



@Harpacademy1

The Voice 23 September 2016

Dear Parent,

It definitely felt like Autumn this morning as I was welcoming the children in and as I write the sky is a beautiful blue and it's warming up nicely

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Next Friday, 30th September, we will be holding a Macmillan Coffee and Cake morning – Hooray! Thank you Thank you to the parents who have volunteered their time to organise this for us.

Of course, a Macmillan Cake and Coffee event needs cake – and plenty of it. In fact all cakes, big, small or cup will be gratefully received. The year 6 children are gearing up to contribute some Victoria sponge cakes which is part of their topic on Victorians. If families can contribute cakes and biscuits to the cause, we can make sure that we have a wonderful event.

Parents can drop off their goodies either on Thursday after school or Friday morning. The event will be held in the library before and after assembly on Friday morning.

I am so pleased that within a short period of one week we have managed to galvanise ourselves into our first Macmillan Community Event – the first of many I hope.

Parents pick-up passwords

We have had a few incidents over the past 3 weeks where the children have either forgotten the parent pick up passwords or it doesn't match the one that we have on record. Please can parents make sure that your child – and the office are aware of the pick-up password.

On a similar note, we now have a few children who are starting to walk to school by themselves or leave for home by themselves. This tends to happen after a club where children are walking to a nearby secondary school to be picked up.

If this affects your child you must fill in a “Lone Traveller” form and leave a copy with the office so we are aware. We will not release children to walk home or to a secondary school unless we have prior notification from parents. Again, a copy of this letter can be found on the website under “letters”.

As and when

Due to the busy nature of Harpenden Academy with Forest School and swimming, we often find ourselves down on Volunteers to walk the children where they need to be. This is deeply frustrating from a parents point of view but also from ours as we cannot walk the children anywhere unless our ratios are accurate.

If you are free and happy for us to call you to ‘step in’ if we find ourselves down a volunteer, please let the office know so we can put you on our “As and When” list.

Secondary Transfer

Please find a list below of the open evenings the secondary schools in St Albans will be holding to help you make your choice for your Year 6 child transferring to a secondary school in 2017:

- Loreto College– Tuesday 27th September: 6-9pm
- Townsend C of E School – Wednesday 28th September: 6.15-8.45pm
- Samuel Ryder – Thursday 29th September: 6.00-9.00pm
- Roundwood Park – Thursday 29th September: 5.30-8.30pm
- Verulam – Saturday 1st October: 9am-12pm
- Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School – Monday 3rd October: 5.30- 8.30pm
- Sir John Lawes – Wednesday 5th October: 5.45-9.00pm
- Beaumont School – Wednesday 5th October – 5.45-8.45pm
- STAGs – Thursday 6th October 2016: 6-9pm
- St George’s – Friday 7th October: 6.15-9.30pm

The deadline to make an application for your child is **Monday 31st October**. You can do this online at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions.

Attendance Matters

It is through good attendance that pupils maximise their full potential enhancing their life chances for the future. Missing school means missing out on learning and this can have an impact on a child's development and attainment. There is a strong statistical link between attendance and attainment.

Children of statutory school age who are on roll at a school or academy must, by law attend that school or academy regularly and punctually. Regular attendance is important, not just because the law requires it but also because it is the best way of ensuring children make the most of the educational opportunities available to them. The attendance target is 95% and above.

Attendance	= No of days absent	Approx No. of weeks	No. of lessons missed
90%	19 days	4 weeks	114 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	174 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	228 lessons

Penalty Notice Process

Harpenden Academy operates the Penalty Notice process for 15 or more unauthorised absences in the current or previous term. The Penalty Notice requires you to pay a fine of £60 within 21 days. If this fine is not paid within the time limit the penalty rises to £120 which must be paid within 28 days. If you do not pay the fine you will be liable for prosecution for this offence.

Requests for absence during term time

The Education (Pupil Registration (England) Regulations 2006. The amendments make clear that Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. As a parent/guardian you are strongly urged to avoid booking holidays during term time.

If your child is absent from school because of a holiday which has not been agreed, this will be classified as an unauthorised absence and may lead to a Penalty Notice. By taking family holidays during the designated holiday periods, you will be supporting your child's full school attendance, learning and development. There are 13 weeks of the year to take holidays out of term time.

Medical appointments

Please try and book medical appointments after the school day.

Punctuality

Pupils need to arrive at school on time. The school day starts at 8.45

Thank you for your continued support and I hope that by working together we can help all our students reach their full potential and make the most of the opportunities school has to offer.

Feeling Good Week

As I have mentioned in the parents meetings over the past two weeks, we will be holding our first WOW week. Wow weeks are held once a term and the children have 'off timetable' and creative activities throughout the week.

