



Harewood C of E Primary School,  
Harrogate Road, Harewood,  
Leeds, LS17 9LH

Tel: 01132886394

Email: office@harewood.leeds.sch.uk

Website: www.harewood.leeds.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr A. Ratcliffe BEd (Hons)

# 'Educating For Life In All Its Fullness'

6<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This afternoon we held our first Celebration Assembly of 2023 and said a well done to the following children for making the extra effort to impress during the week.

<b><u>Class 1</u></b> <b><u>Excellent Early Learners</u></b>
Jemima S Eliza K
<b><u>Class 2</u></b>
Wonderful Work: Florence H Brilliant Behaviour: Sophie M
<b><u>Class 3</u></b>
Wonderful Work: Thomas M Brilliant Behaviour: Shatakshi J
<b><u>Class 4</u></b>
Wonderful Work: Poppy A Brilliant Behaviour: Henry T

It has been great to welcome the children back in school this week and to hear their stories about the Christmas break, the places they have been the gifts they have given and received and the people they have visited. This week classes have been quickly back into the routines for learning but you may find that there are a few changes in class timetables and days that things happen. Please take time to read the individual class newsletters for details of these.

I would also like to welcome 3 new children to Harewood. One child has joined Class 1 and two children have joined Class 4. I am sure they will have had a good first week with us and you will all get to know the families over the coming weeks.

## Collective Worship

Each half term we have a theme for our collective worships. These are usually based around one of the Christian Values, for example Hope or Forgiveness. In other terms, the themes are linked to other topics such as national events or raising awareness of a theme. This term we are focussing on raising awareness of a number of learning differences or issues that affect people in our society or children at our school. This will include raising awareness of dyslexia, down syndrome, autism, allergies, neurodiversity and other different hidden disabilities.

The aim each week is to raise awareness in the children about a particular issue, give them a chance to learn more and ask questions about the issue and celebrate differences. Many of the themes for the half term are



ones that affect members of our school community. As well as raising awareness, this gives these children a chance to talk openly about, and celebrate, these differences with their peers.

### Clubs for this term

Quite a few of the extra-curricular clubs have changed for this term. Drama Den and Multi-Sports have changed nights for some year groups and we have introduced a couple of additional clubs this term with others to follow later in the year. You should have received details of each of the clubs but if not please contact the school office for details.

Day	Club	Year Groups Involved
Monday	Science Club	Years 1, 2 and 3
Monday	Maths Club	Year 6 (Information will be sent shortly to Y6)
Tuesday	Multi-Sports	Years 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday	Drama Den	Years 2 and 3
Thursday	Multi-Sports	Years 1, 2 and 3
Friday	Drama Den	Years 4, 5 and 6

All these clubs start straight after school and finish at **4.10pm**.

After a fabulous response to Mrs Watts starting a Science Club we have setup a waiting list and are currently looking at how we can accommodate the extra children who would like to join. The current plan is that we will run the club again next half term with the next batch of children on the list to try to get everyone a place. Sorry.

### Attendance and Punctuality

As we start the new term and the New Year, I wanted to put out a few reminders about the importance of school attendance and punctuality. The school gates open at 8.40am and close at 8.50am giving children chance to have a staggered and settled start to the school day. I know that on some mornings, traffic causes a problem but it is important for the children to be in school by 8.50am, so please allow for this. After 8.50am the gates will close and you will need to bring the children in through the main entrance and sign them in as class teachers will have already taken registers.

At the end of the day school finishes at 3.15pm when children can be collected from the playgrounds. Extra-curricular clubs (eg Multi-sports, Drama Den and Science Club) all finish at 4.10pm and children should be collected from the main office door.

Recently, school has received an increasing number of requests for children taking holidays in term time. These cannot be authorised by school, as they do not comply with the limited number of exceptional circumstances listed by the government and local authority. Whilst I know that term time holidays are considerably cheaper than in holiday time, parents have a legal obligation to make sure that their child attends school regularly. Leeds City Council have the power to prosecute parents for taking unauthorised holidays and audit school attendance on a regular basis.

