



Harrowbarrow School

Newsletter

**Friday 8th July
2022**

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Tremendous Trip



Summer Sports Evening

Following two years where we couldn't invite parents and carers to see children competing, due to the pandemic, it was wonderful to welcome everyone back again this week. Several staff members commented on the excellent conduct of the children, which I hadn't picked up on, largely because I take it for granted now; they were outstanding in their efforts and their behaviour. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did. A huge thank you to the PSA who provided some delicious food after the event. By Andrew Hunt

Class 3 went to Meadow Barns on Tuesday 5th July. There were 4 groups: mining, farming, trains and water. In the morning, there were fun activities followed by a walk that lasted the rest of the day. We enjoyed the trip and got educated a lot. My favourite part was seeing the water wheels work. By Lily-Jo.

This trip would not have been possible without the Cornwall Heritage Trust funding the transport costs to Luxulyan Valley. We would like to wholeheartedly thank them for their contribution. Thank you also to volunteer helper Leanne Wickett. From Mr Watts.

2022-23 Residential Trip Update

With the sad news that Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre is closing at the end of term, along with all the other Cornwall Outdoors sites, we are now actively looking at an alternative residential experience for our Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils. This will most likely take place around Easter 2023, depending upon the availability of our chosen trip. The Year 6 pupils will attend a residential towards the end of the summer term, similar to the one they will be going on in the Breccon Beacons in just over a week. We will share more, through a parent/carers briefing, once we have made a provisional booking.



Looking Forward By Andrew Hunt

As we approach the end of year, it is a chance to look ahead to the future and all the exciting opportunities we have identified for your children's learning.

- Underpinning all future activity will be our new mission statement and strategic vision. This has been drawn up following the values and vision consultation that you contributed to in the spring term. We will share this document by the end of term.
- Whilst we have continued to develop our wider curriculum offer to the children, this is an area of our school improvement work that has been challenging to implement because of pandemic disruption. As this situation has settled down, we are excited about moving forward with our plans to deepen children's learning across all subjects. We are looking to work with external partners who can support our vision to create a curriculum that gives all our children the cultural capital, the skills and knowledge, they need for the next steps in their lives.
- Despite funding set backs, we are optimistic that we will secure the funds necessary to construct our 150th anniversary wellbeing garden at the front of the school. We now have a plan, which draws upon the children's design ideas, and hope to start work in the autumn term. We view this project as one to benefit our whole school community, so will be inviting parents and carers to join us on some working party days once the project starts.
- The pandemic interrupted many of the established partnerships we had developed with other schools. We are looking to fully restore these so that children's learning experiences benefit from collaboration across schools. For example, we are putting together an interschool sports programme for 2022-23 to increase competitive sporting opportunities for the children.
- I have been leading maths across the school for many years. During this time there have been many changes to the way maths is taught and the level of expectation of what children can achieve is higher than it has ever been. An area I would like to explore next year, is the notion of maths for pleasure. Reading for pleasure is an established part of the curriculum in schools and generally most children enjoy reading. However, if we asked adults what their memories of maths lessons are or whether they judge their own maths skills to be good, I suggest that the majority of responses might be quite negative. This shouldn't be the case and work to ensure children don't develop negative views of maths or themselves as mathematicians needs to start the moment they enter school. This year, the infants have been learning through a mastering number programme and I have been astounded by the confidence most of them have in subitizing (recognising a number of objects without having to count them) and having number fluency (knowing without calculating the numbers that make a given total). To build on this I would like children to experience, both inside and beyond the classroom, opportunities to apply this knowledge through reasoning and problem solving. Of course, this already happens, but if we can provide a package of activities that are irresistible to children's intrigue and desire to engage, we will move towards children engaging in maths for pleasure. In the autumn term I plan to run some workshops for parents on the subject of maths for pleasure and to share how we plan to embed this philosophy within our school; don't worry, you will be able to do it!

But, before any of this can happen, I think the children and the staff need a summer holiday!

Parents and carers urged to protect children against COVID A message from Public Health Cornwall

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, parents and carers in Cornwall are being urged to get their children vaccinated ahead of the summer holidays.

Jabs are now available for all children over the age of 5 and child-friendly clinics are being set up at sites across the county.

The virus poses a risk to young people, both during the initial infection period and with longer-term health issues such as long COVID.

Vaccinating children can:

- Prevent further disruption to their education and social activity from initial infection as well as from long COVID which affects over 8% of children.
- Save lives by reducing the risk of infection to your child and to those around them, especially vulnerable and elderly family members.
- Reduce symptoms if infected and reduce the likelihood of developing severe disease and lasting health issues – proven by over 15 studies.
- Enhance future protection if a child has already had COVID-19.

All COVID-19 vaccines in the UK have passed all clinical safety trials to be approved by the UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. This means they are safe.

Parents and guardians can [book a vaccination appointment for their children online](#), or just walk in at their nearest walk-in clinic. To find out the details of their nearest walk-in site [visit the Grab a Jab website](#).

Dates for your diary

12.7.22 - Junior performance of Cinderella Rockerfella from 7pm

13.7.22 - Junior performance of Cinderella Rockerfella from 2pm

15.7.22 - 150th anniversary Victorian day

16.7.22 - Harrowbarrow Village Show - our children's artwork will be on display

18.7.22 to 21.7.22 - Year 6 residential to the Brecon Beacons