



Harrowbarrow School

Newsletter

**Friday 19th
November 2021**

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Fancy That!



It was lovely to see all the dressing up for Children In Need's Fancy Dress Friday today. Thank you to parents and carers for their support with this. We will confirm how much was raised in our next newsletter.

A motley selection of fancy dress outfits were in evidence (left).

Christmas Performances

After a year without live performances, we are excited about inviting parents and carers to watch our shows at the village hall once again. Further details, including how to apply for tickets will follow,

but we wanted to share this exciting news now. Our Covid risk assessment does mean that ticketing will be limited to two per family, so apologies that some extended family members may not be able to attend.

Performance dates for your diary:

Tuesday 7th December at 2pm: Infant nativity
Thursday 9th December at 9.30am: Infant nativity
Monday 13th December at 7pm: Junior concert
Tuesday 14th December at 2pm: Junior concert

Read Write Inc Parent/Carer Briefings

Thank you to all those who were able to attend the recent Read Write Inc briefings for Class 1 and 2. We hope you found them useful. It was lovely to be able to hold information sessions for parents again, after what has been a very long time.

Safeguarding Concern

We have become aware of children playing 'Squid Game' at playtimes. This comes from a violent television series in which contestants compete, through a series of children's games, to win a cash prize. The losers lose their lives, often in very violent ways. The programme is certificated for adult viewers, not children. Fortunately, the children have not imitated any of the violence from the show but we are concerned that some have access to it at home. The show is on Netflix, so please check your parental controls and safeguards are in place. Failure to protect children from physical and emotional harm, through not having appropriate safeguards in place, is a safeguarding concern. The playground game has been stopped by staff.

Parent Consultations

Face to face parent consultations are now scheduled for next week. To attend, please come to the school office in time for your scheduled appointment. All meetings will take place in the headteacher's office, which will be well ventilated. Please wear a face covering.

Robotics at Harrowbarrow



Ten children from Class 4, five boys and five girls, successfully applied to be part of an exciting competition we are engaged in this year. Sam Watts secured charitable funding to purchase Lego robotics kits, which enable us to join Cornwall's First Lego League.

Over the coming weeks, the group will learn to build various Lego robots and then, using coding software, programme them to undertake a number of tasks. At the end of January they will take their robots to RNAS Cudrose to compete against other schools. We look forward to sharing more once the children have started making their robots.

For those children who were unsuccessful in their application, there is an additional opportunity to enjoy learning about coding through our new curriculum offer for computing. We have been awarded £1500 through the Tesco Community Grant scheme and are purchasing a number of different programmable robots that can be used with all age groups. This is very exciting and we thank all those who put tokens in our collection at the Callington Tesco store.

Reading for Pleasure

Last year, due to Covid measures our classrooms were reconfigured to ensure social distancing. Now that classrooms are back to how they should be we are using the opportunity to revamp some of our areas. Reading for pleasure is integral to children's progress in school. If children enjoy reading, they are more like to read and if they read more they become more literate, which benefits learning across all areas of the curriculum. To support our reading for pleasure agenda we are revamping all our class reading areas, providing a place where children can relax with good book. We will recommend good books to them and invite them to recommend books they have read. Here is the Class 3 reading area; it's camouflaged so you might not be able to see it!

Covid Update

CO2 monitors have been installed throughout classes and shared areas. So far, our CO2 is within permissible levels.

We are experiencing a steady number of positive cases across the school at the moment. Thank you to parents and cares for keeping us informed of positive lateral flow test and follow-up PCR test results. If we reach a critical mass of cases in any one class, we may have to revise our protective measures following advice from public health; we are not at this stage for now.

Positive cases who have to isolate for 10 days will be set remote learning if they are well enough to engage with this.



Albaston Fete Donation

Unfortunately, due to a shortage of committee members, the long running Albaston Fete will no longer take place. As well as providing an annual community event, enjoyed by many, they raised funds for local organisations. They have decided to share out the funds remaining in their account and we have been fortunate to receive a donation of £350. This will be put towards some curriculum resources, as part of our development work in this area, which we will share with you once we have received them.

Dates for your diary

- 22.11.21 - Class 4 history walk in Calstock & Year 1 hearing screening
- 23.11.21 - Class 1 parent consultations
- 24.11.21 - Class 4 parent consultations
- 25.11.21 - Class 3 parent consultations
- 26.11.21 - Class 2 parent consultations