An internal audit of attendance has taken place this week. If your child currently has attendance of less than 90% for this school year, you will be receiving a letter notifying you of this and a copy of their attendance record. It is school's duty to make sure parents are aware when attendance is low and to work with families who need support to improve attendance.

### Apple Watches and Mobile Phones

We have a no phones rule in school for children. This is common in other primary schools and many high schools and is there to avoid problems with the loss of phones, damage or the temptation for children to be using them during lessons or break times. On the rare occasions where a child may need to have a phone with them for after school use, the rule is that the phone is handed in to the school office for safekeeping and collected at 3.15pm.



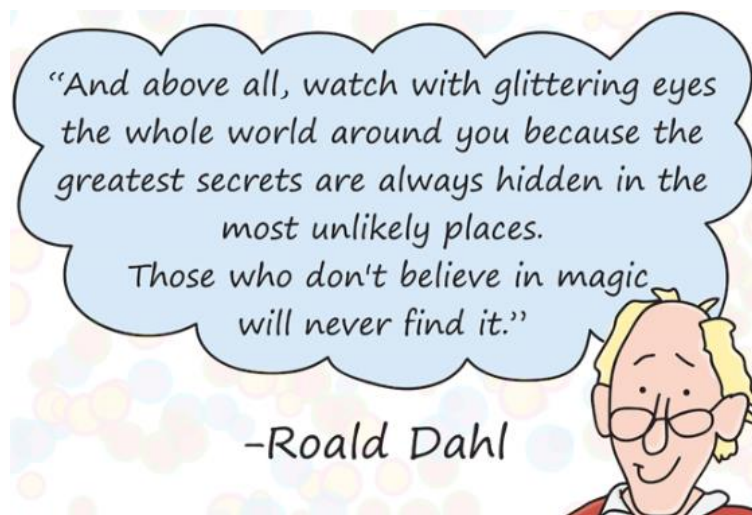
We have noticed that a number of pupils have received smart watches as Christmas gifts or are now bringing these into school. Whilst having a watch and knowing how to tell the time is a good thing, we want to make it clear that watches must only be used for telling the time but none of the 'smart' functions during the school day. Children found breaking this rule will be asked to hand their watches in and will not be allowed to bring them in future. As well as being a distraction from learning, many of the functions of these watches could cause potential safeguarding issues and this must be avoided. There is also the fact that some of the watches are valuable pieces of equipment. School cannot be responsible for any loss or damage so the children bring these at their own risk. School advice is that children should only bring a simple traditional watch that tells the time and to keep smart watches for home use. This avoids all the potential problems caused by smart devices.

If we find that a number of children are not sticking to the rules and the watches cause problems they will not be allowed in school. Sorry.

## **'Wellbeing Statement of the Month'**

January 2023

This month our quote encourages us to look again at the world about us and see the amazing things we are often too busy to see.



### **Music In Worship – New Day – Danny Gokey**

Our song this week is called 'New Day' by Danny Gokey. He came to fame as an American Idol finalist and from there, he signed onto a record label and started to write his own songs. He writes contemporary Christian songs that have a country edge to them.

'New Day' is a vibrant song and has the most amazing lyrics, it declares the future is bright.

*"Wake up and breathe in deeper than yesterday. Take on the morning like your soul's been remade. Roll down the windows, let your cares fly away. Good things are yours to claim, you don't have to wait,"*

It is all about waking up on a morning and treating each day as a new start. It doesn't matter what happened yesterday, breathe deeply and take on the new day with a positive attitude. Each new day is 'bursting with hope' of wonderful things waiting to happen for you.

The same goes for the start of a new year. It is a time to look forward and make your own choices – good choices that will make a difference to you and to other people. It inspires us to dream and to hope.

Here is the YouTube link for the song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TrKXehB0pg>

### Events and Dates for the Term

Date	Event
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Basket Ball Competition at Boston Spa
3 <sup>rd</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Book Fair
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 4 Young Voices Concert
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half term
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	School opens after the half term break
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	D:Side PSHE Day
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	School closes today for Easter

Have a good weekend.

Mr A. Ratcliffe

