

Harston and Newton Primary School

Newsletter no. 8

Thursday 15th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term, and a special welcome to **Mrs Annie Watkins** who has joined as our new specialist music teacher. Mrs Watkins is currently working on Tuesdays and is teaching music lessons to all the classes and running the school choir. We really appreciate her taking this on, in addition to her other work commitments, so that there could be continuity in the excellent music provision in school. Her working days will change after the half-term break and her hours will increase slightly, which will allow us a little more flexibility. We will keep you updated.

Carols by Candlelight

On Wednesday 17th December, we had our traditional Carols by Candlelight. It was cosy and warm, with food, mince pies and mulled wine. We sang carols under the magical fairy lights displayed around the room, listened to the Instrumental Ensemble and Choir, who performed lovely Christmas music, and shared a lovely festive time with families and friends.

Thank you to the PTFA and especially Emma Levy, for all the work that went into this. The raffle was drawn by some very excited children and the hampers were given out to some very happy people. It was a lovely event and everyone left with a smile on their face. Note to self: leave the confetti hearts for another time!!!

Mrs Lihoreau



The winners of the various hampers are listed below.

Arts and Crafts - Sophia H (Emerald)

Stocking fillers – Nicola F (Emerald parent)

Drinks hamper 1 - Kong family

Drinks hamper 2 - Kelly C (Pre-school parent)

Toys games and books - Leonard A (Topaz)

Toys games and books 2 - Leonard A (Topaz)

Toys games and books 3 - Zoe Kelly (Amber parent)

Toys games and books – Owen F (Topaz)

Sweet Treats 1 – Kelly C (Pre-school parent)

Sweet Treats 2 – Karen Rawlings

Christmas 1 - Joseph D (Emerald)

Christmas 2 - Christmas family

If anyone knows KAREN RAWLINGS, please ask her to come to the school office to collect her Sweet Treats 2 Hamper.

Carol Service at Harston Church

Our last event of the year was our school Carol Service, held at the lovely All Saints Church. It was a wonderful concert and service. The children sang and played their very best and when listening, they were respectful of their classmates and friends and were a credit to the school. Everyone sang or played something, and it was a beautiful way to finish the term and start the festive break. Well done everyone, and a heartfelt thank

you for an amazing way to finish my time here at Harston and Newton. Thank you.

Mrs Lihoreau



English challenge

On Tuesday 13th January four Year 6 children went to Bellbird School in Sawston to compete in the Year 6 English challenge. They had to work as a team to answer questions about children's literature and were also tested on their spelling, grammar and punctuation knowledge. They worked really well as a team and were complimented on their good manners and positive attitude. We did not finish in the top three, but it was an enjoyable event and Eddie, Eve, Daisy and Poppy were excellent ambassadors for the school.

Poppy Appeal

We can now confirm that we raised **£258.08** for the Royal British Legion, from the sale of poppies, slap bands and other items. Thank you to everyone who supported the charity so generously.



Absences from school

Please can we remind parents that **ANY** absence taking place during the school day requires parents to complete and return an absence form. **Emails or verbal notification without an absence form are not acceptable.**

FOR PLANNED ABSENCES, THIS SHOULD BE DONE AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE. For emergency absences, e.g. emergency GP appointments, this should be done a.s.a.p.

We are receiving many absence forms either on the day of absence or a few days before. Owing to time constraints, these are not being seen, authorised/unauthorised or signed by Mrs. Rouse. They are then required to be entered onto our Management Information System, and because of these delays, the absences are not being reflected in the daily registers.

Forms are available from the blue drawer in the school reception area, or you can complete one from our website under the ATTENDANCE tab and email it to the office.

Snacks for morning break

Parents have asked for clarification of the snacks allowed at morning break. As part of our Healthy schools work, the following snacks are allowed

Savoury crackers, e.g. water biscuits, cream crackers, plain rice cakes (not chocolate dipped ones). A small bag of mini-rice cakes or mini-cheddar biscuits, bread sticks **not crisps or sweet biscuits (and that includes digestives).**

Fruit and vegetables Any fruit or vegetables such as carrot sticks, cucumber sticks, grapes (cut lengthways please) apple, orange, raisins, fruit winders and dried fruit, e.g. mango, tubes of yogurt, smoothie drink.

Other snacks Bread roll or a sandwich, cereal bar **not cakes, flapjacks, biscuits, chocolate bars or chocolate biscuits.**

Children who bring a packed lunch are allowed a packet of crisps, cake or biscuits as part of their lunch, but these items cannot be eaten on the playground at breaktime.

Community Spirit

One of the strengths of the school is its community spirit. This week I was contacted by a parent who has set up a Just Giving page to support another family in the school who are going through difficult times. He asked if we could share details of the site with school families, in case they wanted to make a donation. The link to the Just Giving page is below.

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.justgiving.com%2fcrowdfunding%2fbronwyn27&c=E,1,7bWck6gSEvj0LPONRs6QpKslH5W9dnriBccK1ZGGeOwWZlCd7NHffmeKbVByUdqCTv9H14EiZ7aiX5KMUPcXg10Mm4DzRVnhP5liX3gNcS58l2vsYy0hRlUo2Q,,&typo=1&ancl_add=1

[Crowdfunding For Good From JustGiving](#)

Outdoor Clothing

The weather has been very changeable over the last few weeks, with some very rainy, cold and frosty days. We ask that all children bring a warm winter coat (ideally waterproof) to school every day, as they will be outside at breaktime and lunchtime on most days. Children are welcome to bring hats, gloves and scarves as well, but **please ensure they are clearly named** so that we can return them if they are dropped in the corridor.

Book donations

2026 is National Year of Reading. As part of our support for this, we want to refresh the books in the phone box library. We welcome donations of **children's books** that you no longer need, as they can be borrowed by other families and share the love of reading. Please bring them to the school office.



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 14th January 2026

Star of the Week

Year R – Junior M

Year 1 – Benji C

Year 2 – Noah M

Year 3 – Joseph D

Year 4 – Lucas B

Year 5 – Dany GDO

Year 6 – Eddie K



Subject Specialist

Amber Class – Max B – Good dress rehearsal

Topaz Class – Maeve VC - Science

Opal Class – Mohamed G - Writing

Emerald class – Stirling JS - Writing

Amethyst Class – Lila H – Reading

Sports Personality

Charlotte H

Diary Dates

Year 1 and 2 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
PTFA AGM 7.00 p.m. (TBC) 30th 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
Parent Consultation Evening (Amethyst)
. 23rd Feb 2026
**Parent Consultation Evening (Amber, Topaz and
Amethyst) 25th Feb 2026**
**Parent Consultation Evening (Amber, Topaz and
Amethyst) 26th Feb 2026**
Parent Consultation Evening (Amethyst)
. 27th Feb 2026
World Book Day 5th Mar 2026
Let Girls Play Football Event 6th Mar 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
Music Assembly (TBC) 19th 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

Spring Term 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 2025