

Welcome to Mrs Davies'
weekly newsletter

The Voice



24th March 2017

Dear Parents

I think we have experienced at least 3 seasons in one week this week weather wise. Sadly summer wasn't one of them.

Luckily the weather was kind to us on Saturday 18th March when approximately 60 families attended our Family Forest school event. I have heard many happy and complimentary comments—thank you. It seems like it was a very much appreciated event and one which I think we will be able to repeat maybe in the Autumn Term. If you are willing to share some of the photos of the day we would dearly like to put up a display in school plus any comments you might wish to add too. Please email photos and comments to the office email address.

Shaun and his team worked hard to make this event such a success. We all enjoyed a woodland treasure hunt and perfected our orienteering skills by following a map to discover the animals hidden in the wood. The children had the opportunity to make a bug hotel and carve their own wooden tag. The children had so much fun swinging on the tyre swing in the wood. We finished with a hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows and the drizzle just added to the whole occasion! A huge thanks to Shaun, his wife and his son who willingly gave up his time .



Sponsored 100 reads

I checked today on Parentpay to find out how much money we had raised for new books in the library. Sadly only 51 people have put money on Parentpay—that's 25% of the school community. I know that virtually all the children took part in the 100 reads challenge so I'm sure it's just a matter of finding the 5 minutes in our busy lives to actually put the money on to Parentpay. I am really keen to speak to the book suppliers as to how we can re-stock our ailing supply of library books so please, please, please find the 5 minutes and put the sponsor money onto Parentpay and we can start the huge task of replenishing library books.

Reminder 12.00pm finish, Thursday 30th March

We break up for the Easter holiday on Thursday, 30th March at 12.00pm. There will be no Stay & Play club on this day. Friday is an INSET day so the children are not in school.

Spring Singing Festival

On Wednesday evening 6 children from Year 5 and Year 6 took part in the Spring Concert at the Public Halls along with other schools from Harpenden. The children sang journey songs all together and in parts. They were accompanied by the joint secondary band. They did us proud and sang beautifully. Lovely to see their smiles during their performance. Well done—Monty, Josie, Rose, Roxanne, Charlie Rose and Daisy.



Easter Bonnets, Easter Gardens and 'What can you do with an egg?' competition

Please could all Easter garden and egg creations be brought to school on Wednesday so they can be displayed in school for everyone to see. This means those not attending the Easter egg hunt can still show their efforts

The Easter bonnets can come to school on Thursday and we will have a parade just before the end of the term in the playground for parents to see.

Red Nose Day

Thank you to parents and children who donated £1.00 to Comic Relief charity today and who came wearing red and a red nose.

Red Nose Day is always a fun and colourful day in school and I'm sure that we will have raised a significant amount for this worthy charity.



Mother's Day Plant Sale

The Mother's Day plant sale has been a tremendous success. The children have thoroughly enjoyed picking their plant for the special lady in their life. The children have been saying the sweetest things while selecting the plants and complimenting the FoHA selling them on the quality of the flowers.

If there are any plants remaining the FoHA volunteers will be selling them after school in the playground.

This is the first event we have undertaken like this and I'm sure it will be repeated again.

Dads don't worry—again—your day will come...but it won't be flowers!

Mother's Day Breakfast

Thank you to all the Mums who came to our Mother's Day breakfast. It was a really well attended event which had a lively, buzzy atmosphere.

The FoHA excelled themselves with fresh filter coffee, juice, croissants & muffins. Thank you to the FoHA for kindly donating all the breakfast items and serving them with a smile.

Don't worry Dads—your day will come!



Erin and her boxing belt!

We don't typically celebrate sporting achievements but today a huge boxing belt found its way into assembly and the biggest belt seemed to belong to the slightest child. It was so huge that it almost fell off her. The belt was given to Erin from her boxing club for in her words "the best boxing!" She proudly wore it to our birthday assembly and you can see from the photo—she is still beaming with pride! Well done Erin!

4th Harpenden Schools Story Writing Competition

Harpenden Academy were invited to submit our stories into the Harpenden Schools Story Writing Competition.. All entries were judged by The Mayor of Harpenden and the Deputy Head consortium. The children had a word limit of 500 words and the work was to be unaided.

We are delighted that Lottie was awarded 2nd place in the Year 3 category for her 'story titled 'The Tornado in London' and Alice received 1st place in the Year 6 category for her story 'The Camp.' Very well done!

Thank you to all the children who took part. The 1st place stories in each year group will be displayed in the town library on the High Street. Certificates and a book voucher will be awarded to each 1st place winner at the prize-giving in the Mayors Parlour next Thursday, 30th March.

The judges commented on the high standard of stories and the number of entrants this year.

Our Mother's Day celebration FoHA selling plants and our Mum's breakfast morning.



