

Harston and Newton Primary School

Newsletter no. 11

Monday 23rd March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I apologise for the late delivery of the newsletter - as you can see it has been a very busy few weeks in school, and we hope that you will enjoy reading about everything the children have been doing. The PTFA have organised an **Easter Bunny Take Over** this week, to bring some fun and Spring cheer into school. Parents do not need to do anything or send any money, but there will be a small treat for all the children at the end of the week.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

It was amazing to see so many children in costume for World Book Day.



We had a special assembly to celebrate this and there were lots of opportunities during the day for children to enjoy books and stories. Many thanks to all the parents and carers who worked so hard to create super costumes. It was good to see that many families had used existing dressing-up clothes or adapted everyday items to make stunning costumes.



Reading for pleasure is so important, as it develops children's vocabulary, exposes them to new ideas, supports their mental health and is relaxing and fun! Please do encourage your child to keep reading over the Easter holidays - it makes such a difference.

Year 5 and 6 to Boggle Hole: 9th – 13th March



On Monday 9th March we set off on our seventh trip to Boggle Hole, near Whitby. The children enjoyed a fantastic week exploring the beautiful Yorkshire countryside: rock-pooling, fossil hunting, walking on the Moors, field sketching, seeing coastal erosion at close quarters and discovering the delights of Whitby town (even though we could not make our planned visit to the Abbey owing to the high winds).

We were delighted to have a visit from Stephen Brown, Outdoor Education Advisor

for Cambridgeshire, during the week. He praised the varied programme and the rich experiences offered to the children (we also visited an aquarium in Hull and a stop off at "Go Ape" on the way home). This year we had the unexpected bonus of meeting an RAF mountain rescue team on training, who kindly talked to the children about their work



We received many compliments about the children's good manners and excellent behaviour. We know that they all developed new skills during the week.

2026 Let Them Play

Since 2019, 3.8 million girls have been empowered to play football in schools through Barclays Girls' Football In Schools, proving that football is for everyone and showing girls they can achieve anything.



This is more than just football. The FA and Barclays want to create a cultural shift that ensures girls see themselves as leaders, champions, and equals. At Harston and Newton Primary School we are committed to providing equal opportunities within Football for boys and girls. On Tuesday 4th March we organised a special training session with a Football Coach from Over and In for ALL girls in KS1 and KS2. The weather was fantastic, and the girls enjoyed the opportunity to develop their football skills. It was encouraging to see the enthusiasm and effort being put into the activities particularly the younger girls in KS1. The behaviour and

attitude from all the girls was outstanding and the Coach commented on this.

Beth Bowstead Specialist PE Teacher

Year 4 Trip to MVC - production of Annie

On the 11th of March the Year 4s were lucky enough to be invited to a dress rehearsal of Annie at Melbourn Village College.

The children really enjoyed the performance and were very impressed with all the talented actors and singers at Melbourn. Thank you to Melbourn Village College for inviting our Year 4s and for providing the transport.



Emerald Class Mini Festival

Children in Emerald Class have been learning about Hinduism this term. To celebrate the joyful Hindu festival called Holi, we went onto the field and the children threw paint powder at Ms Evely. Holi, which is known as the Festival of Colours, celebrates the arrival of Spring, love and good triumphing over evil. People across India and around the world celebrate the two-day festival. On the first day people gather around a bonfire; on the second day people throw a perfumed powder called Gulal at each other. It was great fun to have our own mini-festival at school!



Music Assembly

We held our first Music Assembly of 2026 this week to celebrate the progress and achievement of our young musicians across the school. We heard a variety of performances, ranging from recorder ensemble pieces to a ukulele rendition of 'I'm a Believer', a song about spring from the choir and a lovely performance of a song about Goldilocks and the Three Bears from Pre-School. We listened to a number of solo performances on the piano, violin, flute and guitar, and we were so proud of how calm and confident the pupils were as they performed. The assembly was a huge success, and we were very grateful to the parents and carers that came along to support the children and celebrate their achievements.

Visit from Pippa Heylings MP

In the Autumn term, Emerald class wrote to Pippa Heylings, our MP and the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Energy Security as part of their curriculum work on climate change. We were delighted that she came to visit the school on Friday 20th March to talk to Emerald class about the points raised in their letters. Ms Heylings also spoke to the whole school in assembly about her work as an MP, answering questions from the children which included "Why did you want to become an MP?", "What is the most challenging aspect of your job?" and "What would you do to prevent coastal erosion?"

It was a very informative morning and we are grateful to Pippa Heylings for taking the time to visit the school.



Book Club



Thank you to all the parents that placed an order for books and supporting our Scholastic Book Club. We raised £88.14 for the school to spend on books for our school library.

We should receive the books from the orders this week and we will email you once they are ready for collection.

PTFA Funds raised

The Own Clothes day on 19th December 2025 raised a pleasing **£99.00**.

The Carols by Candlelight and Christmas Hamper raffles on 17th December raised an astonishing **£744.23**.

The Class Amethyst Cake Sale on 23rd January 2026 raised **£130.58**.

