis' dad, Neil Upton, "Unity College International was opened at Nimule on the border of north west Uganda and south Sudan to help children with no chance of secondary education to learn and be able to use the knowledge to improve their lives and those of others in South Sudan and Uganda. The money raised will be used to help support the school and is really appreciated."

Year 6 will be running the event and providing treats to buy afterwards.

Who? All children and parents of Harpenden Academy

What? Fun run (approx. 1km for Reception and KS1 and approx. 2.5km for KS2 and adults)

Where? Rothamsted Park by the skate park (leaving school with parent volunteers at 9am and returning 10am for KS1 and 10.30am for KS2)

How much? £1 for children and £2 for adults and £1 for post – race treats. All managed raised will go to supporting the Unity College International in Uganda

Year 5 and 6 Football Tournament

Ten of our Year 5 and 6 children participated in a football tournament at Wood End School on Monday. They did us proud. They conducted themselves incredibly well, showed great enthusiasm and motivation and they were good sports throughout. Although the results were not in our favour on this occasion, it was a great success that we were there representing the school for the first time in a competitive football event.



Kit

We would like to have a school football kit for our Year 3 and 4 squad and for our Year 5 and 6 squad. Can you help? Please see the letter on the next page regarding kit and contact us if you think you could support in any way. Thank you!

Dear Parent,

We are pleased to announce that we have joined the Kits4Schools program.

Kits4Schools seeks to provide every school child in the UK, learning or playing competitive sports for their schools, with a high quality branded kit to play in. This comes at no cost at all to the school or parents with children at the school.

Kits 4 Schools provide the kits by raising sponsorship from local and national businesses.

If you own or work for a business that chooses to sponsor a set of kits, your name and logo will appear on the shirt of every player in the team that has been sponsored for the school year.

Every parent/guardian with a child at the school will be informed of your support and your business name and logo will be added to the Kits 4 Schools website. This will form part of your company's CSR (Corporate and Social Responsibility), and you will benefit from the positive PR generated by participating as a sponsor.

Kits are sponsored on a first come first served basis, and sponsorship lasts as long as the kits remain at the school.

We are really excited about this great initiative and would welcome parents with businesses or those that work for local businesses getting involved to show their support.

Attached is a document detailing the corporate benefits of sponsoring a school through the Kits4Schools program.

Kits 4 Schools can be contacted directly on 020 8736 0036 or by email at info@kits4schools.co.uk

For more information, please visit www.kits4schools.co.uk.

On behalf of the school and it's pupils, we thank you for your support.

The Kits4Schools Team.!



Why sponsor a school through the! Kits4Schools program?

Year long brand awareness:

Your brand on the school kit(s) for a minimum of one school year, seen by parents and teachers at every competitive/inter-school game, as well as a listing on the Kits4Schools site and a letter! issued to the school to hand to parents.

Positive PR:

By supporting young people and schools you are able to benefit from the PR opportunity it presents, liaising with local press to boost your company profile. You will also benefit from the PR generated on a national level for the Kits4Schools program.

Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) through! Community Engagement:

CSR is the buzz word of the moment and businesses of all sizes are encouraged and expected to play their part. One of the biggest areas of CSR is community engagement, and supporting local schools is a great way to demonstrate a positive CSR effort and benefit your local environment.

Supporting young people:

It is now more important than ever to support young people and the Kits4Schools program is designed to encourage the respect learned through representing their school and experience the benefits of being part of a team.

Kits4Schools is a low cost, tax deductible way to support a local school and it's pupils in tough economic times.

For more information, or to get involved by sponsoring a school, please call us on 020 8736 0036 or email us at info@kits4schools.co.uk.! ! Alternatively, you can find out more about the program by visiting us online at www.kits4schools.co.uk.

We thank you for your time reading this.

The Kits4Schools Team.



Training

We have an exciting opportunity to train on the fields at Sir John Lawes Secondary School starting after the Easter holiday. Year 2 children will continue to train on Monday mornings at Harpenden Academy but the older children need to train outdoors to replicate real match conditions.

George Lappas (see biography below) will continue to be involved with coaching and our PE teachers Richard Barlow and Chris Walker will also support coaching when they do not have fixtures to attend at Samuel Ryder Academy. We are also hoping A-Level PE students from Sir John Lawes will be involved – we will keep you posted on this. However, in order for this training to take place we need at least four adults. **If you can commit to helping on Tuesdays between 3.45 and 5pm, please let us know ASAP via the office (office@harpendenacademy.org).**

This opportunity all hinges on parental support!

Katharine Haines

George Lappas Biography

George Lappas is a UEFA A Licence Football coach who has been coaching professionally for 20 years. George has worked previously for QPR, Fulham FC and Watford FC and is currently Senior Opposition Scout and Player Recruitment Scout for a Sky Bet Championship Club. He has a track record of coaching and developing professional and international football players including: Raheem Sterling (Manchester City FC, England), Joshua & Jacob Murphy (Norwich City, England U21s), Reece Mitchell Chesterfield FC, England U16), Tafari Moore (Arsenal, England U19s), Jordan Browne (West Ham, England U16). George has studied coaching home and abroad for many years, visiting clubs including PSV Eindhoven, Ajax and Panathinaikos FC.



And finally..

The Festival of the Written & Spoken Word has come to an end along with the sponsored 100 reads. Mrs Hart has set up the Parentpay for sponsored reading money. I will be sure to feedback on the final amount we have raised once we have collected all the money in.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Family Forest School day on Saturday, 18th March at The Oval. I am waiting for Shaun Herbert to send me details of the wonderful program of events he has organised. In the meantime please block out the date in your diaries: Saturday, 18th March at Highfield Oval, 12.30-3.30pm.

Have a lovely weekend

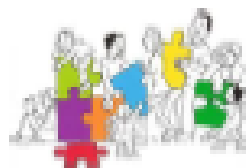
Mrs Davies

FAMILY LINKS: PARENTING CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL OR SPECIAL NEEDS



A free, 10 week parenting course run by the St Albans Educational Partnership aimed at Parents and Carers of children with additional and special needs. Parenting Puzzle is a popular, award winning parenting course, with two experienced and qualified facilitators, Nikki Howes and Sarah Ellis, one of whom also parents a young person with Autism and challenging behaviour. Ten sessions of two hours sharing tried and tested techniques and strategies to effectively parent children with a range of additional needs. Topics include:

- The four constructs for successful relationships and confident parenting
- Positive discipline
- Praising effectively
- Helping our children grow and develop
- The effect of labelling
- Giving appropriate choices and consequences
- How to help our children stay safe
- Which behaviour can we ignore



Both courses begin on **Wednesday 26th April 2017**

followed by

May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, June 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th & July 5th

10am-12am

(free crèche provided – please book)

@ Fleetville Infants School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW

6.30pm-8.30pm

@ St Albans Girls School, Sandridgebury Lane, AL3 6DB

Crèche and venues
provided by



www.stalbanseps.org

www.dspl7.org.uk



Courses funded
by



10 weeks

**Morning and Evening
sessions so that both
parents can attend**

**Free crèche provided
in the morning by
DSPL7**

**Free parenting book
to take away**

Peer support

**To book a FREE
place**

contact Liz King

01727 853134

or

stalbanseps@gmail.com