The Tornado of London

One stormy night in London a girl called Ellie lay awake in bed, tossing and turning because she was so hungry! Suddenly the whistling of the wind turned into a roar and thunder boomed around London. Ellie sprinted to the window, and that's when she saw it..... A large, dark, extremely scary and strong enough to lift up a big, blue whale tornado! Oh and guess what? It was heading straight for Ellie and all her other neighbour's houses. "AHHHH, Mummy, Daddy there's a really big, like really, really big tornado heading our way and we need to warn our neighbours so come quickly and get dressed please!" "Ugh what tornado Ellie? Go back to sleep its 00:15." "But Mummy I'm 8 you've got to believe me. If you don't, look for yourself." "Fine I will." Ellie's Mummy padded across the creaky, wooden floor in her pig pink slippers and looked out the clear, glass window. "AHHHH, oh my gosh Ellie you're right, quick we need to warn our neighbours!" Ellie rushed across the dark room and gently shook her daddy. "Daddy quickly get dressed we need to warn our neighbours for there is a massive tornado heading our way and we need to warn our neighbours so come on!" Ellie gasped for breath while her daddy jumped out of bed. 10 minutes later they were jogging across the road already followed by 9 neighbours. "one more to go and then we need to change direction, after we do that we should be safe." So they knocked on the last neighbour's door and ran with 10 neighbours away from the tornado. At last they collapsed on the floor exhausted and shaken. They managed a little "hurray!" For Ellie and then they all just went to sleep!

Lottie, Year 3

The Camp

All I know is the fence. It makes the innocent feel like prisoners; a reminder of our unimportance. All I know is the room. The way its emptiness chews my soul, making me forget the world beyond.

I slump down on the concrete, looking at the fence, waiting...Waiting... But Papa was nowhere. No distant figure running towards me. No familiar faces smiling broadly at me. Nothing. I sighed, ignoring my conscience. All of my body was screaming at me to stop waiting for him, to move on. Except my heart, my heart would keep waiting until the end of time.

My plate half-heartedly sat before me. Camp food was dreadful. It was a mixture of anything they could find. Normally tinned, and past the used by date. I remembered Ma's cooking. We made do, and that was the way we thrived. We were unstoppable: Ma, Papa and me- nothing could pull us apart, but then the war came...

It rained bombs. Bullets lined the roads. We lived in peril. We made do... Our stomachs groaned in hunger, our lips sealed shut in dehydration. We then had to leave. So we walked and we walked. And then we took that boat, so full of people you had to lean out of the boat to breath. But all the way through Papa promised it was for a better life, and it would all pay off.

Why am I here then? I shouldn't be. I should be learning, running, being a child. I never wanted this life, yet I've got it. I looked at the other children, hyper and compressed. In desperate need of space. And I see the adults mourning the life their young have to live, tears streaming down their cheeks at the thought. I ambled across the dirt outback, like all my energy has been syringed out of my body.

My feet were blistered and fester with wounds. My skin was scarlet as a result of the harsh, sweltering sun. Then huge droplets of water fell down my face like a heavy monsoon. I was in tears, silent tears. I didn't realise I was this upset; the emotions of the last few months had been bottled up until now. Now they were escaping; only to be replaced by another flood of grief. I recalled Papa's kind voice. "*Save your tears, my dearest.*"

I woke up in a drench of sweat; I was lying there in darkness. A despondent black chilled the air around me. My nightmares. They seem so real. So true. I saw a face covered by a mask, the figure staring at me with still, blue eyes. He stared at me. Then he raised his gun and fired. Aiming at my family, aiming at me. I shuddered... I felt Ma's arm hold mine. She smiled a distant smile, and whispered whilst stroking my hair, "Calm my dear," She lay there, planting kisses on my forehead. And we lay there, for what seemed like ages. Hoping for a future...

Alice, Year 6

KS1 and KS2 SATs Parent Evenings

KS1 will be on Tuesday 28th at 7.00pm.

KS2 will be on Wednesday 29th at 7.00pm.

These evenings are information evenings for parents in Year 2 and Year 6 only. Miss Curtis will be explaining what the SATs entail, how the testing can be carried out and when, and what will be tested.

Please don't bring children to these events as it will be aimed at parents.

The information given will be on the website after the evenings for parents who are unable to attend or just for your information.

Mound Information

There will be a mound meeting next week to discuss the developments in removing the mound. I shall of course keep parents up to date with any developments that come out of that meeting in next week's newsletter.

Run through of the Final Week

Monday 27th March	- Normal day
Tuesday 28th March	- KS1 SATS evening 7.00pm
Wednesday 29th March	- Easter Garden - What can you make with an egg exhibition - KS2 SATS evening 7.00pm
Thursday 30th March	- Easter Bonnet brought in - Fun Run - Final assembly - Break up 12.00 noon
Friday 31st March	- No school for children. INSET Day.

