



NEWSLETTER

Monday 14th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This year has been one of epic proportions for Harborne Primary School; may I take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our children, families, colleagues and staff who make us stronger, together. I wish everybody a fun-filled and rejuvenating summer break. We will work hard next year to grow, improve and strengthen our school and our provision, whilst retaining all that makes Harborne Primary the special, happy school that it is. We have an exciting journey ahead and are driven by our commitment to be the best for our children. In true Mrs Sumner style, we will “get on”!

We hope you've all had the chance to enjoy reading your child's End of Year Report over the weekend, celebrating their successes and looking ahead to next steps. We've found this new digital method of sharing reports to be very efficient and environmentally friendly, saving a great deal of paper. That said, if you've had any trouble accessing your child's report (there were bound to be a few teething issues!), your Class Teacher should be aware and will be able to provide you with a paper copy.

A few practical reminders as we wrap up the term:

- **All personal medications** kept in school will be returned to you on your child's last day in school. Please see your Class Teacher to sign the meds out. We kindly ask that you check these over the summer and return them on **Thursday 4th September**, along with any updated paperwork. It is most important that you check medication supplied will remain in-date for the duration of Sept 2025 – July 2026.
- **Reading books and Year 2 recorders** will be collected in this week to be sorted and refreshed for next year. If you happen to find any HPS books hiding at home, please return them as part of our end-of-year book amnesty - no questions asked!
- **Lost Property** and lunch box trollies will be available all week. Please take a moment to check for any named items or anything your child can use. Any unclaimed items left after Friday will be donated to charity or recycled.



Attendance Matters – And we're celebrating success!

As you know, good attendance and punctuality are vital and, they are priorities for every school in the country. At Harborne, we want our children to be in school, on time, and making the most of every learning opportunity. We have introduced new class certificates to celebrate year groups and classes with the best overall attendance.

Drum roll please.....

Category	Winner	Attendance
Highest Attendance in EYFS & KS1	Year 1	95.5%
Highest Attendance in Lower KS2	Year 4	95.5%
Highest Attendance in Upper KS2	Year 5	94.9%
Best Class Attendance in EYFS & KS1	Class 1A	96.9%
Best Class Attendance in KS2	Class 3A	97.2%

A huge well done to all of our winning classes and year groups – and thank you to all families supporting strong attendance. Let's keep it going throughout next year!



The MS Forest Circuit is Now Complete!



We're thrilled to announce that the installation of the **MS Forest Circuit** is now complete - and it looks absolutely fantastic! A huge thank you to our **Friends group** for generously funding and commissioning this wonderful project.

To help the children get the most out of the Forest Circuit and access it safely, each class will have a **dedicated session** to explore the equipment in small groups. This will give all children a chance to familiarise themselves with the layout and challenges before it becomes part of their regular playtime options. Located on the **Junior Playground**, the Forest Circuit has been specifically designed to challenge our **KS2 pupils**. However, staff may choose to bring younger children to explore the equipment if appropriate. We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our families who have supported our fundraising events throughout the year - your contributions have made this possible.



From Tuesday, the Forest Circuit will be open during **playtime and lunchtime**, with each year group having **dedicated slots** to ensure everyone gets a turn. Let the adventures begin!



Farewell and Thank You to Our Wonderful Team Members

As the school year comes to a close, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to several much-loved members of our Harborne Team who are retiring:

Mrs Allen – A true Miss Honey!

Mrs Allen's HPS journey began 25 years ago when she became a parent volunteer whilst her daughter and son were pupils here. Always immaculately dressed and perfectly colour-coordinated, Mrs Allen brings a touch of elegance to every school day. That is, unless it's PE day – then, you might catch a rare glimpse of her looking slightly perturbed at the mere suggestion of her donning a PE kit! If there were a quiz on the Oxford Reading Tree, Mrs Allen would win hands down. But, unlike the famously stern Mrs May, our Mrs Allen is much more like Miss Honey: warm, nurturing, and showing infinite patience. Through more than a few dramatic events at HPS, Mrs Allen's calm approach and cheeky smile have never wavered. All she has needed, on occasion, has been a rejuvenating "cuppa" before getting back on to the list of to-dos.

