

@Harpacademy1



The Voice 30 September 2016



Dear Parents,

Well what a wonderful way to start the day - a cup of tea, coffee and a slice of cake. Probably not good for the waistline, but every now and again it's good for the soul!

What is also good for the soul is raising over £400 for Macmillan before 9.30 !! At the time of writing we still have tables groaning with cakes which we will be selling after school so in next week's newsletter I will be able to give the final amount.

I would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to the volunteers, particularly Mrs. Hollywood and her team of happy warriors who stepped up to the mark today and gave freely their time. I would also extend this to all of the bakers out there – including Mr & Mrs Sainsbury, Tesco and Waitrose who contributed towards our first ever Macmillan event.

Anyone who has ever had the need to call on the services of the Macmillan Nursing service will know how valuable it is and I'm thrilled that we have been able to contribute towards the wonderful work that they do. Thank you.

Bags to School

Bags to School raised £80.00 ! Again this is the first time Harpenden Academy has taken part in this service. I'm sure that this will become a firm fixture in the Friends calendar.

Secondary school information

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

- 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.

Staffing News

As is often the way during the school year, we have to say goodbye to some familiar faces

Mrs Jackie Baines will be leaving us. Jackie has been with the school since 2013 and is known to many of you for her calm and knowledgeable approach to caring for the children. Jackie will be sorely missed by the children and staff who have worked with her.

Miss Lisa Toms will also be leaving us to try new ventures. Miss Toms, as many of you know, has a double role in that she is the Breakfast Club Manager and an Assistant Teacher. Again, Lisa Toms has a very caring, kind and knowledgeable way with the children she has worked with and again will be missed by staff and children alike.

And finally, we will be saying goodbye to **Mr Andy Lindeman** the School Site Manager. Mr. Andy Lindeman has been instrumental in making sure that all of the glitches that come with a new build are corrected and has been most tenacious at chasing down defects with Wilmott Dixon.

All of our leavers will leave on Friday 21 October and we wish them all the very best in their future lives. On behalf of all of us at Harpenden Academy, children, staff and parents I would like to say Thank you for your commitment and support you have shown to the Harpenden Academy.

Playground

We are passionate at HA about enabling play in a variety of forms. We have working closely with OPAL (Outdoor Play And Learning) over the past six months and are ready to re-launch our playground with zones and new equipment, kindly funded by the FOHA.

This week in school we have been creating our play action plan for the year with the aim of enhancing our outdoor space to provide a range of enticing and stimulating zones and activities for play.

We will be creating the following zones in the playground:

- Ball games
- Free play
- Social space
- Chill out (books and art activities)
- Indoor quiet space
- Performance space
- Textures kitchen (mud, sand, water and a whole range of materials)

The FOHA have kindly donated £200 per class and each class teacher has requested a zone to focus their spend on . Next week the children will be researching and voting on how they want to spend their play budget.

On Saturday 15th October 3.30 – 5.30pm (during the KS1 disco) we would like to request your help to come along and help set up the zones. Please email office@harpendenacademy.org if you are planning to come and we thank you in advance for your support.

If you have any equipment at home that you feel could be used in one of the play zones, please bring it along on or before Saturday 15th October.

Friends of Harpenden Academy

School disco tickets and pantomime are now on sale, please return your request forms as soon as possible to the Friends post box. On the day of the pantomime, we will have an early lunch and the children attending will be ready for collection by 12.20pm. 30 tickets have been requested already so please be quick getting your forms in.

The Friends AGM is taking place on Tuesday 18th October at 7.30pm, please put the date in your diary. We have had some interest in committee roles - more is always welcome - and one parent has said they would like to co-chair. Could you be the person to share the job with them?

The Friends are expecting 70 people at the comedy night tomorrow, there will still be tickets on the door though. Come along and you might find Mrs Davies serving you a drink!

Photographs and film permission

There is a letter in children's book bags regarding permission to use photographs and film of children to promote Harpenden Academy but also to display around the school.

I am aware that some parents may well have signed a letter similar to this before. This letter home will bring Harpenden Academy in line with all of the schools in the Multi Academy Trust. Please fill in the form accordingly and this will be the permission we use moving forward.

Stay and Play Questionnaire

On the website there is a questionnaire regarding Stay and Play provision. If you use the service please can you take time to fill this in. Mrs. Johnston and Mrs Aylott are spearheading this questionnaire and are keen to know parents thoughts. Here is the link to the questionnaire or you can visit the school website <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XYHKMB5>.

Uniform Consultancy

The uniform consultancy email will no longer be taking emails after 7 October 2016. Thank you to those who have responded. We will keep parents informed regarding this issue accordingly.

Visitors

Last week I mentioned that we had some visitors in school which were not welcome! Please ensure that hair longer than shoulder length is tied back so that we can reduce the chances of spreading the 'head visitors'.

Feeling Good Week

Next week is feeling good week and frankly I think we are all ready for it. Just as a brief reminder here are the highlights.