Whole School Fun Run, Thursday 30th March 9.15am-10.15am

As you are aware, next Thursday 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 Act of Kindness** project in which each class is leading a local community project, 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 South Sudan and Uganda. He came in last week to talk to Year 6 about the valuable work his school does. I then led an assembly last Friday to share our learning with the whole school. The money from the run will be donated to his school.

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

Who? All Harpenden Academy children and any parents who wish to take part

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—**please let your class teacher know if you can help**—at 9am and returning 10am for Reception & KS1 and 10.30am for KS2)

How much? A voluntary £1 donation for children and £2 for adults and a further £1 for post race treats

What to wear? Children should come into school wearing running/sports clothing and they will **NOT** need a change of clothes as they will be going home at midday (shoes/leggings/tracksuit bottoms, Tshirt, warm sweatshirt, socks and trainers as well as a coat if it is cold to walk there and back).

What to bring? Entry money—children's money is to be brought into school Thursday morning and handed to their teacher in a **NAMED ENVELOPE** and parents' money can be given to a Year 6 child at the event—along with a water bottle. Snacks can be eaten back at school or purchased from the snack stall.

We look forward to seeing you all there next Thursday

Kind regards

Mrs Kate Watson

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

Date	Class
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

Our amazing Easter Bunny will be making its first appearance of 2017 outside Boots on Sunday, as part of the Farmer's Market. If you are around, please come along and support the team promoting our Easter Egg Hunt. There will be Easter stickers for the children and a free guess on *guess the number of eggs in the jar*, for anyone purchasing raffle tickets.

Speaking of which; you should have received a book of raffle tickets in your child's book bag this week. Please make sure you enter to win some great prizes and support the school at the same time! And let your class rep know if you want more books – there are plenty available.

Your raffle tickets were stapled to the recipes for preparation next week. They are also available online in the Voice (17 March Edition). You can support the event by baking goods for sale in the café at the Cricket Club on the day. Any queries on these – please talk to your class rep.

And finally, we'd really like to know what you think of the events run by the Friends of Harpenden Academy - and what you'd like to see more of. Watch out for a survey monkey link delivered through Classlist over the Easter Holidays. It will only take 5 minutes of your time but will really help us understand what we can do to help parents support the school in the most engaging way possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Have a nice Easter break everyone.

Friends of Harpenden Academy



STAY AND PLAY first newsletter! March 2017

Hello from all the team at Stay and Play. There have been a few changes recently I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Laura and I will be the new manager at Stay and Play. I have worked in childcare for around ten years and worked in Harpenden schools for at least 5 years. I have been trying to introduce myself to parents over the last week. If I haven't met you yet please feel free to pop in for a chat. My email is lauraj@harpendenacademy.org and the club mobile is 07904 548958 if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

I have changed a few things that you might have noticed. I would like to reassure you that all the positive things about Stay and Play will be staying.

The **records of information** we use have changed slightly this is to update our records and provide a much easier system for staff. In the event of an emergency all the information we would need is easier to obtain. Thank you to all those who have filled them out. I will have them next to the registers this week, if I haven't given you one yet.

Notice board. We have been putting up pictures of activities and crafts please take a look if you get time.

Hot meals. I really like that Stay and Play can provide hot meals. This is something so many Harpenden parents want and I am impressed with the quality too. I am aware this is a recent change and have had a meeting with the wonderful chef to discuss what the team felt children liked and didn't. So the menu is always improving.

I am also on a **fact finding mission** and would like to get some feedback from the parents and children of course. As a working parent myself I know just how hard it can be to juggle everything. I am also aware that not everything works for everyone. So this is your opportunity to tell us what you would like to see more of. I will be sending home a questionnaire for you to complete. You can complete this in paper format and give it to the office or email it to me.

Have a lovely weekend, mother's day and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Many thanks Laura

Finally

Finally today in assembly the children were shown a rather special film. As some of you who came to Friday morning assembly will know we have been looking at the film Zootropolis and how Officer Hops shows a growth mind set. The children have also been learning the words to one of the songs with Mrs Moss.

Today I showed the children a short film especially made for the children of Harpenden Academy by the writer of Zootropolis, John Lasseter.

In the film he showed the children the inside of the Pixar offices and talked about the character of Officer Hops and why he wrote about her in the way he did.

It is a truly lovely film made by him just for our children. This was all made possible by Edward and Georgina's Dad whose brother lives next door to the writer, John Lasseter, in California. He told the writer what we were doing in school and John Lasseter made the film for the children to see. Marvellous!

I would like to thank Edward and Georgina's family for making this possible and making the transatlantic connections and of course John Lasseter for taking time out of his busy schedule to think of us and do such a kind thing for us.

And on that note—have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Mrs Davies