

Welcome to Mrs Davies' weekly newsletter

The Voice



3rd March 2017

Dear Parents,

We have had a fabulous—yet busy—second week back at Harpenden Academy.

This is the official last week of 'Festival of the Written & Spoken Word', culminating with the end of the 100 reads challenge, World Book Day and our Poetry assembly with Professor Pango Mango. Let me take each event from this week in turn.

This week ends the 100 reads sponsored challenge. I hope that you have managed to be successful and you have noticed an improvement in the children's reading.



Please submit your sponsorship money via parent pay. There is an item set up for the whole School called Sponsorship Book Challenge. This will accept multiple payments of varying amounts so you may submit your raised funds more than once if you get any late sponsors!

Parent Calendar next:

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|---|------------------|--|
| 6th March | 7th March | 8th March | 9th March | 10th March |
| ExploreDome Year 5 & 6 Football club Woodend, after lunch until approx. 17.30 | Hands on Science workshop, Year 1-3 Science Family Challenge 18.30-20.00 | Hands on Science work- shop Year 4-6 19.30 FoHA meeting | Archery Day | Science Day Electric Pedal Challenge Workshop |

World Book Day

World Book Day was a triumph. Thank you so much for putting such a huge effort into the children's costumes—they were a riot of colourful wigs and costumes. I was talking to Mrs Aylott at break time and became aware of a 'dinosaur' with an incredibly long tail languishing on the mound! I laughed so much I had to get Mrs Jackson to take photos of him all around school. Well done Luca for a fantastic costume—it even had it's own pump to keep it inflated!



Teachers, TAs and office staff threw themselves into the swing of the event. Thank you for a lovely day. You can see a powerpoint on display in the entrance to the school of some of the fantastic costumes!



Poetry Recital Assembly with Professor Pango Mango

Professor Pango Mango was a wonderful start to the day. The children have worked so hard in learning their poems—the look of concentration on some of their faces was a credit to them.

Again thank you to all the staff and parents who have worked successfully with the children—this is a poem that they will remember for years to come. Professor Pango Mango I feel is going to be a firm favourite of Harpenden Academy!

There were moments of magic, laughter and pure courage. I was immensely proud of all the children who took part and it put on a smile on my face and a tear in my eye.



Science week: 6th-10th March

Next week we hardly pause for breath before we start another week of excitement.

Monday

We will be having a visit from Explore Dome which will be looking at Stars & Space.

Tuesday

The return of Mark from Hands-on Science. Mark will be working with Years 1,2 & 3 on Tuesday on a 'Floating' and 'Firework Science' workshop.

Tuesday Night 6.30pm-8.00pm

We will be holding the family challenge event. For those of you who came to the last family challenge we use the term 'family' quite loosely so please come along and join a table.

Equally I am aware that 6.30pm is approaching bedtime for some of our younger children so if you want to bring the children in their bedtime PJ's or onesies then that is fine. I know that some Mums or Dads might not be able to make the 6.30pm start. Please come along when you can and join a table—there challenge task is quite open people will be able to join later and still contribute to the event.

Wednesday

Mark will be working with Year 4 & 5 on teeth. Reception will be looking at their Fingerprints and Year 6 will be taking part in a workshop on circulation and heart dissection.

Mark will be a familiar face to many of the children after his Rocket workshop in October, so I'm sure they will be thrilled to know he will be returning.

Thursday

Key Stage 2 children only will be taking part in an archery experience. Doody will also be a familiar face to the children as he ran circus skills for us in October. Doody is a full trained Archery coach so the children will be in competent hands. Later after school the teachers will be able to try their hands at archery too! Now...that will be interesting!

Friday

Friday culminates with a visit from the Electric Pedal Company. The day will start with an assembly by the Electric Pedal Company which parents are more than welcome to attend. The children will then take part in the 'Extreme Tea Challenge' throughout the day.



Science week looks like it is going to be a fantastic experience for the children, teachers and actually I hope to see many of you on Tuesday night for our Family Challenge evening.

Usborne book Sale

Usborne Book Sale on the evening of World Book Day was hugely successful—Thank you for supporting the school. Over £600 worth of books were sold which means we are entitled to a 60% discount from the books in the catalogue. I know some parents took more order forms rather than ordering on the night. Please can these be returned by Monday, 6th March in order to qualify for our overall total. This is a huge achievement so many thanks.

Reading photo

A few weeks ago I asked parents that if they noticed their children reading at home, spurred on by the 'Festival of the Written and Spoken Word' to send in a photo.

Below is a photo of reading at home—engrossed in Harry Potter.



If there are any other parents who spot their children reading please take a snap and email it via the office at office@harpendenacademy.org

INSET Day

I have already informed parents that we will be holding an INSET day on 31 March so this means that school will close for the Easter holidays on Thursday, 30th March at noon. This is just a reminder as the date isn't too far off now.

Parents' Evening

Parents' evenings were very well attended on both nights which is indicative of the support for the teachers. If you did not manage to attend or had to cancel for an unforeseen incident please contact the class teachers to make an appointment.

Help required

Next Friday 10th March, the company who are running our science event will need some help setting up the event for the children and packing it down again at the end. If parents/carers are able to donate some time setting up bikes to electronic turbos then please do let me know.

Family Forest School Day

Forest School has always been a key part of Harpenden Academy. I was speaking to a Reception parent who was helping with the event and it occurred to me that many parents, due to work commitments, may never get the chance to be part of Forest school to see how the children enjoy the experience. So, in order to remedy this, we have been speaking to Shaun Herbert, our Forest School Provider and he is able to hold a Family Forest School day on Saturday, 18th March. The event is solely for the parents and children of Harpenden Academy which will be lovely.

Shaun will be sending the programme of activation to us on Monday so please see next week's newsletter for details. The event will be at Highfield Oval starting at 12.30.

The day will end at 3.30pm with hot chocolate and marshmallows around the fire-pit. I do hope that as many of you will be able to attend as possible and join us in a days fun and activities at Forest school.

Finally, on Monday all parents should have received a letter from the Governors informing you that I have been appointed as the Headteacher of Harpenden Academy.

Thank you to all those parents who personally came to give me your congratulations. I was touched by your kindness. Have a lovely weekend and see you all again on Monday for the start of Science week.

Kind regards

Mrs Davies

