

HARBY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL - LINK LETTER*Expanding horizons, exploring potential, embracing faith*

*“Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”*
Proverbs 22:6

*This Link Letter contains news,
forthcoming events and information,
helping you to keep in touch with school.*



Telephone: 01949 860553 Email: office.school@harby.leics.sch.uk Website: www.harbyprimary.org

Peace, Endurance, Friendship, Compassion, Thankfulness, Koinonia

Happy New Year!**Assembly Focus**

This week we have been thinking about the character strength of **OPTIMISM**. To show optimism is to look to the future with hope and belief - this is not always easy and sometimes, when we have experienced setbacks, can be a challenge. It is a good character strength to have when thinking about new year resolutions! How we view things and our attitudes towards elements such as change, learning or new ideas matters. Approaching these with a positive view and optimism of a favourable outcome is important. Is the glass half full or half empty? Can we have an optimistic approach - even if cautiously optimistic? Where we are less certain can we ask for help to support how we feel and improve the likelihood of a positive outcome?

Next week we will be focusing on the character strength of calmness.

Team Points

Well done to **EARTH** – the winning team this week!

Cumulative Total – Spring Term 2026			
Earth	Air	Fire	Water
14	6	9	12

New Reception Starters 2026

Parents of pupils due to start school in September 2026 will need to complete an application to the local authority in which they live. If you live in Leicestershire information can be gained and applications can be made online at

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

The deadline for completed applications is 15th January 2026. Please do ask if you have any questions or would like any support with this and we will be happy to help.

Friends of the School – Belvoir Challenge News!

The Belvoir Challenge is fast approaching, and we need the help of ALL parents to make it a success. The event is well known for the cake and puddings we serve to participants and so we are now asking all parents to undertake to provide some of these so that we can make sure the event is a success. We need over 2500 portions of cake and 800 portions of pudding, so we really do need everyone to do their bit. We will also shortly be allocating jobs which will need doing on the day, so we will be looking for new volunteers and also contacting those who have already signed up.

As a quick reminder, last year we raised over £20,000 to support the school. With your help we would like to raise even more this year. Thank you for your help!

You can sign up to provide cakes and puddings here:

<https://form.jotform.com/260066116787057>



We are so lucky to have our 'Friends of the School' who organise the Belvoir Challenge each year. Last year, they raised over £20,000! This was used to pay for so many things for children at Harby - costs for entry to museums and places of interest, resources, online platforms for learning, subsidies for residential costs, swimming costs, speakers and visitors and loads more! Please support this years Belvoir Challenge by baking cakes \ puddings, giving up some time on Friday 27th Feb for set up, time on Sat 28th to help on the day of the challenge or time on Sunday 29th Feb for cleanup. Bring your children along to cheer the walkers and runners on... please be there... to support the huge effort that the Friends of the School make to help enrich our curriculum.

Illness and attendance

We regularly monitor attendance of pupils so that we are able to support where needed. A good level of attendance is important in helping children to get the most from their learning activities and education and at school we strive for 96% over the course of the academic year. In reality, this means that a child **could** have 7 days of illness over the course of an academic year and still have a good level of attendance.

There are occasions where children are not in school but they could be – such as when they have a cough or cold. Having a cough or a cold are not reasons to keep a child away from school and this is referenced on the NHS website here:

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

This useful site has further information about childhood illnesses, whether your child is well enough to be at school and other health advice. Where children have been unwell with sickness and/or diarrhoea they must remain away from school for 48 hours after their last bout. This is in line with NHS guidelines and is also referenced on the NHS website. We hope you find this useful.

Reporting absence

Parents are requested to notify the school office, no later than 8.40am, that their child will be absent. This can be done via email to the school office, telephone call / message on the answerphone, message left on ParentMail, or in person to the school office if dropping off a sibling.

To help us to understand and code why your child is absent from school please can you ensure that you detail the illness that your child has if they are away due to illness. Reasons such as ‘under the weather’ or ‘not quite right’ don’t give us enough information as, for example, ‘a high temperature.’ We are required to code and record all absences and this information is updated regularly to the Department of Education who also set schools attendance targets to achieve.

Where pupils are absent and we have received no message, we will ring all contact numbers given for the child and email parents. If we have not received any response, despite messaging in all ways available, we may then complete a home visit as part of our safeguarding procedures. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions and we will be happy to help. Thank you for your continued support.



Attendance Matters!

Education is important, attendance matters – don't miss out!

At Harby C of E Primary School we aim for 96% attendance.

We understand that there may be different and individual circumstances that impact on children's attendance at school which we are always happy to support.

Even low levels of absence can have an impact - you may be surprised to see what different levels of attendance look like.

Attendance Percentage	How many <i>days</i> of school missed	How many <i>weeks</i> of school missed	Comments
100%	0 days	0 weeks	Excellent
96%	7.5 days	1.5 weeks	Good
93%	13 days	2.6 weeks	Worrying
90%	19 days	3.8 weeks	Concerning Where a child's attendance falls below 90% they are classed as being persistently absent by the DfE.
85%	28 days	5.6 weeks	Significant Concern External support and advice may be needed from the Local Authority.
80%	38 days	7.6 weeks	

Punctuality Matters!

Being on time for school also has an impact. Being on time, before the gate closes, ensures that no learning time is lost that day. We understand that there may be some unexpected circumstances but regular, poor punctuality can have an impact.

5 minutes late each day = 3 school days missed per year
10 minutes late each day = 6 school days missed per year
15 minutes late each day = 9 school days missed per year
More than 15 minutes late = the registers will now have closed and so this must be recorded as an absence in line with DfE guidance

Special Menu – 15th January

Special menu on Thursday next week – order on the day during registration!



Next week in school:

Monday 12th January

Swimming for children in Class 3

Multiskills Club after school **cancelled this week**

Tuesday 13th January:

SATs Club after school

Wednesday 14th January:

Cross Country Club after school

Thursday 15th January:

Friends of the School Meeting at 7pm – all welcome

Friday 16th January:

Rock Academy music lessons in school

Dates for the diary:

New / updated dates in red

12th January – Swimming starts for children in Class 3

15th January – Friends of the School Meeting at 7pm – all welcome

24th January – Ratcliffe Cross Country – details to follow

26th January – Canal and Waterways day in school

2nd February – Class 3 Residential Week

9th February - Children's Mental Health Week

10th February – Safer Internet Day

13th February – School closes for the half term holiday

We hope you all have a good weekend!