



@Harpacademy1



The Voice

9 September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new school year. It has been a busy week so far and the children all seem settled into their new classes with their class teachers.

Curriculum Evening Years 1-6

On Tuesday 13 September at 3.30 to 4pm the class teachers will be holding curriculum evenings in their classrooms. This is an opportunity to meet the teachers and hear what your child will be learning.

The power point presentations will be put onto the website, under class pages for parents who are unable to attend or have children in different classes. I hope that many of you are able to attend but understand that it will not always be possible due to work commitments.

The event will end at 4pm as the teachers will have further training until 17.15 that evening too.

Flu vaccinations Years 1-3

The flu vaccinations programme for the winter is under way. Please find a letter in your child's book bag and on the website from the NHS detailing the programme. These vaccinations are only for children in Years 1-3 and are optional. Please read the letter and return the consent form by 19 September 2016.

School Parent Calendar

As mentioned on Monday, we have created a school parent calendar which has key dates throughout the academic year. This is by no means exhaustive but it does give a good indication of what will be happening and when. This again is available on the website in electronic form.

Protocol in School

As explained in my letter during the Summer holidays that the procedure for parents to raise any queries is always the class teacher first, then Key Stage Coordinator, Deputy Head and finally myself as Head teacher. We would appreciate it if parents follow this procedure, as the majority of queries can be answered by the class teacher directly without any involvement from senior leaders. If further involvement is required it will be escalated as necessary.

Secondary School Transfer

It seems very early to be mentioning Year 6 moving on but it is an important time of the year for Year 6 children and parents. Yesterday "Moving on" letters were given to the children which details the procedure for secondary transfer. Below is a list of the secondary schools closest to Harpenden Academy who are holding their open days.

Beaumont School, St Albans

Wednesday 5th October 2016, 5.45-8.45pm

www.beaumontschool.com

Loreto College

Tuesday 27th September 2016, 6-9pm

Tours available 3rd - 14th October

www.loreto.herts.sch.uk

Marlborough Science Academy

Thursday 22nd September 2016, 6-9pm

Tours available Mon- Thurs 9.15 - 10am, 26th Sept - 20th Oct

www.themarlbroughscienceacademy.co.uk

Nicholas Breakspeare Catholic School

Monday 3rd October 2016, 5.30-8.30pm

Morning tours available 5th - 19th October

www.nicholasbreakspearschool.co.uk

Roundwood Park School

Thursday 29th September 2016, 5.30-8.30pm

Daytime tours can be booked after the Open Evening.

www.roundwoodpark.herts.sch.uk

Samuel Ryder Academy

Thursday 29th September 2016, 6-9pm

School tours by appointment for 2 weeks from 3rd October

www.sracademy.co.uk

Sandringham School, St Albans

Tuesday 19th July 2016, 5.45-8.45pm

Morning Tours available (book in advance): 21st & 23rd September, 4th & 5th October

www.sandringham.herts.sch.uk

Sir John Lawes School, Harpenden

Wednesday 5th October 2016, 6-9pm

School tours by appointment for 2 weeks, commencing 3 October 2016.

www.sjl.herts.sch.uk

St Albans Girls' School

Thursday 6th October 2016, 6-9pm

Working day tours available by appointment.

www.stags.herts.sch.uk

St George's School, Harpenden

Friday 7th October 2016, 6.15-9.30pm

Morning tours available 11th October by appointment.

www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Townsend Church of England School

Wednesday 28th September 2016, 6.15-8.45pm

Tours by appointment 3rd - 13th October.

www.townsend.herts.sch.uk

Verulam School, St Albans

Saturday 1st October 2016, 9am-12pm

Tours available (booking required) 4th - 20th October

www.verulamschool.co.uk

Friday morning assembly

Friday morning assembly runs from 9.00 – 9.30am. Parents are welcome to attend as this is a sharing assembly where learning throughout the week is shared.

I do ask you however to remember it is an assembly, it is part of our working week and therefore parents should not call to their child or wave at them. Siblings are welcome on the understanding that if they make a noise that is distracting, parents remove them until they quiet down and they can then return to the assembly. There is nothing worse than the children sharing something but the audience unable to hear due to audience noise.

Meeting Mrs Davies

It does seem strange that having spent the 6 weeks holidays at the school and 2 weeks at the end of term, that I am having welcome meetings with parents. As promised in my Summer letter, I am proposing meeting parents class by class to discuss the future of Harpenden Academy now it is part of the Sir John Lawes Trust and the school moving forward. Please see the list of dates and times below.

- Monday 12 September 14.30 – 15.00 Y6 Shakespeare
- Wednesday 14 September 14.30 – 15.00 Y4/5 Dahl and Y4 Austen
- Friday 16 September 13.50 – 14.15 Y 3 Kipling and Potter

- Monday 19 September 14.30 – 15.00 Reception, Ladybird
- Wednesday 21 September 14.30 – 15.00 Y2 BFG class
- Thursday 22 September 14.30 – 15.00 Y1 /2 Aslan
- Friday 23 September 13.50 – 14.15 Y1 Elmer

I am aware that all of these meetings are in the school day which is a problem for working parents. As a working parent myself I do understand the dilemma. Due to a booking made before I arrived the hall is booked out every evening, sometimes until 10pm. I am currently in negotiation with this organisation to amend this so it works for us as a school, but in the interim it does pose us a problem. I will make sure that the power point presentation I use is on the website for parents to access. If I can arrange a mop up session in early evening I will, but this might not be possible.

