Harestanes Primary School Newsletter- October 2026

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of October there is a real sense of excitement around Harestanes Primary as we enjoy the autumn season and look forward to the events and activities ahead.

We recently enjoyed our Halloween Disco on 29th October, this was lots of fun and a real highlight of the school calendar for the children. Thank you to our Parent Forum for organising this event and to the staff and parents who helped out on the evening.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the learning, achievements and special moments taking place across our school. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to work together to ensure every child feels happy, included and ready to be their best.

Warmest wishes,

Jillian Grant

Head Teacher

Weather

As the weather is getting colder and wetter, please ensure that your child has a suitable jacket, hats and gloves to protect against the rain and wind. The children will be outside during break and lunch times, unless the weather is extremely bad. If they are wearing appropriate clothing, they are very happy to play outside, whatever the weather.

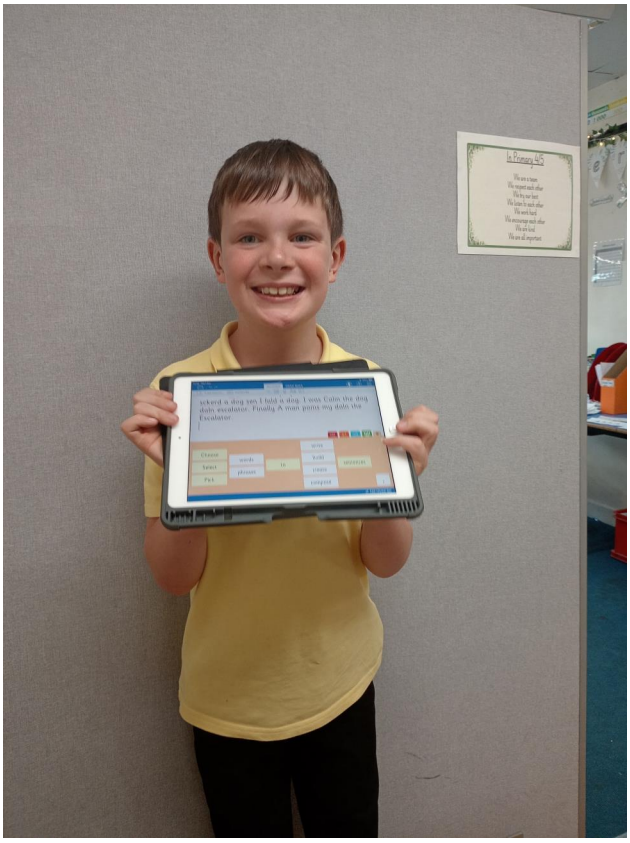
At Harestanes, we also take part in Outdoor Learning. Having a warm waterproof jacket helps the children to enjoy these lessons and not worry about getting cold or wet. Please ensure their name is marked on it too.

Mrs Summers, our Family Learning Assistant has a selection of pre-loved (in great condition), different sized hats and gloves. If your child would benefit from a hat and a pair of gloves as the weather is getting colder, please email the office and Mrs Summers will ensure they get something. If you have any pre-loved hats and gloves that your child has grown out of, you can always send them in to Mrs Summers and swap them with a new set that fits.

Thanks for your support.



Dyslexia Awareness Week





The theme for this year's Dyslexia Awareness Week was 'The Right Tools for the Job'.

During Dyslexia Awareness Week, the Dyslexia Ambassadors visited P4 to P7 classes to tell them about the tools they use to help them achieve at school. They showed the classes how to use tools, such as:

- The c-pen, which is an electronic pen that reads text out loud to you.
- Clicker, which is an electronic support to help structure your writing with text to speech functions.
- Immersive reader, which is a function in Word to read text to you.
- Barrington Stoke dictionaries, that spell phonetically to help learners find words.

We finished the week off with an assembly where information was shared about why we need to have the right tools for the job to help us succeed.

Wear it Pink Day



On Friday 23rd October, we turned Harestanes pink for 'Wear it Pink' day to support Breast Cancer Research and Awareness. We were able to raise £176.20 for this fantastic charity. Thank you for all your support in making this a successful event.





Halloween Discos





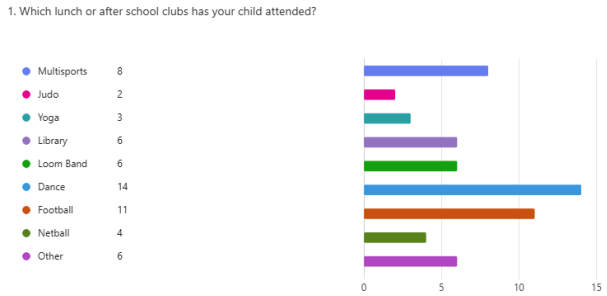
P1-3 and P4-7 had a spooktacular time at their Halloween Discos last week! The pupils showed off their incredible creativity with a brilliant array of costumes, from oompa loompas and minions to superheroes and zombie cheerleaders!

The energy was electric as everyone danced the night away to frightfully good tunes, played games and enjoyed some sweet treats. A huge thank you to our wonderful parent volunteer, Mrs Reynolds, and the fabulous Mrs Halkett who organised the event and decorated the hall, and thank you to the staff who made the night such fun for our children.

