

HPS Newsletter 15.12.25

Monday 15th December 2025

Harborne Primary School



[Headteacher's message](#)

End of Term Message to Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a very busy Autumn Term, we want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared. This term has been packed with activity and achievement—from Ofsted monitoring visits and academy conversions to coffee mornings, Cultural Appreciation Day, Learning Together workshops, Reception induction days, and phonics workshops for parents and carers. We've also enjoyed Times Tables Rock Stars Day, Parents' Evening, and so much more.

We are delighted to celebrate the high levels of parental engagement throughout these events and the positive impact this has had on pupils' learning. Your support truly makes a difference, and we are grateful for the strong partnership between home and school.

A special thank you for your contributions to our Christmas Fayre, which raised an incredible £3,233.97, along with an additional £882.60 from the Christmas card commission. These funds

will go a long way in supporting enriching experiences for our children. Thank you, too, to those who have donated to the Save the Children fund. Donations can still be made via Parent Pay towards this very worthy cause.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to The Friends of Harborne and our new volunteers for all of the hard work behind the scenes in making the Christmas Fayre such a special occasion. Your dedication and creativity helped create a truly memorable event for our school community.

This term also saw the wonderful Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church, a true celebration of our children's talents and the dedication of our staff who worked tirelessly to bring this magical event together. Our Nativity performances were equally heartwarming, and we thank you for the hard work behind the scenes—helping children learn their lines and songs at home. Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce that, after months of searching, we have secured a venue for **Sports Day 2026 at Lordswood Boys School**:

- **Key Stage 1** – 15th May
- **Key Stage 2** – 22nd May

Further details will follow in the New Year.

Farewell and Best Wishes

We say goodbye and extend our heartfelt thanks to the following staff for their dedication and commitment:

- Mr Etheridge (Strategic School Leader) – commencing a Deputy Headship in London.
- Mrs Whitlock (Year 1 TA) – traveling abroad with her family.
- Mrs Terrana (Reception Teacher) – promoted to a new school closer to home.
- Mrs Philips (Previous SENDCo) – supporting SEND pupils across multiple schools.
- Miss Kessedjian (Year 6 Teacher) – pursuing work experience placements for her doctorate.

We also send warm wishes to our expectant teachers:

- Mrs Dalzell (Year 6) – leaving 9th January.
- Mrs East (Year 4) – leaving 19th January.
- Mrs Ball (Year 6) – leaving early March.

Thank you for all your hard work and best wishes for the exciting journeys ahead!

Welcome to New Staff

We are excited to welcome:

- Mrs Nadine Mason – experienced KS2 teacher joining Class 5H.
- Mr Barkley – Year 6P replacing Miss Kessedjian.
- Mr Bennett – Year 4P replacing Mrs East.
- Mrs Fletcher – replacing Mrs Onyeogo (Nest Teacher).
- Mrs Cummings Crawford – Nest Teaching Assistant.
- Ms Jo Charlton – replacing Mrs Whitlock.

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to our Harborne Year 6 Basketball Team for achieving third and second place in league competitions! We look forward to cheering them on in the finals at the end of January.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the Spring and Summer terms, we anticipate continued collaboration and exciting opportunities for our pupils. Please save the dates for upcoming events, and stay tuned for more details in the New Year.

From all of us at Harborne, we wish you a wonderful holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back on 6th January 2026.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Francis





Congratulations!



We send our congratulations to Mrs Serpell, her husband and their son upon the birth of their new baby boy. We send lots of love to you all and look forward to meeting baby Nathan in the near future.

