

Welcome to Mrs Davies'
weekly newsletter



12th May 2017

The Voice



Dear Parents

This week saw the first ever Year 6 SATs for Harpenden Academy children. The week passed off with relative ease and excitement for the children who positively beamed as they came into school.

The children's approach to the KS2 SATs was one of calmness and positivity. We are all very proud of them all.

I would like to formally thank the Year 6 team, Mrs Watson, Miss Curtis and Mrs Storey, who have supported the children with kindness and advice in equal measure.



I would also like to thank the parents of the Year 6 children who took the time to come to school each morning with a nutritious breakfast for the children. It was very kind of you to support the children and the Year 6 team at what could have been a stress point.

I will leave the final word to Mrs Watson below....

This week we have had our first ever KS2 SATs and Year 6 have risen to the challenge fantastically, smiling (and eating!) their way through the week! Each day has started with a SATs breakfast party with delicious snacks and drinks provided by the parents and exciting team building games organised by Mrs Watson, Mrs Story and Alice. Fuelled with healthy food and laughter, the children have remained calm, focused and incredibly positive throughout the tests and have supported and encouraged each other brilliantly. We could not be prouder - well done Shakespeare class



I'm sure there are lots of shattered children this morning but hopefully all feeling proud of themselves.

We had a lovely post-SATs celebration in the park yesterday with rounders, football, zip wire, party poppers and ice cream. Thank you parents for coming along to join us and to the sunshine for brightening our afternoon.

I also wanted to thank Miss Curtis and Mrs Storey for all their hard work, organisation and encouragement with SATs booster classes, SATs attack sessions and the actual test administration this week- a huge amount of time and energy has been invested. In addition I would like to thank Susan Leggott as parent volunteer for supporting our SATs attack afternoon sessions over the past couple of months- your help was invaluable.

Thank you parents for keeping SATs stress-free for your wonderful children- not only have they survived SATs week, they've thrived throughout it!

Have a wonderful weekend

Mrs Watson



Year 6 popping party poppers to celebrate the end of SATs

Football

On Tuesday, a team of Year 3 and 4 children participated in a football tournament at Sauncey Wood Primary School. The boys worked really hard together and collected the school's first competitive points for which they should be very proud.

We are delighted that as a school we are developing our football club and sporting ethos in order to consistently perform at a high level in future interschool competitions. The tournament this week was a real step forward. Training begins at Sir John Lawes Secondary School next week and we plan to set up some friendly matches with other schools before the end of term - further steps in the right direction!



Mrs Johnston

Mrs Johnston returns back from her maternity leave on Friday, 19th May for our INSET day. Mrs Johnston will be working closely with the teachers and children in Year 3 for the majority of the week as well as teaching in Year 4, Austen class every Wednesday to cover for Mrs Houchin's day off. It will be lovely to have her back on board with us again.

Prelearning

Each week in the class newsletters we add in 'prelearning' information for parents to do with their children. The prelearning tasks allow the children a chance to assimilate new information prior to their lessons so that they are already familiar with new vocabulary or approaches before they are thoroughly taught in class. The teachers have asked me to point out that it is really obvious to them the benefit the 'prelearning' activities are having on the children who do the 'prelearning.' By default, it also highlights the children who don't do the 'prelearning' tasks.

It would be really helpful if more parents could share the prelearning tasks with the children as it does benefit the children and give them an advantage in class. I know that it is not always possible to do every weekend with our busy family lives, but if it could be done the teachers would be most appreciative. Thank you

Changes within Harpenden Academy Uniform

At the end of the Spring Term I wrote to parents informing of the school's intentions to change the school uniform.

A Governor meeting was held last week in which the decision to change the uniform was discussed and ratified.

I am hopeful that we will have samples of the new uniform, complete with costings for parents and children to view the first week back after half term depending on supplies.

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

Date	Class
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

Fridays

Also at the Governors meeting last week the decision was taken to bring Friday school timings in line with the other days of the week. This means as of September 2017 school will not finish early on Fridays but will finish at the 'normal' times of 3pm for Reception and 3.20pm for Year 1-Year 6.

FOHA UPDATE

No new news this week folks just an ongoing plea to help us raise money for wall-mounted gym equipment for all children to use in the school hall. How? By serving teas and coffees at Europe's biggest Demolition Show at Herts Showground (22-24 June). Easy!

We will to be there 9-5 for the 3 days - so can anyone help? Particularly Saturday – please contact me, your reps or Ruth Penfold directly if you can offer some time.

And can anyone help with operating the candyfloss or popcorn machine (full training given) at the Harpenden Carnival on 10 June (Slots between 12.30-5pm available). Thank you to Rob at the Harpenden Arms for letting us sneak into his beer tent!

Final chance to have your say in next year's Friends of Harpenden Academy events schedule by completing a 5-minute survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnGu39GqU5gXqsKehXhTJ0ltnA3UGW3oXthJrsq_4Mz2OxA/viewform