Mrs Eastham – The Queen of Clean and Completely Organised!

Uber-organised, Mrs Eastham has a system for everything. Whether it's guided reading groups, glue stick storage, or the best way to line up for lunch, she's got it covered. "Classroom-proud" - sit still too long in Mrs Eastham's presence and you'll find yourself anti-bac'd before you can say "hand hygiene." But behind the sparkling surfaces and colour-coded folders is a heart full of care and compassion. Mrs Eastham knows every child she works with, inside-out. She sees their strengths, understands their quirks, and gently nurtures them into confident, independent learners. Never seen without her signature matching earrings, Mrs Eastham brings a touch of sparkle to every day. And when the school day ends, she can always recommend a film or TV drama for us all to enjoy.

Mrs Gray – A Force of Nature!

Mrs Gray starts her day with industrial-strength coffee - two cups before 8:30am is the unofficial warning system for staff to take cover! But, behind that high-octane energy and her forthright opinions, Mrs Gray has a heart of pure gold. Mrs Gray always has a solution—and the most generous spirit, that lifts everyone. She has become famous for her *experimental* flair—whether it's baking cakes from pears "on-the-turn" or whipping up a dinner that once included a piece of wire (yes, really!) - she's electric! During her (very) long career at Harborne, Mrs Gray has championed a love of the great outdoors. Thanks to her, generations of children have built dens, dug for worms, and returned home gloriously muddy and full of stories. Her owl whistle was once a familiar screech across the Moorpool Estate! We'll miss her energy, humour, honesty, and unstoppable drive to make every day count.

Mrs Pereira – An Adventurous, Music-Loving Bookworm!

Mrs Pereira joined HPS for the final leg of her teaching career and brought her thoughtful approach and wisdom to the team. Now, (just as we've all finally learnt how to spell her surname!) she's off on her next big adventure – retirement! Mrs Pereira is always keen to learn more and her curiosity takes her on world-wide travels (Costa Rica this year – how amazing!). At school, she swaps book recommendations with the children and staff and we hope she will continue to attend Staff Book Club. Mrs Pereira always has a wonderful warmth, wisdom, and good sense of humour about her. We hope that she continues to live life to the full – Glastonbury, Wimbledon and more – clearly, she's determined to make the most of every moment!

Thank you all, for everything – you are truly irreplaceable and leave us with huge legacies! Enjoy every moment of your well-earned retirements - you've more than earned them!

Also, we thank Miss Nash, Mrs Hulse, Miss Elston, Miss Ahmed, Mrs Yasmin, Mrs Keegan, Miss Ruane, and Mrs Brown - for their commitment and contributions to the Harborne Team this year. Each of you has brought something special to HPS, and we wish you all the very best in your next chapters.



On a joyful note, we're thrilled to welcome back Mrs Hothi, who will be rejoining our EYFS Team after her maternity leave. And soon, we will be introducing some new members to the HPS Team – watch this space!

We extend our very best wishes and love to Mrs Killarney and Mrs Barwick as they head off on maternity leave. We hope that your next family chapters are filled with joy, cuddles, and adequate sleep! We're so excited for you and can't wait to meet your new arrivals. Enjoy every moment - you've got this!

So, here's to new beginnings, fond farewells, and the wonderful family community that makes HPS so special. We wish everyone a fun-filled and rejuvenating summer break.

We look forward to seeing the children back in school on **Thursday 4th September 2025**.

Kind Regards,

Tamsin O'Brien

Deputy Head Teacher



Safeguarding at Harborne Primary School

At HPS, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. We are committed to creating a safe, nurturing environment where all children feel **secure, valued, and heard**.

How You Can Support Us:

Speak up: If you have any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, please speak in confidence to a **Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Francis, Mrs O'Brien, Mrs Walters, Ms Kyereh, Mrs Chamba or Mr Sewell)**.

Encourage openness: Remind your child that they can always talk to a trusted adult—whether at school or at home—if something is worrying them.

Stay connected: Ensure your contact details are up to date so we can reach you quickly if needed.

Online safety: Talk to your child about staying safe online. If you need support or advice, we're here to help.