Friends of Harpenden Academy

Friends of Harpenden Academy were chosen for the Harpenden Waitrose Community Matters scheme for the month of August and will soon be receiving £233 from the store towards books for the library.

Bag2School

Letters and bags have been sent out to all parents. Please drop off the bags by 8.45am each morning next week to the member of FoHA on duty. All of the bags will be collected at 9am on Monday 19 September, so no more bags beyond next Friday please.

Comedy Night and DJ night is Saturday 1 October. Tickets on Sale now! Please see posters in school for more info.

Uniform

As mentioned previously I have set up an account to canvas opinions regarding school uniforms. Please express your views to the email address rather than telling me at the door. I am prone to forget! Please can you give us your views via email to uniformconsultation@harpendenacademy.org

School Dinners Key Stage 2

As mentioned in Monday's letter, we are moving towards an advanced payments system for school dinners. This will be half termly. Below is a series of deadlines for payments over the course of the next year. Payments can be made via Parent Pay or Cheque payable to Harpenden Academy.

Autumn 1	Payment for dinners up to 21 October – deadline for payment 23 September
Autumn 2	Payment for dinners from 31 October – 21 December - deadline for payment 31 October
Spring 1	Payment for dinners 9 January – 10 February – deadline for payment 8 January
Spring 2	Payment for dinners 20 February – 31 March = deadline for payment 19 February
Summer 1	Payment for dinners 19 April – 26 May – deadline for payment 18 April
Summer 2	Payment for dinners 5 June – 21 July – deadline for payment is 4 June

Volunteers

Part of my role this year is to help rebuild a sense of community for Harpenden Academy, both in house but also in our local community. To do this it is vital that we have a really healthy and vibrant Friends group, to make sure that all of the plans we have to re-establish Harpenden Academy can happen.

We have many new ideas which we would like to do for our children but we need your help. If you are interested in joining Friends of Harpenden Academy, please come to a meeting with me on Thursday 29 September at 14.30 so we can go over ideas and we can see how you can help the existing team as we enter the new Term. This date allows new Reception parents to join in as the children will be full-time by then.

Class Newsletter

Today, class newsletters should be in book bags and on the website. Please use them to keep up to speed with what is happening specifically within your children's class.

We have been informed that a child in Year 6 has been diagnosed with shingles. If you are at all concerned, more information can be found on www.nhs.uk website.

We have had a reported case of head lice in Year 3 , please can you check your child's hair over the weekend.

And finally, I hope that the weather continues to be warm and sunny over the weekend so we can all enjoy time with our families.

Many thanks

Mrs L . Davies

Harpenden **PLUS**

PARTNERSHIP

Harpenden-Kimpton-Redbourn-Wheatthampstead

Name of course/workshop	Date and times	Venue	For parents / carers of	To cover
Parenting Boys (formerly About Boys) by Parent Centred Support	Thursday 22 nd September 9.30 – 2.30	Jubilee Room, Sauncey Wood School	Boys aged 5 to 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening • Communicating • Managing boundaries • Rewarding • Consequences
Parenting Girls (formerly About Girls) by Parent Centred Support	Friday 23 rd September 9.30 – 2.30	Jubilee Room, Sauncey Wood School	Girls aged 5 to 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening • Communicating • Managing boundaries • Rewarding • Consequences
Families Feeling Safe by Harpenden Plus Partnership	Fridays 30 Sept, 7, 14, 21 Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 Nov 9.30 – 11.30 (must attend all sessions)	Jubilee Room, Sauncey Wood School	Children aged 5 to 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising and trusting feelings • Staying in control and making safe choices • Improving relationships and communication • Raising self-esteem and personal confidence
Inbetweens by Parent Centred Support	Tuesday 4th October 9.30 – 2.30	Jubilee Room, Sauncey Wood School	Children aged 10, 11, 12 or 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening • Communicating • Managing boundaries • Rewarding • Consequences
Managing Behaviour by Parent Centred Support	Wednesday 30 th November 9.30 – 2.30	Jubilee Room, Sauncey Wood School	Children aged 5 - 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening • Communicating • Managing boundaries • Rewarding • Consequences
The Nurturing Programme by Harpenden Plus Partnership	Wednesdays 18, 25 Jan 1, 8, 22 Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Mar 9.30 – 11.30 (must attend all sessions)	Jubilee Room, Sauncey Wood School	Children aged 5 to 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empathy • Positive Discipline • Self-awareness and self-esteem • Appropriate expectations
4 My Family and Me by Harpenden Plus Partnership (formerly Families Feeling Safe, 4 week course)	Thursdays 4, 11, 18, 25 May 9.30 – 11.30 (must attend all sessions)	Jubilee Room, Sauncey Wood School	Children aged 5 to 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising and trusting feelings • Staying in control and making safe choices • Improving relationships and communication • Raising self-esteem and personal confidence
The Family Toolkit by Harpenden Plus Partnership	Thursdays 8, 15, 22, 29 June 9.30 – 11.30 (must attend all sessions)	Jubilee Room, Sauncey Wood School	Children aged 5 to 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding your child's needs • Nurturing relationships in the home • Understanding and managing behaviour • Early child development

Coming soon – My Teen Brain

Places are limited and booking is essential

Bookings will open on 1st September

Email: familysupport@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk