

January Dates

17th – Poetry Day – Andy Tooze

w/c 21st – Topic Week

22nd – Reception – Chinese New Year

24th – Year 4 Cliffe Castle – School Linking

25th – Starlight Bag Collection @ 9am

29th – KS2 Swimming Gala Try Outs



If you would like to follow us on Twitter please search for 'Harden Primary School'. We will put updates and school events on going forward.



February Dates

1st – Year 1 – Fire Engine Visit

5th – All - Safer Internet Day

5th – Year 5 – Ripon Museum

6th – Y2 Parent Event @ 2.30pm

8th – Reception Parent Event @ 2.15pm

11th – Drama Club Madagascar Performance @ 6.30pm

12th – Year 1 Parent Event @ 9.30am

12th – Year 5 – Cyber Bullying Talk

13th – Reception – Sight Tests

13th – Y1 & Y5 – Fire Talk

13th – Afternoon Tea for Lunch time award

14th – Year 6 – Cyber Bullying Talk

15th – Last day of term

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26th – School Re-opens **TUESDAY**

Happy New Year and welcome to our January Newsletter

Please take note of the 'Upcoming Dates' above, we have tried to provide you with as much notice as possible for the important things that you won't want to miss!



We would like to congratulate our Chief Executive Officer Duncan Jacques who was awarded a CBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for his services to education.

We are so proud to be working with Duncan and the Exceed Academies Trust.

Baby News

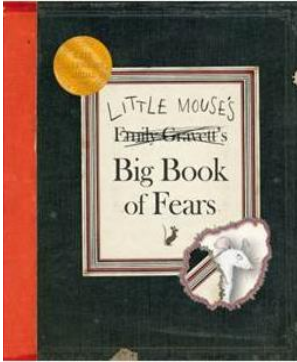
We are pleased to announce that Mrs Bott is having a baby in July. This is very exciting news and we wish both Mrs Bott and her husband all the very best. Mrs Bott will be commencing her maternity leave in June.

Book Recommendations

We are often asked to help recommend new books suitable for the different year groups, so here are our top picks of this month! If you have any great 'Reads' come and see Mrs Ruddock so we can share!

Recommended Read for 4+

Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears, By Emily Gravett

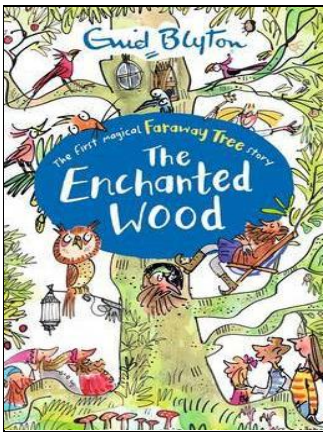


Little Mouse is scared of most things, from creepy crawlies and loud noises, to getting lost. The pages of this beautiful book gradually reveal his fears, until - on the very last page - we learn that, despite his diminutive stature, he is still capable of scaring someone much bigger than himself.

This is an extraordinary picture book, complete with nibbled pages, novelty elements, flaps, die-cuts and even a fold-out map of the Isle of Fright at the end of the book. A deserving winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal 2008, it uses Gravett's trademark collage technique to brilliant effect. Young children will identify with the charming rodent protagonist, whose story offers a great starting point for conversations about fears and anxieties of all kinds.

Recommended Read for 6+

The Enchanted Wood, by Enid Blyton

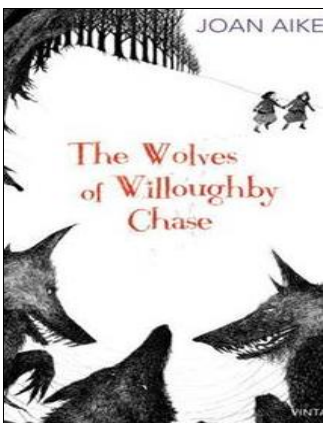


When Joe, Beth and Frannie move into a new home, they discover a mysterious wood on their very doorstep. Soon, they discover that it's actually an Enchanted Wood, and home to a wonderful Faraway Tree. Inside the Enchanted Wood, they make all kinds of unusual new friends, including Moonface, Silky the fairy and the hard-of-hearing Saucepan Man, and soon find themselves involved in a host of exciting adventures. Best of all is the discovery that strange new lands can be found in the clouds at the very top of the Faraway Tree itself - from the Land of Spells to the Land of Treats to the Land of Do-As-You-Please.

This delightful story from classic children's author Enid Blyton was first published in 1939 and has delighted children ever since. This new edition has been given a more modern face-lift - for example, changing the children's names (originally Joe, Bessie and Fanny) for more contemporary-sounding alternatives - but all the fun and magic of Blyton's original has been retained for a new generation of readers.

Recommended Read 9+

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase, by Joan Aike



There are wolves outside the walls of Willoughby Chase, but for cousins Bonnie and Sylvia, the real danger lies inside. Their wicked governess Miss Slighcarp is working with a network of criminals, forgers and snitches to carry out a terrible plan. Bonnie and Sylvia must use all their wits if they are to escape their cruel governess - and the wolves.

Set in an alternative 1832, in which Good King James III is on the throne, and Britain is ravaged by wolves which have migrated through the newly-opened Channel Tunnel, *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* is a brilliantly inventive and imaginative offering from classic children's author Joan Aiken. Young readers who enjoy this story will relish the other wonderfully idiosyncratic stories in this series, which continues with *Black Hearts in Battersea*.

Girls with No Limits

World Sky Running Champion 'Holly Page' and Caver 'Stephanie Dwyer' inspired a hall full of people with their life stories (so far) and future ambitions. We were personally moved by their sheer commitment and determination. Holly and Stephanie definitely live by the slogan 'This Girl Can'.

This event was organised by parent and Fell Runner Jo Buckley (and friends) and raised just over £1,400. This amount is being split between the speakers chosen charities and Harden School. This money will enable us to provide children with a day of Forest School activities. Thank you very much Jo.



Young Voices

After tirelessly rehearsing since September, the Young Voices Choir finally attended and performed at Sheffield Arena last week. They had their t-shirts and wristbands on, torches at the ready and sang their hearts out. 150 schools were at the event with over 1,400 children all singing in chorus with each other. Tony Hadley performed too! Young Voices is a great opportunity and a truly spectacular event. Thank you to the choir and their parents for all their hard work rehearsing, you made us very proud. Mrs Bott & Miss Hall.



The Poet from the Peaks

Today we will be welcoming Poet & Poetry Teacher 'Andy Tooze' who is also known as 'The Poet from the Peaks'. Andy will be spending the day inspiring us in all things Poetry. Andy will be selling copies of his books at the end of the day; £3 for 'Don't Diss Dancing Dad's' and £5 for 'The Poetry Bug'. We will fill you in next month on how we've got on!

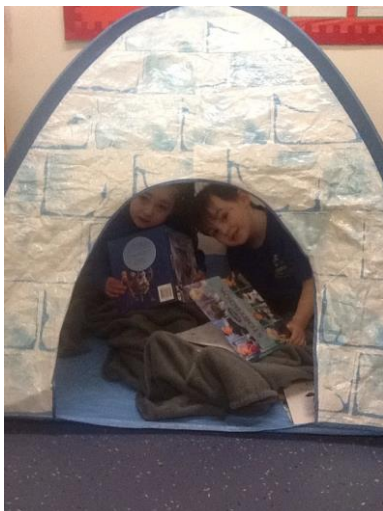
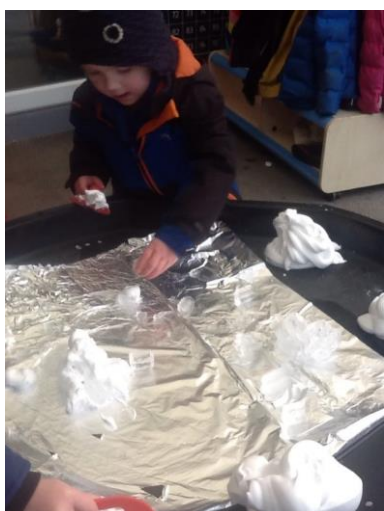
Special thanks to the PTFA whose fundraising efforts have made this day possible.

