

Harston and Newton Primary School

Newsletter no. 7

Thursday 18th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, we have lots of exciting events to report so I will keep my opening comments very brief. We do however want to say a **huge thank you to Mrs Lihoreau for her amazing contribution to music in the school.** We will miss her hugely when she leaves at the end of term, but also wish her every happiness in her new home. I hope that everyone has a peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday and we look forward to seeing all the children back in school on **Tuesday 6th January.**



Music Assembly

On Thursday 24th November we had the second of our Music Assemblies of the school year. It was a lovely concert, showcasing some of the children who are learning instruments. We had a great range of instruments and it was lovely to see many of our woodwind players performing this time, ranging in style and experience. We even sneaked in a little Christmas number from the Instrumental Ensemble and some beautifully played recorder group pieces. Well done everyone! Thank you to our visiting Instrumental teachers, Mrs Mayo, Mr Dolby and Mr Waldemarson for preparing their students for this. Really hoping for some guitarists and drummers as well at the next one!

Carols for Advent Concert



Following a fun but intensive rehearsal on the 29th November, the choir (along with some of their friends from TongueTwisters) sang at the Carols for Advent performance at Harston Village Hall. It was slightly different this year, set out as a concert, but it had a lovely festive feel. The children did not disappoint and sang beautifully. The audience responded and sang the carols with great energy..... the *12 days of Christmas* will remain in my memory for a while yet!! The event very kindly raised £160.00 for the music in school and an equal amount for the Food Hub. What a lovely way to start the Christmas season! Well done Humming & Notes!

Class Amethyst Kings College Chapel

On Tuesday 9th December, Amethyst Class, along with some other local primary schools in our area, were invited to Kings' College Chapel for a special Christmas performance by the world-famous choir! Mrs Lihoreau has been entering us in the ballot for tickets since she started teaching at Harston and Newton and so it was lovely that we finally managed to attend before she sadly leaves us!

The choir director told us that we were among some of the first people to hear a selection of songs which will be performed at this year's Christmas Eve Carol Service. We also had the chance to join in with some singing and

were challenged to see if we could be louder than the organ - not an easy task! It was a delightful morning and one that the children will remember for a long time to come.



Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity

Many thanks to everyone for their donations following the performances of the Reception and KS1 Nativity and your support for our Christmas Jumper day. We raised a total of £314.00 for Save the children.

Class Amethyst to STEM

On Friday 12th December Amethyst Class visited the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) centre in Stevenage. Our science topic on Forces was enhanced by the chance to build our own balloon cars, which work by applying Newton's Third Law of Motion. We also had plenty of time to explore the science experiment room, containing many pieces of equipment that demonstrated science and engineering concepts. The most popular was the charged

plasma sphere, which (if handled correctly) could transmit a tiny electric current through a person's hairs - either on the arm or inside the nose! After lunch, Scientist Ranvir gave us a detailed briefing on the designs and purposes of the Mars Rovers being built there and we saw some of the prototypes being tested on the simulated Mars landscape. Finally, we were enlightened by a talk concerning Newton's other laws of motion - featuring a few "Don't try this at home" explosive demonstrations! A great day out was had by all.



West Road Charity Concert

Humming & Notes, our school choir, along with their friends Tongue Twisters and VoxPop, performed at this event with the best singing they have ever done! It was truly amazing! We started with *Believe* a beautiful song from the film *Polar Express* with wonderful harmonies and added bells! We continued with *Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle*, an Italian carol all about the response to the baby Jesus being born, sung beautifully and in Italian! This was followed by *Counting Down to Christmas*, a fun upbeat song and we closed with *Thankful Heart*; a well-loved track for *The Muppets' Christmas Carol*, but very wordy! Humming & Notes managed all of this with great assurity, confidence and

professionalism. I am so very proud of them. This concert was recorded by Cambridge 105 and can be heard on Christmas Eve (6.00 p.m.) and repeated on Christmas Day (3.00 p.m.), so please have a listen. They were absolute rock stars!



Pre-school Nativity

The children in Pre-school really shone this year in their nativity - they all performed so well with some of the older children singing solo's!

Thank you to Jane for leading and guiding us all, to all the parents for providing wonderful costumes and delicious food for our party! Father Christmas made an appearance which ended the morning perfectly!