Clubs at Harestanes

Thank you to those of you who filled out the parent/carer survey about clubs and family events at Harestanes. This is what you said:

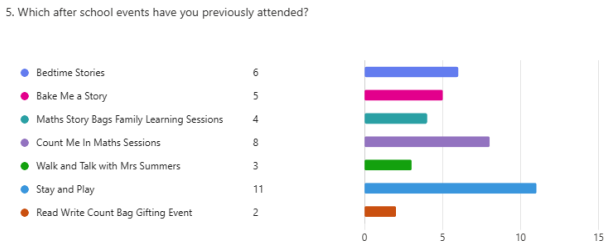
Children have attended a large number of different clubs at Harestanes Primary, whether that is a lunchtime club or an after school club.





Almost all parents and carers felt their children enjoyed the experience of going to the club.

Families have attended a large number of activities at Harestanes Primary to support their children's learning or have a positive experience with their child.





Almost all parents and carers enjoyed attending these events with their children.

You said that your child may not want to go to a club if it doesn't interest them and you suggested clubs that they might enjoy, e.g. games clubs, gymnastics clubs, basketball and dodgeball.

Most people said that the time the event is on would influence whether their child can attend. People preferred different times, especially around school drop off and pick up times, including 9am - 10am, 2pm - 3pm and 3pm - 4pm.

29% of parents/carers would like to see more family cooking sessions, with other ideas such as, Lego clubs being mentioned.



1 - P5-7 Football Club with Mrs Halkett



2 - Multisports lunchtime club with Active Schools



3 - Make Me a Story with Mrs Summers



4 - Make Me a Story with Mrs Summers



5 - P7 Fun 31 Cooking Club



6 - Yoga Club



7 - Yoga Club

Here are some photos of the clubs this term.

Thanks to staff, SFA Football, and the Active Schools Team, we have started to run lunchtime and after-school clubs. In term 2, we have been able to offer:

- Yoga
- Library lunches
- Multisports
- SFA Football P2-4 after school club
- P5-7 football club with Mrs Halkett
- Make Me a Story
- Dance Republic after school club
- Maths Story Bags family sessions
- P6 and P7 Fun 31 Cooking Club
- Art Club

School Improvement Planning



This year as a school we have identified two main priorities. These were decided through consultation with parents. pupils and staff.

We will continue to focus on wellbeing and inclusion, all staff across the school have received training in supporting children's regulation and we will continue to work collaboratively to agree whole school expectations and approaches.

We will also have a focus on excellent learning and teaching in our classrooms, staff have started by exploring the features of highly effective practice and using these features to raise achievement and attainment with a focus on writing.

We have made progress in both areas, we continue to work alongside parents, our Educational Psychologist and a range of other professionals to improve the wellbeing of all of our children.

We are also working with schools across the West Partnership ensuring that we support all children to progress in writing through targeted interventions in classes.

New Vision, Values and Aims

Last session, we gathered pupil, parent/carer and staff views about the school vision, values and aims. We collated this information and have created a new vision, values and aims for Harestanes. Please see the pictures below.



HARESTANES' VALUES:

- RESPECT
- RESPONSIBILITY
- AMBITION
- PERSEVERANCE

HARESTANES' AIMS:

WE AIM TO BE A PLACE WHERE:

- EVERYONE IS SUPPORTED TO THRIVE
- EVERYONE FEELS THEY BELONG
- EVERYONE EXPERIENCES HIGH QUALITY LEARNING
- EVERYONE CAN BE CONFIDENT, HAPPY, CURIOUS AND CREATIVE.
- EVERYONE'S DIFFERENCES ARE CELEBRATED.

School Car Park



Just a reminder that parents/carers should not enter our school car park in the morning unless by prior agreement. It can be very busy with taxis and we have had a couple of near misses recently. For those dropping children off to our ELR we ask that you reduce your speed for the safety of all of the children. We appreciate your support with this.

Parent Discussion Forum and PTA



The next meeting for the Parent Discussion Forum and PTA will be on **Thursday 12th November from 3.15pm - 4:15pm at Harestanes Primary School.** Everyone is welcome to join us. We will run a creche to support everyone to attend. The more the merrier! Please see below to find out more about these groups and what we do.

Parent Discussion Forum

- Works in partnership with the school to support learning, share parents' views and help shape school priorities.

- Gives you a direct voice in decisions that affect your child's education.
- A chance to find out more about how the school runs and what's happening across the year.

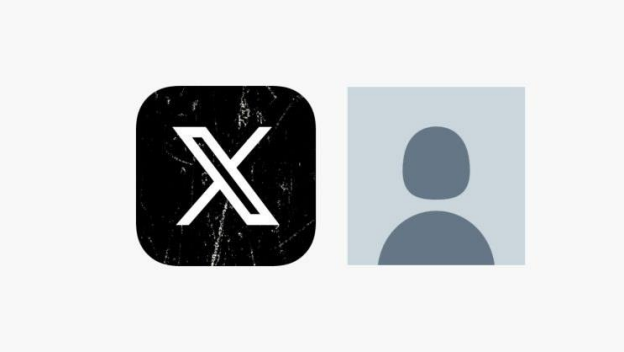
PTA

- Focus on organising events and activities that raise valuable funds for the school.
- Helps build a sense of community through fun activities for children and families.
- A great way to meet other parents and get involved in the school life.

Being part of either group does not mean a big time commitment - any help, however small, is valued.

If you are interested in joining or would like to know more, please get in touch with the school office. We would love to hear from you!

X/Twitter



If you would like to receive regular updates from X (previously known as Twitter), please follow @HarestanesPS. This is a protected and locked site and is not available to the general public.

Article of the Month



Article 42

I have the right to know my rights! Adults should know my rights and help me to learn them.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office if you have any ideas, suggestions or concerns and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for your support.

Jillian Grant

Head Teacher