Dates for the diary

Please see below a list of dates for the Spring term:

- Friday 19th December- Last day of Autumn term for pupils
- Monday 5th January - TED 6 (school closed to pupils)
- Tuesday 6th January - First day of Spring term for pupils
- Thursday 8th January: Tours for prospective Reception 2026 intake (9:30am MS, 2:00pm Annex)
- Week beginning 12th January: SEND Review Meetings (by invitation from class teachers)
- Wednesday 21st January: SEND Coffee Morning (Main Site, 9:15-10:15am)
- Wednesday 28th January: Year 6 SATs briefing (Annex, 9:15-10:00am)
- Friday 30th January: Year 6 SATs briefing (Main Site, 9:15-10:00am)
- Reception Writing learning together workshops: Monday 2nd February (9:05-10:00am)
- Year 1 & 4 Writing learning together workshops: Tuesday 3rd February (9:05-10:00am)
- Year 2 Writing learning together workshops: Tuesday 3rd February (9:05-10:00am)
- Year 3 & 6 Writing learning together workshops: Wednesday 4th February (9:05-10:00am)
- Year 5 Writing learning together workshops: Thursday 5th February (9:05-10:00am)
- Friday 6th February: NSPCC Number Day (maths-themed non-uniform day)
- Monday 9th February -Friday 14th February: Book fair in school
- Tuesday 10th February: Safer Internet Day
- Tuesday 10th February: Parents' Evening (4:00-6:00pm)
- Wednesday 11th February: SEND Coffee Morning (Main Site, 9:15-10:15am)
- Thursday 12th February: Parents' Evening (4:00-6:00pm)
- Monday 16th February-Friday 20th February: Half-term holiday
- Monday 23rd February: Pupils return
- Thursday 5th March: World Book Day (book character fancy dress)
- Wednesday 11th March: SEND Coffee Morning (Annex, 9:15-10:15am)
- Thursday 12th March: Reception Maths Workshop (Main Site, 9:05-10:00am; Annex, 2:15-3:15pm)

- Friday 13th March: Comic Relief Day (wear red)
- Thursday 19th March: Phonics Screening Check Briefing for Parents (Main Site, 9:05-9:30am)
- Friday 20th March: Phonics Screening Check Briefing for Parents (Annex, 2:45-3:15pm)
- Friday 27th March: Final day of Spring term for pupils

Summer Term

- Monday 13th April: First day of Summer term for pupils
- Monday 4th May: May Bank Holiday (school closed)
- Thursday 7th May: TED 7 (school closed to pupils)
- Monday 25th May-Friday 29th May: Half-term holiday

Sports Day 2026 - Advance Notice

- Friday 15th May: Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Sports Day at Lordswood School for Boys (1:30pm)
- Friday 22nd May: Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 Sports Day at Lordswood School for Boys (1:30pm)

Final day of the academic year for pupils

- Friday 17th July: Final day of the academic year for pupils
- Monday 20th July: TED 8 (school closed to pupils)

[Academy Order](#)



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to share some important news regarding the future of Harborne Primary School. The Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed that our school, which already has an Academy Order, will be sponsored by The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust, a well-regarded multi-academy trust (MAT). This decision was approved by the Regional Director through the West Midlands Regional Advisory Board process.

What does this mean for us?

By joining The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust, Harborne Primary School will become part of a strong network of schools working collaboratively to share expertise, resources, and best practice. This partnership will help us strengthen educational outcomes and provide additional support for both pupils and staff. The trust will share its improvement plans with families before the conversion takes place. More information about the Elliot Foundation can be found here:

[The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust](#)

Next steps:

- The DfE will oversee the legal and operational process of conversion.
- Day-to-day teaching and learning will continue as normal.
- While we cannot confirm a conversion date yet due to legal processes, we will keep you informed throughout.

Further information:

For those who would like to learn more about the process and the role of multi-academy trusts, here are some useful links:

- [Support and intervention in schools](#)
- [Convert to an academy: guide for schools](#) – this information is for schools looking to convert voluntarily. However, the post-approval process is the same and from section 3 onwards the process will apply to Harborne Primary School.
- [West Midlands advisory board - GOV.UK](#)
- [Types of school: Academies - GOV.UK](#)
- [Commissioning high-quality trusts - GOV.UK](#)

Thank you for your continued commitment and support as we move forward together.