Merry Christmas, we hope you have a peaceful holiday.

School Christmas Lunch

94 children and 5 staff enjoyed our school Christmas lunch on **Wednesday 10th December**. Thank you to our Catering Team in the school kitchen for all their hard work cooking a delicious lunch, and to the school staff for making the children's Christmas lunch a special occasion.

Mini Athletics Santa Dash

Several of our children joined the Mini Athletics Santa Dash on 1st December and they were absolutely amazing. They were running as fast as they could to beat Santa! They even got a medal, a chocolate AND a picture with the man himself!



Scholastic Book Club Orders

If you placed an order from our Scholastic Book Club, you would have received an email asking you to collect your books.



Parents purchased **£128.82** worth of books which means that your school will receive **£25.76** in Scholastic Rewards to be able to spend on books for school.

Thank you for supporting this scheme.

School Applications

Applications are open for **Reception in September 2026**.

Applications for Reception places for next year need to be submitted by **15th January 2026**. We are able to offer tours of the school for prospective parents and these can be booked via the school office.

If you have friends or neighbours who have children who are due to start school next year, do encourage them to arrange a visit and consider applying for a place at the school. Personal recommendations for schools carry great weight so please help us ensure that we maintain our pupil numbers.

Stars of the week

Many parents will be aware that each week class teachers pick a child who has made a special effort with their learning, and they are celebrated as “Star of the week”, “Subject Specialist” and “Sports Personality”. We share these in the newsletter each fortnight.

Wednesday 3rd December 2025

Star of the Week

Year R – Annie C-L

Year 1 – Aarya D

Year 2 – Miles F

Year 3 – Finley M

Year 4 – Darina U

Year 5 – Ellie H

Year 6 – Daisy C



Subject Specialist

Amber Class – Shraddha SK - Performer

Topaz Class – Xander V - Writer

Opal Class – Eric T - Mathematician

Emerald class – Jun Ninn MN – R. E.

Amethyst Class – Ayan N - Reading

Wednesday 10th December 2025

Star of the Week

Year R – Max B

Year 1 – James B

Year 2 – Vienna H

Year 3 – Amelia C

Year 4 – Bobby B

Year 5 – Freya F

Year 6 – Rytas A



Subject Specialist

Amber Class – Tommy B - Phonics

Topaz Class – Grace D - Reader

Opal Class – Esme BC - Performer

Emerald class – Olivia M - Reader

Amethyst Class – Lux H - Mathematician

Sports Personality

Matty M, Ali K and Eddie K.

Sports Reports

Yr 3/4 Friendly Football match

On Monday 24th November I travelled to Trumpington Park Primary School with a team of children from Emerald Class to take part in two short friendly Football Matches against their Red and Blue teams. After a quick warm up we began the first match against Trumpington Blues. It got off to an exciting start and there were plenty of chances at both ends keeping the goalkeepers on their toes. Joseph was first in goal for Harston and he did well to make a couple of good saves and was well supported by Hugo and Oliver in defence. Rhys, Matty and Stirling battled hard in midfield to get the ball to Felix who tried to reach the net. We rotated positions to mix things up a bit bringing on Junn-Ninn in midfield and Ethan in defence. Matty moved to centre midfield and had a great shot at goal, unfortunately it just tipped over the top of the goal post. Harston continued to put pressure on the defence but the Trumpington Blues managed to score a goal minutes before the final whistle.

Harston were undeterred by their first defeat and began the second match against Trumpington Reds very strongly. Hugo went into goal for the first half and Oliver and Joseph were a very capable duo in defence. Rhys worked hard in midfield alongside Felix and Junn-Ninn and drove the ball forwards. Matty did lots of running and his fitness really shone through. Harston had most of the possession and were looking likely to score. We had one final switch of positions and moved Stirling into Goal Keeper with Ethan and Joseph supporting in defence. Hugo was instrumental in driving the ball forwards to Felix who scored a fantastic goal. The attack was keen for another goal but sadly time didn't allow. Well done to all the children who played in the match. The attitude and behaviour of the children was excellent and they all shook hands with the opposition at the end of the match. It was nice for the children to see Mr Cox who congratulated

them on their win. Thank you to the parents who helped with lifts and came to support the team it is very much appreciated. I hope to arrange another friendly match in the Spring.



Small Schools Cross Country

On Wednesday 3rd December we set off to Milton Country Park with 33 children from KS2 to take part in the Small Schools Cross Country Event. The weather conditions were perfect, blue skies and a crisp winters day with plenty of muddy puddles on the course. Children raced in their year groups against children from 18 other small Schools in fields of approximately 100. Year 6 were the first age group to race and there were lots of speedy runners on the course, so the competition was tough. Blake was the first Year 6 Boy to cross the finish line within the top 20 finishers. Daisy had a spectacular run with a fast first lap that catapulted her into second place. The Harston crowd were cheering her on and waiting by the finish line to see her hold onto the position and finish in second place. Next it was Year 3 Boys and Rhys was first back from Harston with an impressive top 20 finish. The Year 3 Girls started off well and Emma sped off to the front and held her pace all the way round the course finishing in 5th position which was fantastic. The Year 4 Boys set off with Matty up at the front hoping he could go one better than his second-place finish last year. He held onto the lead and did a spectacular sprint finish to a roaring Harston crowd. The Year 4 Girls were up next and they all ran a well-paced race with Ula crossing the line in 11th position and the others were all closely

behind. Finally, it was Year 5's turn to race after waiting patiently and cheering on the other runners. We only had 3 Girls running from Year 5 but they all ran a steady race with Emily being the first Harston girl to cross the finish line. Dany had a good first lap and on his second lap he picked up the pace overtaking lots of other runners and finishing in 7th position followed closely by Ofri who ran a great race. I really enjoyed watching all of the children running and am incredibly proud of them all for showing determination and commitment. What really stood out was the excellent behaviour and the support that all the children showed to each other by watching each team race and cheering them on. Thank you to Ms Evelyn and Mrs Jones for accompanying us and all of the parent helpers who volunteered on the day.
Beth Bowstead Specialist PE Teacher



Sportshall Athletics Championship

On Saturday 6th December nine children from Amethyst Class who have been attending Sportshall Athletics Club took part in a Sportshall Athletics Competition run by Cambridgeshire Athletics Association in St Ives. The children competed in a throwing, jumping and agility/speed/balance event as well as running races, relays and an obstacle relay. The children competed against other Schools and Running Clubs but were the only Primary School at the event. The Girls Team came second in the Under 11 category out of 10 teams and the Boys team came 5th in the Under 11 Boys category. Well done to all of the children who attended. Congratulations to Eddie K who won the Boys Javelin competition and Ali K who came second in the target throw. Congratulations to Daisy C who came third in Chest push, Lux H who

came third in javelin and Eve L who came third in the balance test. Children who performed extremely well in this event will be selected to represent Cambridgeshire at the regional finals taking place in Norwich in February.

Beth Bowstead Specialist PE Teacher



Panathlon Swimming

On Wednesday 10th December a group of KS2 children travelled to Melbourn Village College to take part in a Panathlon Swimming Gala competing against eight other Schools from South Cambridgeshire. The first event was 25m freestyle with Charlotte representing Harston and Newton. Charlotte sped her way to the end with a fantastic front crawl technique and finished in third position. Aydan competed in the 25m Backstroke race working hard to power his arms and legs and finishing fourth. Saven competed in the 10m freestyle race. He showed great determination and finished in first place. Leo M took part in the 10m race using a noodle and showed that he had an efficient leg kicking action resulting in him finishing in third place. Alfie D participated in the 10m noodle travelling on his back speeding to a first-place victory. After the individual races the children took part in some relays and team challenge activities. Charlotte and Saven took part in the 2 x 25m Freestyle Race finishing in third position. Sophia-Rose, Max, Aydan and Leo B completed the 4x10m relay, they worked well as a team and finished in fourth position. The final challenge activities were the slam dunk shuttle race where each child had to swim 10m with a pall and pass it to the final team member who tried to score a basket,

Alfie had a good shot on target. The raft race involved each child taking an object to the raft and then the whole team pushing the raft back to the side. Sophia-Rose was determined to swim to the raft as quickly as possible allowing her team to come second. The treasure hunt was a timed activity where each swimmer in the team had to collect as many objects from the bottom and top of the pool as possible. At the end of the gala children were awarded with medals and certificates for participating. The children behaved impeccably being extremely patient waiting for their turn to compete on poolside. Special thanks to Charlotte and Max from Amethyst Class who were excellent role models and supported and encouraged the other children.



