



Horwood and Newton Tracey Community Primary School Newsletter

Friday, 11th March 2022

Dear parents, carers and children

We have had a busy week with parent/carer consultations which we hope were useful to keep you updated about your child/ren's progress.

Whilst we formally send out reports once a year we are always open to updating you about your child's progress at other times. An email or telephone call to your child's teacher is welcomed and appointments to chat face to face are available. If we have any concerns about your child during the year, please rest assured that we will always contact you to update you. We firmly believe, that your child's education is in partnership with you and so always welcome meetings and discussion whenever you, or we, feel it is necessary.

On Monday, 21st March we are dedicating a whole day to Pupil Conferencing where we will continue the discussion about pupils' progress with the children individually. We will also be surveying the children, next week, to capture their views about school and how they feel we support them to help us plan for the Pupil Conferencing day.

Mrs Lisa Eadie
Headteacher
head@hntps.org

Upcoming Trips and Dates

- Mon, 14th March – Civil War historian visitors
- Tues, 15th March – Whole School Torrington Trip (including nursery)
- Tues, 15th March - Y3 Forest school
- Tues, 15th March – after school clubs (week 1)
- Tues, 15th March – 5.30 pm Full Governors' meeting
- Wed, 16th March – C2 Dance Festival at GTS (**come in PE kits**)
- Wed, 16th March – C3 and 4 Tarka Tennis and Falcons Gymnastics
- Fri, 18th March – Red Nose Day (**wear something red**)
- Mon, 21st March – Pupil conferencing Day

After School Clubs

After School Clubs start back this coming **Tuesday, 15th March**.

English Civil War historian visit

On Monday, 14th March we have local historians visiting the school who are bringing artefacts and exciting knowledge about the Battle of Torrington and the English Civil War.

Each class will enjoy dressing up in costumes (which our visitors will bring) and handling artefacts. The children will also have a demonstration of musket firing on the playground in the afternoon. Again, the school is going to fund this visit from the money raised at previous events.

Whole School Trip to Torrington

On Tuesday, 15th March all children will be visiting Torrington with a local history study focus. This links with the children studying about the English Civil War and the Battle of Torrington in 1646. Nursery and Reception children have a special programme of visiting Torrington library (who are opening up early specially to accommodate us) and Torrington Fire Station (kindly organised by our parent Steve Fisher). Thank you to all our parent/carer volunteers who have kindly agreed to come along and help us.

Enabling children to be the best that they can be!

Attendance

The school monitors children's attendance every half term, together with a Governor, to ensure that our children get the very best out of their learning by attending as much as possible. Any attendance below 95%, without good reasons, are highlighted to parents/carers to enable support to be put in place. It was very pleasing when the attendance meeting took place with Kerry Whitting (Governor) this week, to see the majority of attendance has improved since the last monitoring meeting – thank you for working with us to ensure your child has the best chances of learning and succeeding.

We have also noticed that there is an improvement regarding children arriving at school on time. Our school day starts at 9 am and by arriving promptly, pupils are able to get the most out of their day. Thank you everyone!

Ukraine Fundraising

In response to the events unfolding in Ukraine the school councillors have been collecting donations this week for the Disasters Emergency Committee. I am delighted to report that **we have raised £589.85.**



Class 2 dance festival

On Wednesday, 16th March Class 2 are attending a Dance Festival at GTS. Can children please come to school **dressed in their PE kits on Wednesday**. The festival will be held indoors.

Cricket festival at GTS

Class 3 had a lovely morning learning cricket at GTS this week and all pupils came home with information about local cricket sessions for 5 – 8 year olds (All Stars) and 8 – 11 year olds (Dynamos). Our local cricket provider is Newton Tracey Cricket club.

Red Nose Day – Friday, 18th March

We are encouraging the children to **wear something red** on Friday, 18th for Red Nose Day and make a donation via ParentPay.



Staff ongoing training and development

We value our staff and believe that ongoing professional development is a crucial part of ensuring we deliver high standards across the school. This term staff have completed the following training: all teachers – Purple Mash computer training; Miss Wooddisse PE Co-ordinator training; First aid training Mrs Crumplin and Mrs Blunt; Mrs Eadie premises updates; all teachers - phonics training; Mrs Humphries Bursar and clerk's updates; Mrs Radley RE and SEND training; Miss Wooddisse and Mrs Eadie safeguarding updates. We believe that investing in staff directly benefits your children – we hope you agree.

Enabling children to be the best that they can be!

Parenting Support – Drop in Session 30th March

Following our recent parenting course we agreed to have follow up Parenting Drop in sessions. These will take place at least half termly. The first one will be Wednesday, 30th March between 2 – 3 pm. Please either turn up or email the school for more information.

Personal, Health, Social and Economic Education (PHSEE): All classes continue to follow our PHSEE curriculum with a focus this term on **Relationships**. Classes 1 and 2 will learn the difference between secrets and nice surprises (that everyone will find out about eventually) and the importance of not keeping any secret that makes them feel uncomfortable, anxious or afraid. Classes 3 and 4 will learn to recognise and challenge stereotypes.

Classes 1 and 2 are using the **“We Eat Elephants”** scenario of “Chloe told a lie” and Classes 3 and 4 are using a scenario based on the character Deepak. The **positive mental health** focus is “actively care for others”.

Tea @ 3 with Mrs Eadie

Tea @ 3 is awarded to those children who have kept the school “Golden Rules” and is a Friday afternoon reward of tea/hot chocolate, cake and biscuits with Mrs Eadie. Today’s pupils from Class 1 and 2 are: Amon, Austin, Evie and Henry. Well done!



PUPIL VIEWS

On Monday, we were very lucky to have Steve Manning as our guest to tell us stories. Here are some of the stories he told us: the story about the turtle; the story about the egg; the story about the lotus flower; the story about the Dartmoor beast and the story about the King Cobra. He made good links with some of our topics too: PHSE, Science and RE.



He didn’t just tell us stories, he told us facts. Here are some facts he told us:

- Back along, in some countries, women used to be in charge so we wondered why it changed to men ruling the world.
- He also said back along there was no democracy.

A big thank you to Steve. We are very lucky to know Steve and have him come to our school every now and again. He is a great inspiration to all of the children at HNTPS. He is a great storyteller and all the children love his stories. We can’t wait to have him back. Thank you very much Steve!

Caydence and Florrie, Class 4