Warm regards,

Linda Francis

Head Teacher

Safeguarding at Harborne Primary School

At HPS, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority - we are delighted that OFSTED have recognised that Safeguarding arrangements at HPS are now effective. We are committed to creating a safe, nurturing environment where all children feel secure, valued and heard.

Playground Safety Reminder

We kindly ask parents to ensure that children **do not ride their scooters on the school playground** at the start or end of the day.

If your child rides a scooter to and from school, please remind them to **dismount and walk with it** to the scooter/bike store.

This measure helps keep everyone on the school grounds safe and prevents accidents.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our school community safe.

Online Safety over the Holiday

With Christmas approaching, many children will be receiving internet-connected devices. To help parents protect their children online during the festive period, SKIPS Educational have created a free digital guide full of simple, practical advice.

[Skips Safety Net](#)

It includes tips on:

- Social media
- Gaming and live streaming
- Online grooming
- Influencer culture
- Sharing pictures
- Privacy settings
- Fake news and misinformation

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

It's Christmas Time!

A Parent's Guide to Social Media

A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures

A Parent's Guide to Gaming

A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming

scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website

A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming

A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers

A Parent's Guide to Fake News

A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period. Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Attendance Matters



We remain committed to ensuring that all children achieve at least our target of 96% attendance over the course of the academic year. Thank you for your continued support in helping us reach this important goal.

Parents and carers will receive an email this week with a summary of their child's attendance for the Autumn Term.

If you would like any support with improving your child's attendance, please speak to Mrs Brown or Ms Barron.

Medication in School



In line with our Supporting Children with Medical Conditions in School Policy, which has now been ratified by the Interim Executive Board and is available on the website, please note that we cannot administer non-prescription medications in school. Please see the wording from the policy below:

The school does not store or administer non-prescription medication in school. Non-prescription medication should be taken outside of school hours. In exceptional circumstances, the headteacher may authorise a parent/carer to attend school to administer non-prescription medication on the school site; however, this requires written authorisation and is at the headteacher's discretion.

If your child requires prescription medication, please speak to a member of office staff to fill in a consent form.

The policy can be viewed here: [Harborne Primary School - Policies](#)

Free desks for collection

We are updating some of the furniture in the classrooms at the Station Road site in the New Year. We would love some of the old wooden desks to go to a new home!

We will be in touch again to confirm dates for collection, but advance notice if you or anyone you know would be interested in any of these!

They will be free of charge, but you will need to arrange prompt collection.



Primary Futures Award



We are a Primary Futures Bronze award winner!

We are delighted to share that **Harborne Primary School** has officially become a **Primary Futures School!**

Our commitment to inspiring pupils through career-related learning has been recognised with a **Bronze Award** from the **Primary Futures Recognition Scheme**.

This award celebrates the fantastic work our staff and pupils have done to connect learning with the world of work, specifically in the area of STEM, helping children see the wide range of opportunities available to them in the future.

We are proud of this achievement and look forward to building on it as we continue to deliver engaging, career-based learning experiences for all our pupils.

SEND Coffee Mornings

Next term, we have several SEND coffee mornings planned.

- Wednesday 21st January: SEND Coffee Morning (Main Site, 9:15-10:15am)
- Wednesday 11th February: SEND Coffee Morning (Main Site, 9:15-10:15am)
- Wednesday 11th March: SEND Coffee Morning (Annex, 9:15-10:15am)

Learning Together Workshops – Writing Focus

The Spring term's Learning Together workshops will focus on Writing. The purpose of these sessions is to model how we teach Writing at Harborne Primary, giving you a clear understanding of the strategies we use so you can support your child at home.