TT Rockstars

What a fantastic first term we have had using TT Rockstars. The children have been successfully practising their times tables in class each week using the paper tests. Nearly all the children have accessed the online version and are finding this is really helping them with the class tests and their speed and accuracy have improved massively. Don't forget that each week, in Celebration Assembly, the class with the most coins earns themselves an extra 15 minutes play and the top 'coin earner' in each class received 5 raffle tickets to praise their hard work and effort. Keep up the good work!

Ice Ice Baby

Reception launched their new topic with Ice Day with a variety of investigating ice melting activities and science experiments to engage their new cold weather topic!



Year 6 Parent Event

Year 6 held their Parents Event yesterday afternoon and it was a resounding success. All of the children prepared activities to showcase what they've been learning about. They even had a refreshment stall for parents.



Golden Ticket Winners

Before we broke up for Christmas, this lucky group of children were taken to Woodbank Garden Centre to enjoy their treat for being Golden Ticket Winners! Well done!



Drama Club Production

Our Drama Club has been working hard with Monique Slattery from Musicular to present a performance of Madagascar. The performance will take place on Monday 11th February 2019 at 6.30pm. Tickets are £2.50 each and are on sale from the School Office.

The Drama Club was sponsored by the Essential Life Skills Funding the school secured last Easter. Please come and support this event, the Drama Club has worked extremely hard and we are very proud of them.

Starlight Charity

If you fancy an early spring clear out, the Starlight charity are once again collecting unwanted items to raise money for the Starlight Charity and School. Collection day is **Friday 25th January**, please bring in your bags on the day (we cannot take bags before this day as we do not have room to store them).

Starlight are happy to take the following items (in a clean bin liner or carrier bag):

Clean Clothing
Paired Shoes
Belts & Handbags

Smalls for All

Bra's! If you're having a clear out please note that most charity shops don't take bras but as they often cost a lot of money they are too nice to throw in the bin. Dr Anne Raine (who used to come into school with Maisie the dog as part of the PAT Dog scheme) has found a UK charity that send unwanted bras to African villages to improve hygiene and prevent the exploitation of young girls as wearing a bra in some villages is a sign of wealth, status and power. If the bra is too tatty they recycle the material and metal to raise money to buy these young girls new underwear as some of the girls only have one pair (if any). So if you're throwing out your old bras, please send them into school or alternatively post them to: Smalls for All, 108 Buchanan Crescent, Eliburn, Livingston, EH54 7EF

Half term Basketball Camp

Coach Gunn will be holding another Basketball Holiday Camp Day at Harden Primary School this February half term. Thursday 21st February 9am – 4pm. £15 for the day for HPS pupils. For more information you can visit 'Coach Gunn Basketball' on Facebook or alternatively call him on tel. 07912 178917.

Wilsden Pals Child Care Holiday Club

Due to the recent closure of the Wilsden Village Hall Holiday Care Club, Wilsden Primary School are now offering their own holiday care club 'Wilsden Pals' and is open to children in Reception to Year 6. £30 per day from 8am – 5.30pm and includes breakfast and a snack tea (e.g. beans on toast) however your child will need a packed lunch for lunch. This is staffed by Wilsden Primary School staff and for this upcoming February half term it will have a Pirate theme.

Half days are available 8am – 1pm or 1pm – 5.30pm at £16. For more information, please call tel. 01535 272 263 or email: wilsden.office@focus-trust.co.uk