



Harrowbarrow School

Newsletter

**Friday 23rd
September 2022**

For up to date information and copies of all letters sent home, please view the school website at www.harrowbarrow.cornwall.sch.uk

Welcome Back

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was lovely to see the children return to school with so many smiles on their faces. For those starting school for the first time, we have been delighted by how well they have settled into school life. I have enjoyed talking to all of them during their playtimes, when they happily engage with me on all manner of topics. One young person confidently declared that he knew where I lived and when I asked where this was he replied 'the office'; perish the thought!

The first newsletter of the year is an opportunity to share a few key messages:

- I appreciate the effort families have made to ensure children are dressed in correct school uniform and arrive punctually for school in the morning; it is great to start as we mean to carry on. Looking smart will also be helpful for school photographs, which have been booked for Friday 7th October at the village hall. Further details will be shared shortly.
- If you need to report school absence, please telephone the school office on the first day of absence and follow the instruction to leave a message.
- All infant children, those in Class 1 and Class 2, are entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal. This free service may be helpful to families during the current cost of living crisis. Some junior children may also be eligible for Free School Meals, depending on the benefits their families are in receipt of. For more information or to find out if your child is eligible, please contact the school office or follow this link: www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools-and-colleges/school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals-and-pupil-premium/
- We operate both a breakfast club and an after school club for working families to use. Lesley Connell, who runs both clubs and manages the administration, is currently off work so please direct all enquiries or bookings to Elaine Moyle in the school office.
- Our autumn book fair, through Scholastic, will be accessible in the school library after school each day next week. Books for all age ranges are available to view and then order online.
- Sadly, the much anticipated annual residential trip to Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre had to be cancelled at the start of term, as Cornwall Council closed all of their outdoor education centres to cut costs. I am delighted to announce that we have secured an alternative booking through national outdoor education provider PGL at Barton Hall in South Devon. Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils will visit Barton Hall from Monday 24th to Wednesday 26th April. I have been working to secure an alternative that provides a similar experience to Porthpean and will be financially viable for families at this challenging time. Nowhere provides the same value for money as Porthpean, but I have managed to negotiate the price down with PGL. I will provide further details in due course and hold a parent/carers briefing but, for now, I simply want to share this exciting news.

Finally, thanks to all those parents/carers who were able to attend our Meet the Teacher sessions. For those unable to join us, please contact class teachers directly for content information you may have missed.

From Andrew Hunt

Achieve Believe Enjoy

Sesquicentennial Celebrations

As 2022, our 150th anniversary year, draws towards the end we are delighted to share news that we have managed to secure funding from the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding National Beauty office to commence our commemorative wellbeing garden. The plan is to complete all landscaping prior to full planting in the spring. This project is intended to benefit the whole school community and we hope to hold some working party session where parents, carers and grandparents might join us. We will share further information once dates and plans have been agreed.

Another major commemorative piece of work, organised by Tom Ottewell-Taylor, has been the creation of a tapestry that every child in the school last year contributed to. Over the summer, Rachel Lane very kindly sewed all the fabric squares together and the finished piece is really stunning. Today, our team of volunteers who supported the children through weeks of sewing, have been given an exclusive first showing and we now invite you all to come and see this wonderful artwork. The tapestry has been proudly displayed in the lobby outside of Class 4 and you are most welcome to come in and view it after school from Monday 26th September (see photo below).

Finally, you may remember we set families the challenge of coming up with names for our classes as part of this commemorative year. Our classes have always been called 1, 2, 3 and 4. Following some wonderful suggestions from Jack Marples and his family, we have elected to give classes the following names:

Class 1 - Wheal Brothers

Class 2 - Wheal Goodluck

Class 3 - Wheal Fortune

Class 4 - Wheal Pleasant

Wheal means a place of work or mine in old Cornish and these are all mine names from the Harrowbarrow area. It is likely that changing from a number to a name is easier said than done, as many of us are in the habit of following the number sequence up through the school. However, we are happy to use both for the time being.



Cross Country League

Junior pupils (Year 3 to Year 6) are eligible to join the East Cornwall Cross Country League, organised by East Cornwall Harriers. These races are held after school, although some require pupils to be collected before the end of the school day in order to be at the race on time. This year they can accommodate 7 boys and 7 girls from each year group, so plenty of space for interested runners. Further details will follow, including an opportunity to sign up, but here are the race dates for your diaries as we will require parents/carers of interested pupils to take them to the races:

October 14th
November 18th
January 13th
February 3rd
March 3rd

The venues will be shared once confirmed by the organisers.

Dates for your diary

26.9.22 - First day of Scholastic Book Fair (immediately after school in library)

7.10.22 - School photos at village hall

13.10.22 - Class 3 trip to Bodmin & Wenford Steam Railway

14.10.22 - First cross country race of the year (details to follow)

21.10.22 - School closed to pupils for staff training