Feeling Good week is 3rd-7th October and the activities are listed below;

Monday 3rd October

Crack-crack Theatre with Charlie Wilson will be focusing on 'Storytelling' with the children. Charlie Wilson is a huge favourite of mine and the children will be enthralled by his storytelling skills and his Crick-crack Theatre.

Tuesday 4th October

Its Doody and his Circus skills day. Again I have used Doody to teach the children circus skills for many years. He will get the children balancing peacock feathers on their fingers, learn to juggle and also will bring along his unicycles, walking stilts and high wire for the children to try.

Wednesday 5th October is Science Day

Mr Mark Walton will be coming to work with all the children and will explore their rocket building skills.

And just so parents are not feeling left out we will be having a **Family Challenge Event on Wednesday evening**. The family challenge will be a non-scary science challenge – I promise, which all families are welcome to attend. All families will be set a challenge to complete in a given time and then the outcome will be tested to see how successful they are. This event starts at 6.30 until evening. I appreciate that this clashes with bed times for some people so I am happy for the children to come back to school in their PJs/ dressing gowns and slippers so that they can just be rolled into bed once the event is finished. This sort of evening is usually finished by 8pm although it does depend on how competitive it gets.

Please come along or join us at any point. A 'family' is a 'loose' term as often families pair up on the tables so please don't be put off coming.

Thursday 6th October

KS1 Children and EYFS children will be having a day of Dance with Miranda. Miranda will be running various workshops and style of dance throughout the day – I think this will be huge fun.

KS2 classes will be using their maths knowledge and ratio to create smoothies and Dahl class will be off to Pizza Express to design their own Pizza. Austen class will also be going to Pizza Express but at a date outside of Feeling Good week sadly but that's something to look forward to.

Friday 7th October is **World Smile Day**. Throughout the week the children and teacher will be making smile masks to use on this day.

For our final day of Feeling Good we will go out with a bang!! KS2 children will be having Samba/African drumming workshops. The drumming band are also going to be taking assembly that morning too!

KS1 children will spend their day focusing on class activities arranged by the teachers on different types of food.

I'm hoping this is a really successful week for the children and teachers and will carry us through until we reach half term..

We have visitors.... Sadly we have had some visitors over the past few weeks who have left some of us with itchy heads! There are cases of head lice popping up in classes. Please can children whose hair is longer than shoulder length be tied back to try and reduce the 'spread' of visitors.

School Disco

The Friends of Harpenden Academy have organised for a school disco on Saturday 15 October. Please see the flyer in children's book bags for details.

School Photographs

The school photograph day has changed and will now take place on the morning of Tuesday 11 October 2016.

Friends of Harpenden Academy have been selected to receive funding from the Co-op Local Community Fund. It means that we will get a contribution towards books for the school library. But we need your help.

The contribution we receive depends on local shoppers choosing to support us (we are one of three causes being supported by Redbourn, Southdown and Batford stores). The more support we get, the more funding we could receive. So if you're a Co-op Member, log in to your Co-op Membership account and choose us. If you're not a member, please join and support us!

Finally, it was lovely to see more parents attending Friday morning assembly. I hope to see more of you over the next few weeks.

Many thanks

Mrs L Davies

Choose us as your Co-op local cause

Friends of Harpenden Academy

Your support will benefit your community by

...helping us raise the money we need to increase the number of books available to our children across all ages and reading levels. A child's reading skills are not only important to their success in school and work, but also open doors to all kinds of new worlds for them. We will be giving pupils the best possible opportunity to develop their reading skills.

Harpenden Academy pupils attend the school from all over the town as well as surrounding villages, including Redbourn.

When Members buy Co-op branded products and services, the Co-op will give 1% to a local cause. Your support can help raise more for causes in your community.

Go online coop.co.uk/membership and make us your cause by March 2017.



1% of the purchase price or cost of Co-op own branded goods and services purchased by Co-op Members will be donated to local good causes as chosen from time to time by Co-op Members. Please visit coop.co.uk for further details on how this is calculated.



King's Soccer School



FOOTBALL COACHING COURSE






OCTOBER HALF – TERM
HOLIDAY

We are running another Football Coaching Course, open to boys and girls of all abilities, who are 5 – 12 years of age inclusive. Pupils are placed in groups according to which School year they are in.



All Coaches are F.A. qualified P.E Teachers.
The Course involves

-  Skills coaching
-  Competitions
-  Small sided games and Tournaments

Venue: Roundwood Park School, Harpenden



Dates and Times:

October 24th – October 26th



Each day runs between the hours of 10.00am
and 3.00pm.

Cost - £42.00 for 3 days or £16.00 per day

An Information Letter and Application Form can be obtained from the following contacts.

Adrian	07821 800024
info@kingssockerschool.co.uk	