Monday 3rd Crick crack Theatre with Charlie with Charlie Wilson

Tuesday 4th - Circus skills with Doody

Wednesday 5th - Hands on Science

Thursday 6th – Dance, smoothie making

Friday 7th Drumming workshop and chocolate tasting. Friday 7 is also World

Smile Day too so please come wearing yours 

Harrison Art Competition

There is an art competition being held by Harrisons Catering company which our children are invited to take part in. The details are on the school website under “letters home”. Good luck to all those who take part

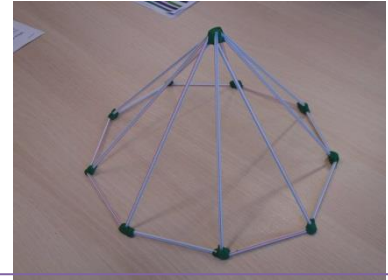
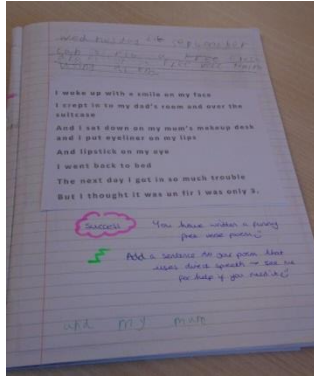
And finally... It was lovely to see so many of you today at assembly. Whilst I can't offer tea and cake every Friday I can offer you a lovely insight into our school and the children's achievements. I hope to see you next Friday too.

Many thanks and have a lovely weekend.

Mrs L. Davies

Here are some pictures of work presented at this morning's assembly

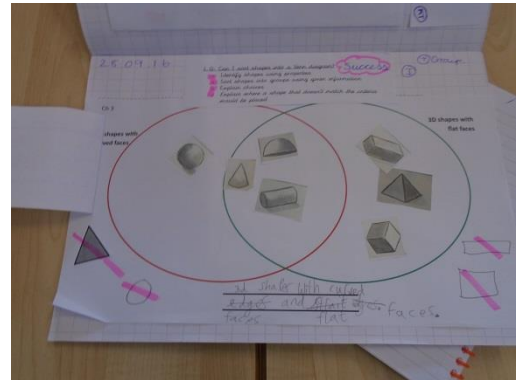
Toby, Dhal class,
a funny 'free verse'
poem 'About Me'



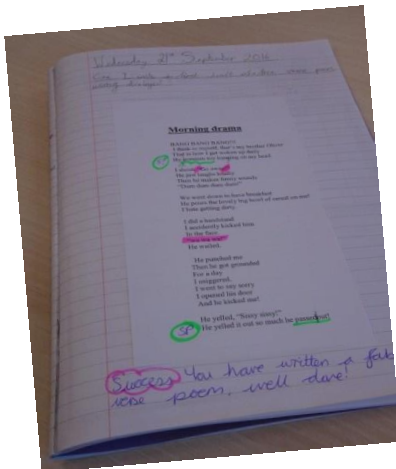
Merel, Dhal, made a
nonagonal pyramid



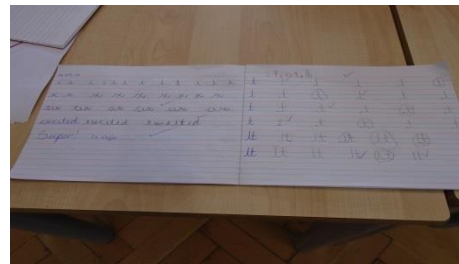
Annabel, Aslan, A wonderful
Christmas card design using finger
painting



Isla, BFG, sorted shapes into a
Venn diagram



Chloe, Dhal class, 'free
verse' poem 'Morning Drama'



Nikandros, BFG, presented
an example of his beautiful
handwriting

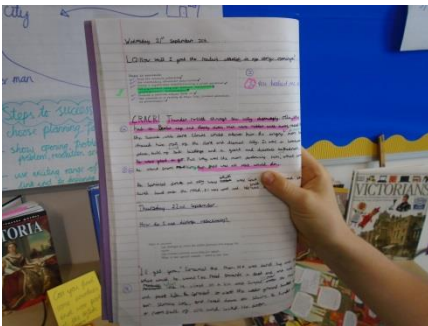
Happy Birthday! Siyanna, Year 2, Sienna Year 6 and Aaron Year 3



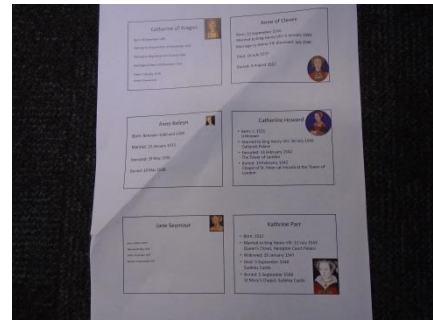
Elmer class built a hedgehog house at Forest school



Charlie, Elmer, beautifully formed handwriting



Zachary, Shakespeare presented his Victorian Mystery story



Austen class have been learning about Henry VIII and his wives. Tom presented a story on the highs and lows of Catherine of Aragon's life