The Neon Disco on 6th February 2026 raised **£639.00**.

The Own Clothes Day on 13th February 2026 raised **£100.00**.

PTFA funding has been used to pay for the DJ for the Disco, to subsidise school trips and to purchase keyboards for iPads.

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

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 4th March 2026
Star of the Week

Year R – Annie CL

Year 1 – Grace D

Year 2 – Isabella D

Year 3 – Ethan D

Year 4 – T'Jai H

Year 5 – Ellie H

Year 6 – Charlie M



Subject Specialist

Amber Class – William S - Phonics

Topaz Class – Andreas T - Reading

Opal Class – Vienna H - Spelling

Emerald class – Sophia-Rose L – Times
Tables

Amethyst Class – Rose F - Writer

Sports Personality – Eve L and Zoe M

SPORT

Small Schools Quick Sticks Hockey

On Thursday 12th February I took a group of children from Amethyst Class to participate in the Small Schools Quick Sticks Hockey Competition at Wilberforce Road Sports Ground. We took a squad of 6 children comprising of 3 boys and 3 Girls. In the first round we played against Dry Drayton, Thriplow, Fen Drayton and Burrough Green. The Harston Team had a strong start in their first game against Dry Drayton. Daisy and Eddie formed a wonderful partnership in attack with Daisy scoring a hat-trick. Lux made some excellent interceptions while Charlie and Blake were a formidable defence. Eve made some fantastic passes and marked the opposition well. Eddie scored the final goal and the team won 4-0.

The second game against Burrough Green was tough. The team did lots of great defending and Blake broke away and scored

a super goal. The final result was 2-1 to Burrough Green.

In the third match Harston showed great resilience and never gave up against a strong opposition. Goals were scored by Daisy and Blake. Charlie made lots of great attacking runs alongside Eddie. Eve's confidence was growing and she began to make more tackles and take on opponents. Lux played well in defence and Harston drew 2-2.

The final match was against Thriplow who were a well organised team. Harston played well as a team and Eddie scored in the 1-0 win.

Harston won their pool and were placed in division 1 for the second round of matches alongside Waterbeach, Caldecote and Great Abington. Harston played their first game against Waterbeach who had some very talented players and lots of pace. Eddie had a few shots at goal but could not quite reach the target. Daisy and Lux worked consistently in defence to maintain a clean sheet. Blake scored a fantastic goal resulting in a 1-0 win.

The second game was against Great Abington and they were a force to be reckoned with. They were very fast and showed fantastic teamwork. Harston battled hard but could not counterattack against such an impressive team. Great Abington won 3-0 and went on to win the Competition, very worthy winners. Harston did not let a defeat dampen their spirits and showed strength and determination in the final match against Caldecote. Charlie showed great energy and skill whilst Daisy scored a cracking goal. Lux worked hard in defence but Caldecote scored an equaliser resulting in a 1-1 draw. Harston and Newton finished in second position in a field of 20 teams and were awarded medals by the Sports Leaders. I am incredibly proud of the children who represented Harston and Newton in the Hockey Competition for the way they conducted themselves and how they supported and encouraged each other.

They shook hands with each team that they played and thanked the Sports Leaders who were officiating. It was a pleasure to watch them succeeding as a team.

Thank you to Mrs Pluck for helping to Coach at Hockey Club, we are privileged to have a teacher with lots of Hockey playing experience helping. Thank you to Mrs Nightingale and Mrs Christmas for helping with transport and cheering on the children. We are extremely grateful for parental support.

Beth Bowstead
Specialist PE Teacher



Diary Dates

Netball friendly match 23rd Mar 2026
 PTFA Easter Egg Activity 23rd-27th Mar 2026
 Class Amber to Wimpole Hall 25th Mar 2026
 PTFA Own Clothes Day 27th Mar 2026
 Skipping Week (IN SCHOOL) – 20th -24th April 2026
 Class School Photographs 27th April 2026
 PTFA Own Clothes Day 1st May 2026
 Tennis Festival (Linton VC) 7th May 2026
 Year 6 SATs 11th – 14th May 2026
 PTFA May Fayre 16th May 2026
 Maths Challenge 19th May 2026
 PTFA Own Clothes Day 21st May 2026
 Small schools Quadkids Athletics . . . 4th June 2026
Bag2School Collection 11th June 2026
 Year 3/4 Girls Football Festival . . . 17th June 2026

National School Sports Week . 15th-19th June 2026
Pre-school Sports Day 25th June 2026
 PTFA Emerald Class Cake Sale 26th June 2026
 Dynamos Cricket 30th June 2026
 PTFA Own Clothes Day 10th July 2026
Pre-School trip to Audley End 16th July 2026
PTFA Fireworks 5.00 – 8.00 p.m. 7th Nov 2026
Year 5/6 Bikeability 19th – 22nd Nov 2026
Bag2School Collection 5th Nov 2026
 Individual School Photographs 19th Nov 2026
PTFA Neon Disco 5th Feb 2027
Year 3/4 Bikeability Level 1 5th May 2027

Term Dates

Academic Year 2025/26

Spring Term 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