



# NEWSLETTER

Monday 24th February 2025

## Notes From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to see our families and children back after the half term break. We hope that all pupils had a good break away from school last week. It was so lovely to hear such lovely feedback during the Parents Evenings held just before half term. We thank you for your continued support.

There are lots of things going on in school over the next week, so keep a look out for those details in the newsletter.

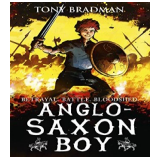
We continue to work with stakeholders on traffic and parking near to the school site. Police have advised us to circulate the details of Operation Snap. Please see this link (<https://www.westmidlands.police.uk/police-forces/west-midlands-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/operation-snap/>). Police are asking for evidence of driving offences if witnessed. Any footage sent in will be reviewed by specially trained staff.

Kindest Regards,

Mr N. Whitehouse  
Head Teacher



## Author 'visit' to Year 4



This week, Year 4 were lucky enough to get a video call with the author of Anglo Saxon Boy, Tony Bradman.

He told us all about how he became an author himself, why reading is so important and he answered a lot of our questions. He even showed his many notebooks and dressed up as an Anglo Saxon soldier for us! Tony's top tips for being a writer are:

- Read as much as you can
- Write the stories that you would want to read yourself
- Have fun writing!

This great experience was funded by the wonderful Friends of Harborne. Thank you Friends!



## Twinkl Phonics

At Harborne Primary School we use Twinkl phonics across the school to teach our children to read. It is really important that our children are able to pronounce the sounds correctly as this will enable children to be able to blend sounds to read words.

We are sharing links to videos how to say the sounds correctly which you could watch with your children. You could then use these sounds to play games and explore how to write words. Copies of the pictures linked to each sound can also be found in your child's reading diary and also their Rhino Reader book.

**Click below for the correct pronunciation of the Twinkl phonics sounds.**

[Twinkl Phonics Level 2 Sounds and Actions](#)

[Twinkl Phonics Level 3 Actions and Sounds](#)

[Twinkl Phonics Level 5 GPCs: Pure Sounds, Actions and Mnemonics](#)

Many Thanks,

English Team



Hello! مرحباً! ਸਤ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ! !السلام عليكم! Cześć! Salaam! Bună! नमस्ते! नमस्कार! 你好! Bonjour!  
¡Hola!

Dear Parents and Carers,

On **Friday, 28th February**, as part of our **Languages Day celebrations**, all children will take part in a **Language Swap Activity** where they will have the chance to learn and share new words, phrases, and cultural insights from different languages.

To help your child **prepare**, we would love for you to support them at home by:

### Practising key phrases (all year groups)

- If your child speaks another language/s at home, they will have the opportunity to **teach a few simple words or phrases** (e.g., greetings, numbers, "thank you") to their classmates.
- If your child does not speak another language, they will have the opportunity to **learn a few words from a language they're interested in**—perhaps with your help or through online resources.

### Learning a simple song (for EYFS - Y2)

- Our youngest learners will have the opportunity to **teach a simple song or rhyme** in a different language. If your family speaks another language, you could help them **practise a song like "Happy Birthday"** or a nursery rhyme in your home language.

### Practising everyday phrases (for Y3 - Y4)

- Children in Y3-4 will **learn and swap common classroom phrases**, such as:  
"How are you?"  
"What's your name?"  
"Please" and "Thank you"

### Everyday phrases and fun language facts (for Y5-6)

Children in Y5-6 will also share:

"How are you?"  
"What's your name?"  
"Please" and "Thank you"

- Older children can also **share an interesting fact** about a language (e.g., which language family it belongs to, an unusual word, or something unique about its alphabet).
- They can ask family members about their experiences with different languages or research fun facts together.

This activity is a wonderful way for children to **celebrate our linguistically rich school community, learn from one another, and build confidence in using different languages.**

If you have any **questions** or would like to share **resources** that could support this activity, please feel free to get in touch! Speak to or email Miss Kessedjian via [enquiry@harborne.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@harborne.bham.sch.uk).

**Thank you for your support, and we look forward to a fantastic Languages Day on Friday!**



## Ramadan

Dear Parents/Carers,

The holy month of Ramadan is due to start around the beginning of March this year. This is a very important time for many of our families. Some of our children may wish to observe this period of Ramadan and we respect their commitment to their faith and commend the dedication and resilience they show by wishing to participate.

Prayer rooms will be set up at both sites to provide children, who wish to say their Duhr prayers, an opportunity to pray. We ask that they bring in their own prayer mat and are responsible for its safe keeping.

If your child is in Y5 or Y6, and would like to fast on any of the days within Ramadan, we ask that you let us know in writing. This is important so that staff can monitor children who are fasting, in case they become unwell.

If we have concerns about any pupils who are fasting, the school has an overriding safeguarding duty and will apply judgement and common sense, to support a child is unwell or otherwise in distress.

With our kindest regards,  
Harborne Primary School



## Achievement Certificate Winners — W/E 14/02/2025

RS	No Assembly		
RH	No Assembly		
RP	Alfie	Layan	
RA	Aaiza	Kai	
1A	No Assembly		
1H	Theodhor	Maryam	
1P	Anoop	Zakariya	
1S	Xavier	Poppy	
2P	Taqueer	Jaiden	
2H	Nibras	Zillan	
2S	Asiya	Jolie	
2A	No Assembly		
3H	Sam		
3P	Fariha		
3S	Victoria		
3A	James	Charlotte	
4H	Jude		
4P	Jocelyn	Avni	
4S	Eyad	Ambika	Mr Horton
4A	No Assembly		
5H	Enanka		
5P	Aryan		
5S	Emma		
5A	Artie	Soham	
6H	Alex		
6P	Usman	Ibrahim	
6S	Anya		
6A	No Assembly		



## Dates in the Diary

Mon 24th Feb	Pupils back to school 8.50am
Thurs 6th Mar	World Book Day
Mon 10th Mar	9.10-10.00am — Meeting for Y3 Residential Trip in Sept 2025
<b>**For parents/carers with children currently in Year 2**</b>	
Tues 25th Mar	REC Eye screening checks (main site)
Wed 26th Mar	REC Eye screening checks (annex)
Wed 26th Mar	Mothers Day Assembly class RH
Thurs 27th Mar	Mothers Day Assembly class RP
Thurs 27th Mar	Mothers Day Assembly class RA
Fri 30th Mar	Mothers Day Assembly class RP
Thurs 10th Apr	Break the Rules Day
Thurs 10th Apr	School closes to pupils for Easter Break

# We're celebrating World Book Day® & you're invited!

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

**When:**  
**Thursday 6th March**

**Where:**  
**Harborne Primary School  
Main Site and Annex**

**How we're celebrating:**

Enjoy a day of fun reading activities in school, that will celebrate what's great about books! If you'd like to, you can dress up as your favourite book character!

**Contact info:**

**0121 494 2705**



**Changing lives through a love of books and reading**

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**VIVIAN TRUONG**

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# Dates for your CALENDAR

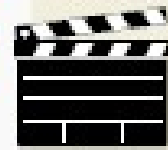
**MONTHLY  
FRIENDS  
MEETING**

**10TH FEBRUARY  
10TH MARCH  
7TH APRIL**



**31ST JANUARY**

**FILM CLUB  
(ALL YEARS)**



**16TH MAY**

**SCHOOL  
DISCO**



**10TH APRIL**

**BREAK  
THE RULES  
DAY**



**9TH MAY**

**EID  
FEST**



**14TH JUNE**

**SUMMER  
FAIR**



We would love to see you at these events.  
If you want to help make them possible please email  
[friendsofharborneprimary@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofharborneprimary@hotmail.com) or join us at the meeting  
dated above 8pm , upstairs at The Plough, Harborne