Together, we can ensure every child feels safe, supported, and ready to thrive.

Kind regards,

Tamsin O'Brien

Deputy Head Teacher

Class Names and Staff Teams 2025-26

Year Group	Main Site Class H	Main Site Class P	Main Site Class S	Annex Class A
EYFS	RH Mrs Darcy (YGL) and tbc	RP Mrs Cheel	RS Miss Clifford	RA Mrs Terrana and tbc
K S 1	Year 1 1H Mrs Morris To receive Class RS	1P Miss Stansfield To receive Class RP	1S Mrs Oakley M-W and Mrs Robinson Th-F To receive Class RH	1A Mr Williams (YGL) To receive Class RA
	Year 2 2H Miss Oulton (YGL) To receive Class 1H	2P Mrs Miller To receive Class 1S	2S Miss Cottam To receive Class 1P	2A Miss Stevenson To receive Class 1A
K S 2	Year 3 3H tbc To receive NEW Class C	3P Mrs Evans To receive NEW Class B	3S Miss Begum To receive NEW Class A	3A Miss Davis (YGL) To receive Class 2A
	Year 4 4H Mrs Gaynor (YGL) To receive Class 3H	4P Mrs East To receive Class 3P	4S tbc To receive Class 3S	4A Mrs Jesson To receive Class 3A
Year 5	5H Mrs Brown (YGL) M-W and Mr Down Th-F To receive NEW Class C	5P Mrs Dalzell To receive NEW Class A	5S tbc To receive NEW Class B	5A Mrs Vines and tbc To receive Class 4A
Year 6	6H Mrs Mitchell M-W and Miss Ball Th-F To receive Class 5P	6P Miss Kessedjian To receive Class 5H	6S Mr Clabon To receive Class 5S	6A Mrs Khand (YGL) M,W, Th & F and Miss Ball Tues To receive Class 5A



Smartphone Safety for Primary School Children

Smartphones **can be** a great way for children to learn, connect, and have fun. However, it's important to help them use these devices safely and responsibly.

Here are some key tips to support your child in staying safe while using a smartphone:

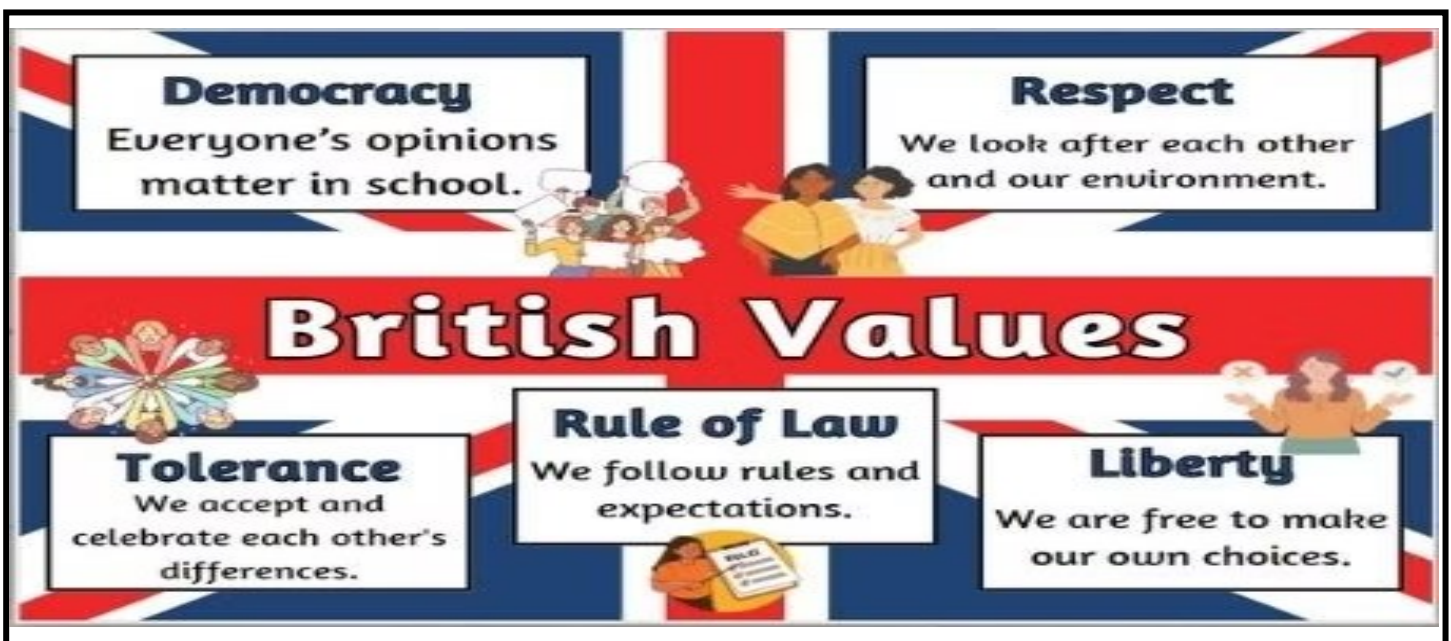
- Consider if your child should have independent access to a smartphone. Consider alternatives to smart phones: [The Alternatives](#)
- Talk regularly with your child about who they might communicate with on a smartphone.
- Set clear rules about screen time and appropriate use.
- Explore real alternatives to screen time with your child. Enforce breaks and non-screen time. Too much screen time can make them tired and/or grumpy!
- Use parental controls to help manage access to apps and websites.
- Remind your child never to share personal information like their full name, address, or school.
- Encourage kindness and respect in all online interactions.
- Make sure your child knows they can come to you if something online makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Keep devices in shared family spaces, especially during screen time.
- Model healthy smartphone habits yourself.