PTFA

Christmas Wreath Workshop

It was lovely to have a full hall for our first ever wreath making workshop, which was expertly led by two of our parents, Emma Hurrell and Laura McLeman. Their expert demonstrations and constant encouragement meant that everyone was able to create a stunning festive decoration, even if some of them were slightly larger and heavier than originally planned. It was a really enjoyable evening, with lots of fun, laughter and delicious nibbles and it also raised £527.30 for school funds. Many thanks to all those who attended and to Emma and Laura for the huge effort that went into preparing the evening.



PTFA Funds raised

The Own Clothes day on 23rd October raised a pleasing **£117.00**.

Once again thank you to all parents for all your contributions and support during this half term in raising funds for our school.

PTFA funding has been used to subsidise the Arts Award, school trips and purchase class Christmas presents.

Diary Dates

Carol Service at Harston Church . . . 18th Dec 2025
 PTFA Own Clothes Day 19th Dec 2025
 Healthy You Schools Week - . . 12th-16th Jan 2026
 Class Topaz History off the Page . . . 20th Jan 2026
 PTFA Class Amethyst Cake Sale 23rd Jan 2026
 Year R Vision Screening 27th Jan 2026
 Emerald Class Verulamium Museum 28th Jan 2026
 New Age Kurling 2nd Feb 2026
PTFA Neon Disco 6th Feb 2026
 Small Schools Quicksticks Hockey . . 12th Feb 2026
 Yr 6 and Yr R National Weighing and
 Measurement Programme 12th Feb 2026
 PTFA Own Clothes Day 13th Feb 2026
 Netball Competition MVC (TBC) . . . 9th Mar 2026
 Year 5 and 6 to Boggle Hole . . 9th – 13th Mar 2026
 Small Schools TAG Rugby (AM) 18th Mar 2026
 PTFA Class Topaz Cake Sale 20th Mar 2026
 PTFA Own Clothes Day 27th Mar 2026
 Individual School Photographs 27th Mar 2026
 Skipping Week (IN SCHOOL) – 20th -24th April 2026
 PTFA Own Clothes Day 1st May 2026

Tennis Festival (Linton VC) 7th May 2026
 PTFA Own Clothes Day 21st May 2026
 Small schools Quadkids Athletics . . . 4th June 2026
 Year 3/4 Girls Football Festival . . . 17th June 2026
 National School Sports Week . 15th-19th June 2026
 PTFA Emerald Class Cake Sale 26th June 2026
 Dynamos Cricket 30th June 2026
 PTFA Own Clothes Day 10th July 2026

Term Dates

Academic Year 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025

Autumn Term Closes – Friday 19th Dec 2025

Spring Term 2026

Staff Training Day – Monday 5th January 2026

Spring Term Opens – Tuesday 6th January 2026

Half Term – 16th – 20th February 2026

Spring Term Closes – Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Summer Term Opens – Monday 13th April 2026

May Day – Monday 4th May 2026

Staff Training Day – Friday 22nd May 2026

Half Term – 25th – 29th May 2026

Summer Term Opens – Monday 1st June 2026

Summer Term Closes – Friday 17th July

Staff Training Day – Monday 20th July

Academic Year 2026/27

Autumn Term 2026

Staff Training Day – Tuesday 1st Sept 2026

Autumn Term Opens – Wednesday 2nd Sept 2026

Staff Training Day – Friday 23rd Oct 2026

Half Term – 26th Oct – 30th Oct 2026

Autumn Term Closes – Friday 18th Dec 2026

Spring Term 2027

Staff Training Day – Monday 4th Jan 2027

Spring Term Opens – Tuesday 5th Jan 2027

Half Term – 15th – 19th Feb 2027

Spring Term Closes – Thursday 25th Mar 2027

Summer Term 2027

Staff Training Day – Monday 12th Apr 2027

Summer Term Opens – Tuesday 13th Apr 2027

May Day – Monday 3rd May 2027

Staff Training Day – Friday 28th May 2027

Half Term – 31st May – 4th Jun 2027

Summer Term Opens – Monday 7th June 2027

Summer Term Closes – Tuesday 20th Jul 2027

