

Harpfield Primary Academy

The Harpfield Way



AUTUMN 1 NEWSLETTER

Important Announcement

After several years of dedicated service to our school and community, Mr Griffiths and Mrs Washington have decided to retire at Christmas.

They have both been an invaluable part of our school; nurturing and educating countless children over the years. While we will greatly miss their presence in school, we are grateful for the time they have spent with us and wish them both the very best in this exciting new chapter of their lives.

We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for the children. Plans are already underway to find a replacement who will continue to provide excellent teaching and care for both classes. We will keep you updated as these plans progress.

Personal Development

Last year's School Council have been to London to visit the Houses of Parliament where they took part in a tour and workshop to find out more about the history and role of parliament. We even managed a surprise visit to 10 Downing Street! They were fantastic, a real credit to the school and their parents. We are looking forward to taking this year's School Council later on this year. Please see our Facebook page for all of the photographs.

Year 3 spent the day at Stanley Head developing their leadership and teamwork skills during their low ropes, nightline and map reading activities. The instructors said that they were best group of pupils that they've ever had!

Bee Active delivered a 'Learn to Ride' session for some of our Year 1 and 2 pupils; they showed lots of bravery and resilience with some pupils learning to ride without stabilisers in just over an hour!

Y5 and Y6 received a kindness workshop delivered by the 'Art of Brilliance' team. We've seen lots of acts of kindness from our pupils and they understand of the importance of treating each other with positivity, respect and kindness. Keep this up please!

Y4 have visited Cannock Chase Museum as part of their World War Two history unit. They had a great time and have gained lots of new knowledge to help them with their history topic.

We've got more exciting events coming up next term: Gareth Snell MP will be visiting Y5 and Y6, KS1 Fire Brigade visit, Change4Life festival, Bee Active events, Police Cadets, New Vic Theatre visit and nativities/carol concerts.

Safeguarding Audit

At the beginning of October, Creative Education Trust completed their annual safeguarding audit. I'm pleased to report that Harpfield received a 'green' outcome which means that safeguarding is effective; safeguarding is well-led and there is a strong culture within school. Here is a snippet of the pupil voice section of the report:

- Pupils say this is a safe school. They understand the importance of staying safe and aware online. They were able to give a child appropriate definition of safeguarding which included safeguarding beyond the school gates.
- Pupils are knowledgeable about staying safe and know how to report any worries or concerns to relevant staff members. They are confident that staff will help them.
- Pupils could talk with confidence about how bullying and racism were rare, but if it did occur, it would be dealt with quickly.
- Pupils are proud of the diversity at the Harpfield Academy and described attending the academy as like being part of a family that all care for each other.

Key dates

All diary dates and term dates were sent out at the beginning of the year. They are also on our website.

PTFA

If you would like to join our PTFA to help to fundraise for our school, please speak to Mrs Ballantine. Existing members have already met to decide on how to use the funds and there was a unanimous decision to contribute towards the cost of trips again for this year. Thank you, it certainly helps to bring the costs down!

Attendance

Whole school - **96.4%** Thank you to everyone who is ensuring that children are on time, attending school and arranging appointments outside of school hours. Every minute matters!

Nursery - 95.6%	Reception - 94.9%	Year 1 - 97.1%
Year 2 - 95.7%	Year 3- 98.1%	Year 4 - 96.3%
Year 5- 96.1%	Year 6 - 97%	

You will continue to receive regular automated updates about your child's attendance via Arbor and you will be able to compare it to their class's overall attendance.

We've had a fantastic start to the year. I've spent lots of time in the classrooms and I'm pleased to say that all the children have settled into their new classes and have been demonstrating our school values. We've had visits from the Directors of Creative Education Trust and they have been so impressed by the children's behaviour and attitudes in lessons. Have a lovely half term when it arrives and we will see you on Monday 4th November.

Mrs Adlington