Please come and join your child's class on the days and times below:

- Reception: Monday 2nd February (9:05-10:00am)
- Year 1 & 4: Tuesday 3rd February (9:05-10:00am)
- Year 2: Tuesday 3rd February (9:05-10:00am)
- Year 3 & 6: Wednesday 4th February (9:05-10:00am)
- Year 5: Thursday 5th February (9:05-10:00am)

Healthy Snacks

- A reminder that Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children receive free fruit in school.
- Children in Years 3-6 can bring a healthy snack in for playtime, or can purchase a healthy snack from the kitchen.
- Please note that we are a healthy-eating and nut-free school.

Curriculum Visions

We're excited to share that we have access to Curriculum Visions, an online website with a large selection of non-fiction texts linked to the curriculum. Please access them via the link and login details below:

<https://www.curriculumvisions.com/>

Curriculum Visions



Hi, I am Henry, your learning assistant.
Please click on me...

Your school passwords:

Username: Harborne

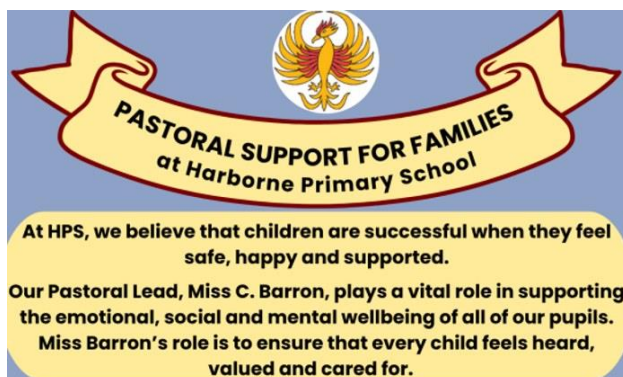
Password: B179LU (no gaps)

Year 6 Residential - June 2026




We're thrilled to announce our upcoming Year 6 residential trip in June 2026! It's set to be an amazing experience packed with adventure, teamwork and unforgettable memories. The trip will take place at PGL Boreatton Park in Shropshire. There are still places available! If you would like more information, please speak to your child's teacher.

Pastoral support

Please contact Ms Barron if you would like to discuss pastoral support for your child or family. We are very happy to try to support with a range of different situations. Please see the pictures for more information. Ms Barron can be contacted directly during office hours on 07354 896960.



- 🧡 **Emotional Support:** Helping children manage feelings like anxiety, sadness or anger.
- 📅 **Attendance and Behaviour:** Working closely with families to improve attendance and develop positive behaviours.
- 🚨 **Early Help and Safeguarding:** Identifying when extra support is needed and linking families with the right services.
- 👤 **Family Liaison:** Acting as a friendly point of contact for parents who may need advice, reassurance or someone to talk to.
- 🌈 **Promoting Inclusion:** Ensuring every child feels they belong, especially those facing challenges at home or in school.

We have a dedicated phonenumber for parents/carers to contact Miss C. Barron if they require urgent/emergency pastoral support. Tel: 07354896960

Malachi - support for families



To support families at Harborne Primary School, we have recently started working with an organisation called Malachi. They offer professional therapeutic family support - they are highly regarded within this field and have established relationships with some of our local secondary schools already, including Lordswood Girls School.

The link below will take you to their website, so you can get a flavour of what they offer. The 1hr sessions with a professional therapeutic practitioner can take place at either school site, or even at home and a cycle usually lasts around 12 weeks.

[Home - Malachi](#)

They work primarily with parents but children are at the heart of everything they do, practitioners will include them at key points of the programme.

If you think your family could benefit from working with Malachi, please get in touch with Mrs Walters via our enquiry email.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or concerns, please use the contact details below to get in touch with us.

Harborne Primary School

enquiry@harborne.bham.sch.uk

Station Road

Harborne

Birmingham

B17 9LU

Tel: 0121 464 2705

Harborne Primary School Annex

Court Oak Road

Harborne

Birmingham

B17 9AB

Tel: 0121 464 2705 (Opt 1)

Visit us on the web at <https://www.harborneprimary.co.uk/>