



## Newsletter Autumn 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to Harborne Primary School. We hope your child has returned feeling refreshed and ready for the academic year 2025–2026. It's been wonderful to see pupils reconnecting with friends, settling into their new classes, and embracing the start of term with enthusiasm.



### **Staffing Update – Strengthening Our School Community**

Over the summer, we undertook a significant recruitment drive to strengthen our leadership and teaching capacity. This has been a challenging process, given the national retention and recruitment crisis in education, but I'm pleased to share that we have made a number of successful interim and permanent appointments.

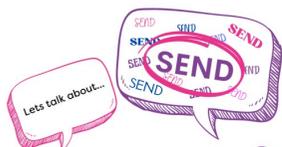
We warmly welcome the following new members of staff, Mrs Cockayne – SENDCo, Mrs Onyeogo – Specialist SEND Teacher, based in The Nest, Mr Etheridge—Senior Strategic Leader, Mrs Randeree—Senior Strategic Leader, Ms Nahar—SSL, Ms Rangzeb—Job share Class Teacher of RH, Miss Sulh Class Teacher of 3H, Miss Hendrix—Class Teacher of 5S, Mrs Foulkes—Job share Class Teacher of 5A, Mrs Barron—Pastoral, Mr Parkes—Pastoral Support, Mr Jenkins—Premises Team and Mr Crawford—Premises Team.

We are also delighted to announce the permanent appointment of Mrs Philips—many of you will know her as our previous SENDCo during the 2024–2025 academic year. Mrs Philips will now be teaching Year 4, and any SEND-related concerns should be directed to Mrs Cockayne moving forward. We encourage all parents and carers to introduce themselves to our new staff members—they are excited to get to know you and your children.

UNIFORM  
REMINDERS

### **Uniform Reminder**

Please ensure your child arrives in full school uniform each day. Kindly note that trainers are not permitted as part of our uniform policy. For full details, please visit our school uniform page. [Harborne Primary School - Uniform](#)



### **SEND Review Meetings**

This week, some families will be contacted by our SENDCo to arrange a date and time for their child's SEND review meeting. To strengthen communication and ensure these meetings reflect the voices of pupils, parents/carers, and the school, we will be asking families to complete a pre-review meeting form. This will help us work in true partnership and ensure each meeting is purposeful, inclusive, and focused on the needs of the child.



### Site Improvements Over Summer

We're pleased to share that significant improvements have taken place across both school sites:

- Main site: Installation of fence screening to enhance privacy and security.
- Annex: Extensive groundworks and full boundary fence replacement.
- The Nest provision: Redesigned to support pupils with high-level SEND needs, offering: Specialist support, resources, and staffing, flexible access to mainstream learning and small group teaching in a nurturing environment.
- Classrooms and offices have been repurposed to create suitable workspaces for a range of activities and meetings
- Painting and plastering at the Main Site has refreshed key areas.
- A major recycling and decluttering effort—involving seven skips—has helped us create cleaner, more purposeful learning spaces.



### Online Safety Reminder

As the nights begin to draw in and children spend more time indoors, we encourage families to revisit online safety procedures at home. Please speak with your child about safe internet use, privacy settings, and responsible digital behaviour. Our school will continue to reinforce these messages through the computing curriculum and assemblies.



### Staff News

We're thrilled to share that Mrs Blunn gave birth to a healthy baby boy last week—huge congratulations to her and her family!

We also send our warmest wishes to several other members of staff who are expecting babies in the coming months. We wish them all the very best as they enter their second and third trimesters.

### Reading Workshops – Parent/Carer Invitation

We are excited to invite parents and carers to our upcoming Reading Workshops, where you'll have the opportunity to observe your child's class teacher deliver a 30-minute reading lesson. The purpose of these sessions is to: share strategies that can be repeated at home, further engage parents in their child's learning, and increase communication about reading Progress.



Please see below for your child's year group workshop date and time:

- Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 9:15-9:45am - Y3
- Tues 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 9:15-9:45am - Y4
- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 9:15-9:45am - Y6 & Y1
- Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 9:15-9:45am - Y5
- Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 9:15-9:45am - Y2



### **Celebration Assemblies & Motivated Magpie Theme**

Our theme for this term is Motivation—one of the key learning behaviours we aim to develop across the school. Teachers and staff will be looking out for examples of motivation in everyday learning, such as: persevering with a challenging task, showing enthusiasm during lessons, taking pride in presentation and effort, asking thoughtful questions and showing curiosity, supporting peers and encouraging others.

Each Friday, we will celebrate these efforts in our Celebration Assemblies.

If your child has been selected to receive a certificate you will receive a call from Mrs Barron, who will invite you to attend the assembly— please keep this a secret as we would like this to be a lovely surprise for our pupils . During the assembly pupils selected will receive a **Star of the Week certificate**. Pupils who demonstrate exceptional work, attitude to learning, good manners, kindness, or role model behaviour will be nominated for a **Headteacher’s Award**..

### **Attendance Matters**

Attendance remains a top priority this year. It is a statutory requirement and essential to every child’s wellbeing and academic progress. Attendance will be closely monitored by:

- Mrs Anderson-Lo – Attendance Officer
- Mrs Barron – Pastoral Lead
- Mrs Brown – Attendance Lead. Mrs Brown is also a member of the Senior Leadership Team and the Head of Year for Year Five.

The latest government guidance on Keeping Children Safe in Education clearly identifies the link between attendance and safeguarding. [Attendance and safeguarding guidance 2025-2026](#)

### **100% Attendance certificate**



To further encourage attendance, we will be awarding a weekly attendance certificate to the class with the highest attendance. At the end of the term, the class with the most certificates will be invited to choose a low-cost, school-based treat, selected in consultation with our School Council. Please note that pupils who are absent due to genuine illness, GP appointments, or hospital consultations will still be included in the weekly attendance figures and will not be penalised. Please ensure you follow the correct protocol as outlined in our Attendance Policy to ensure that notification of your child’s absence is received promptly on the first and subsequent days of absence.

### **Coffee Morning Invitation – Meet the Pastoral Team**



We would like to warmly invite all parents and carers to an informal coffee morning on Friday 12th September from 9:00– 9:45am in the Studio at Main Site. This will be a relaxed opportunity to meet our Pastoral Team, welcome them to Harborne Primary School, and learn more about the support available to pupils and families. Mrs Cockayne, our SENDCo, will also be attending.

While the session is informal, we kindly ask that any specific concerns or individual needs be discussed in a private appointment, rather than in the open forum. Members of the team will be available to book follow-up slots with you during the morning, should you wish to arrange a more detailed conversation.

We hope you’ll join us for a cup of coffee, a friendly chat, and a chance to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to a joyful, purposeful, and successful term ahead.

**Warm regards,**

**Linda Francis**

**Interim Headteacher**