Together, we can help children enjoy the benefits of technology whilst staying safe and confident online.

Reading Books

As we approach the end of term, we are asking that any books belonging to school are returned on **Monday 14th July**. This allows us to take stock of what we have and plan our future provision. Please can you ensure your child's books are returned by this date. Over the summer, HPS pupils will still be able to access their online reading accounts on Oxford Reading Buddy and Harborne Library remains an incredible resource that we encourage you to take advantage of. Some children may also have access to Twinkl Go, which contains books for their level. If your child needs a login reminder, please speak to their class teacher. If you feel that your child is unable to access reading for pleasure books elsewhere, please let your child's teacher know and we will provide some books to go home where we are able.

Many thanks, The English Team.





Achievement Certificate Winners—W/E 11/07/25

RH	Wilfred	Hugo	
RP	Millie	Dhiya	
RS	Hugo	Theo	
RA	No Assembly		
1H	LuXi	Ted	Star Certificate: Toby
1P	Seb	Zakariya	Star Certificate: Leo
1S	Musa	Ada	Star Certificate: Harry
1A	No Assembly		
2H	No Assembly		
2P	No Assembly		
2S	Romie		
2A	No Assembly		
3H	Seb G		
3P	Edie		
3S	Leah		
3A	No Assembly		
4H	Kavan		
4P	Henry		
4S	Marcus		
4A	No Assembly		
5H	Laura		
5P	Ritvik		
5S	Emily	Aaminah	
5A	No Assembly		
6H	Whole Class		
6P	Whole Class		
6S	Whole Class		
6A	No Assembly		



Dates in the Diary

Tues 15th Jul	2.15pm — Y1 Assembly (main site and annex)
Wed 16th Jul	2.15pm — Y1 Assembly (main site)
Thurs 17th Jul	12.30pm—9.30pm Youth Proms at Symphony Hall
Fri 18th Jul	Last Day of Term for Children
Mon 21st Jul	TED Day—School closed for all children
Mon 1st Sept	TED Day
Tues 2nd Sept	TED Day
Wed 3rd Sept	TED Day
Thurs 4th Sept	School re-opens for children



How to protect yourself and your family from measles

What is measles?

Measles cases have started to spread across the West Midlands. Measles is highly infectious and can lead to serious health complications, especially in children under 1, pregnant women, and people with a weakened immune system. Outbreaks can happen when not enough people have been immunised.

What are the symptoms of measles?

Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms. The first symptoms of measles include:

- a high temperature
- a runny or blocked nose
- sneezing
- a cough
- red, sore, watery eyes



A rash usually appears a few days after the cold-like symptoms. The rash starts on the face and behind the ears before spreading to the rest of the body. Some people may also get small spots in their mouth, particularly inside the cheeks and on the back of the lips. To learn more about symptoms, visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>.

What should you do if you or your child has suspected measles?

If your child develops symptoms, urgently contact your GP. Please contact the surgery by telephone before visiting and tell the reception staff that you think that your child may have measles. Do not attend the surgery unless you are asked to. The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that if they have measles, they won't pass it on to others.

How can you protect yourself and your family from measles?

The MMR immunisation is the best way to protect yourself and your family against measles because it is:

- effective
- safe
- free of charge

2 doses of the MMR immunisation are needed to give the best protection against measles.

The first dose of the MMR immunisation is normally given soon after the first birthday, and a second dose before starting school, but you can catch-up with missed MMR doses at any age.

Research has shown there is **no link** between the MMR immunisation and autism.

The MMR immunisation is safe for all **faiths and cultures**. A pork-free version is available for those who avoid pork products. This immunisation is available at every GP practice, and it is free.

For more information on the MMR immunisation, **scan this QR code** or visit <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>





Communication and Autism Team (CAT) – Parent carer Signposting

Some useful information on services & events that parent carers may want to check out.

All schools will have a SEND Information Report that details SEND provision within their school

Communication Autism Team

Parent support: Please check with your school for flyers and information for these events.

- CAT host parent carer drop-in advice/workshop sessions across the city - *half termly*
- CAT PAC awareness course 6 sessions termly for parent carers of children in Early years, Primary, Secondary- *termly*
- Online advice service sessions - *half termly*



Birmingham City council – Local Offer SEND services

Here you will find help, advice and information about the services available for your child or young person from birth to 25 years with a special educational need or disability (SEND).

www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk

All age autism support Service: www.aadirectory.co.uk

Autism west Midlands: www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk

Ambitious About Autism: <https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/>

Birmingham Events and Activities for young people with SEND Summer Holiday Events 2025

Bring it on Brum! Is back for the summer holidays

Resources for autism offer playschemes [Holiday Play Schemes - Resources for Autism](https://www.resourcesforautism.org.uk)
<https://www.resourcesforautism.org.uk>

Events | Autism Support Services, Birmingham and Solihull

Autism West Midlands have a picnic at cannon hill [Cannon Hill Park Summer meet up | Autism West Midlands](#)

Lots of activities and events on the [birmingham.localoffer](#) page [Days out and leisure activities - Local Offer Birmingham](#)

SEND socials will have lots going on [About us - Send Socials](#)

Birmingham Mac have relaxed performances [Accessible events | Midlands Arts Centre](#)
<https://www.aadirectory.co.uk/clinac/mac-maker-music.html>

Birmingham Thinktank Museum morning explorers – autism friendly [Autism friendly visiting times and activities | Thinktank | Birmingham Museums](#)

The Ackers Activity Centre – Sessions for young people with SEND
<https://www.aadirectory.co.uk/events/ackers-adventures-send-sessions-2025.html>



Entertainment venues that offer relaxed/autism friendly sessions/performance:

Please note: this information is subject to change.

Please check with the venues for booking when planning a visit.

Cineworld

www.cineworld.co.uk/uk/uk/venues/uk/venues/autism-friendly

Odeon Cinemas

<https://www.oodirectory.co.uk/uk/venues/odeon-cinemas.html>

Birmingham Hippodrome

www.birminghamhippodrome.com/plan-your-visit/access/

Sea Life centre, Birmingham

www.visitsealife.com/birmingham/explore/events/quiet-at-the-aquarium/

Think Tank, Birmingham: - Also provide a quiet area, social stories and communication symbols to download prior to visits

www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank

Parks 4 Play: [Parks for Play – Creating Welcoming Spaces](#)

Communication and Autism Team

Children and Families Directorate

Birmingham City Council

Office: PO Box 17843, Birmingham, B2 2JR

Birmingham Local Offer: www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/communication-and-autism-team

To contact CAT: CATParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk
