



Respectful, Resilient, Resourceful & Responsible Learners

RADIO OXFORD

Last year, with the elections that we ran in school, we were fortunate to forge good links with Radio Oxford. As such, when they started a new feature on the afternoon, focusing on schools they gave us a call and asked if we would be interested. Given that it would be an opportunity for the children to experience something new and memorable, I didn't hesitate to say yes.

And so, all last week, a different class was briefly interviewed (sadly 7 into 5 doesn't go and so not every class was able to have the chance).

During the interview, they shared a couple of highlights of their day and set a homework question.

They will also had the chance to choose a song to play just after home time.

If you want to listen again you can check out the recordings on Lilley Mitchell's afternoon show.

Monday Year 4

Tuesday Year 6

Wednesday Foundation

Thursday year 3

Friday Year 5

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/schedules/p00fzl8c>

Wizard Theatre

Each year, we invite Wizard Theatre to run drama workshops for children. While it is not possible for every child to be involved, over the last few years, over 100 children have had the opportunity to develop their acting, teamwork, language skill and speaking confidence. This year, 34 children are enjoying the opportunity.

HSA Movie night

A reminder that on Friday, the HSA will be running an early evening film show (3:30 to 5:30)

The film will be Arthur Christmas.

£1 per child to include a drink & snack. Cash to be taken to the film for the HSA. Please let the HSA know via the Google form sent out last week.

Non uniform day - this Friday

Please bring in a Tombola prize. - chocolate or bottle

Non Uniform day



My apologies in advance if the following feels like a moan.

They are not directed at any individuals just some reminders for everyone.

Many thanks

Mr Gibson

Attendance & Holidays

The ability to grant holiday requests has been removed from headteachers' powers for some time now.

During the course of the year, there are 13 weeks holiday - while I appreciate the cost rockets during school holidays (it's the same for staff too), taking school-time holidays has a detrimental effect on the learning outcomes of children.

Research has shown there is a direct link between good attendance and attainment. Children with better attendance achieve more. It is for this reason that I can sometimes appear somewhat obsessive about attendance. Like you, I want your child to do as well as they can.

Parking

Please can you remember that if you do need to drive to school, please can you be mindful of our neighbours. Please park considerately. Ideally, park at the back of the village hall and walk up.

If you do need to drive to school, please drive carefully. There is a 5mph speed limit on the school site.

I am considering a scooter/bike rack at the end of the playground. Would this be welcome? Would this encourage you to scoot/bike to school?

Uniform

Please can you ensure that your child comes into school in the correct uniform, including footwear.

While I appreciate that from time to time, shoes wear out and children may temporarily need to wear non uniform. In this case, please ensure shoes are replaced as soon as possible.

The full school uniform list can be found on the school website by following the link:

<http://www.harwellprimaryschool.co.uk/uniform/>

Punctuality

I would like to remind you that the bell goes at 8:55am. Please make sure that your child is at school ready to start the school day.

5 minutes late a day equals to 25 minutes learning time lost a week, 1 hour 40 minutes a month, 16 hours 15 minutes a school year.

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Safeguarding

Lockdown, fire alarms, working within partnership, information sharing between professionals (where appropriate), training for staff and governors, audits, health and safety, equipment checks are just some of the ways in which we ensure that your children are safe at school.

Last week, we hosted the south region's safeguarding forum, supported by the Local Area Designated Safeguarding team.

It was an opportunity to network with other schools and keep up to date with the latest developments in safeguarding information, ably supported by the governors, (The link safeguarding governor is John Dickens).

On the theme of safeguarding, every year we choose to have our safeguarding practices externally audited. While we monitor and review our own practices, it is a useful experience to externally audit what we do, from the records that we keep to how we deal with different forms of bullying - it is, I believe, good practice to hold up what you do to external scrutiny and test it. It had been planned for this week, but due to LADO commitments, they have had to postpone. It will be rearranged and I will update you when that happens.

Part of our safeguarding work is supporting children to develop an understanding of E-Safety. I understand with the quick pace of technological change it can be a challenge to keep up.

Last year we ran an e-safety workshop for parents, we are planning another workshop this year. When we have the date, we will let you know. In the meantime, there are some e-safety support for parents on the school website:

<http://www.harwellprimaryschool.co.uk/resources-for-parents/>

In everything that we do, as you are, we are always motivated by the best interest of the child.

Celebrations



ASSEMBLY

This Year's theme to anti bullying week is 'All different, all equal'

To raise awareness of this - I am encouraging children to wear odd socks this week.

It is a simple message that while each sock may well be different, they are both doing the same job and get treated the same.

Although it is a national week long appreciation of our uniqueness and individuality, it is something that we will focus on within assembly for the next month.

Last week's assembly theme was kindness. Thank you to Year 3, who were handing out smiles all week, encouraging everyone to share them and pass them along.

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