HARRIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Be Kind • Be Thankful • Be Ambitious

Friday 16th October 2026

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank Mr Price for introducing a refreshed newsletter format. I thought I would embrace the new design and try something a little different this week. The new font makes me feel as though I have finally entered the 21st century!

There is plenty to share from across school. In this edition, you will find updates from our PTA, the latest attendance information, news from our before and after-school clubs, details about our Children in Need plans, information about booking Parent Evenings, community notices and, of course, our weekly awards celebrating pupils' achievements. I will also continue to share a short "Thought for the Week", which I hope offers a moment of reflection as we head into the weekend. As always, thank you for your continued support. The strength of our school lies in the partnership between home and school, and I am grateful for all that you do to support your children and our wider Harris community.

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week! ⭐ Keep shining! 🌟 👏

Class	Star of the Week	Maths Star	Writer of the Week
Reception	Luke	Freddie H	Poppy
Year 1	Hayley	Neve	Arthur
Year 2	Archie	Luca	Gracie
Year 3	Isaac	Toby	Louie
Year 4	Isobel	Kordian	Lilly
Year 5	Rinad	Ethan	Marlee
Year 6	Ulverston Week		

Attendance Advice

Harris continues to enjoy strong attendance overall, and I would like to thank families for the support they give in ensuring children attend regularly and are ready to learn each day.

As we approach the end of the first half term, I have reviewed attendance across the school and will be writing to families where attendance is below 90%, or where it is approaching this threshold. Attendance below 90% is classed nationally as **Persistent Absence (PA)**.

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We recognise that attendance percentages can appear exaggerated at this stage of the year, as a small number of absences can have a significant impact on the overall figure. However, we also know that absence early in the academic year is linked to a greater risk of persistent absence later on. By making families aware at an early stage, we can work together to ensure any concerns are addressed before they become more significant.

Attendance letters will be sent to some families next week. We are highlighting attendance at this point in the year so that parents have an early understanding of their child's attendance position and can access support if required. We recognise that there can be genuine reasons why attendance is affected, and we will always seek to work in partnership with families where concerns arise.

If you would like to discuss your child's attendance or any circumstances affecting it, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are always happy to help.

The figures below show attendance for each year group during **Half Term 1, up to 15 October**, and provide a snapshot of attendance across the school at this stage of the year. **Reception and Preschool are not included**, as many of our youngest children are not yet of statutory school age and some attend part-time sessions.

I am pleased to report that attendance at Harris remains strong, with a whole-school attendance figure of **97.1%** across Years 1 to 6. This reflects the positive attitudes our pupils have towards school, and the value families place on education. The figures below also provide a useful point of reference for families when considering their own child's attendance.

Our shared aim is simple: to ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to learn, thrive and succeed. Fortunately, attendance at Harris remains a real strength, reflecting the positive attitudes of our pupils, who want to be in school, learning with their friends and making the most of every opportunity available to them.

1st Sept to 15th Oct	
Class	Attendance
Year 1	94.8%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	97.3%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	98%
Year 6	96.8%
Whole school	97.1%

Reception Open Days 2027

Our first Open Days have been very well attended, and it has been a pleasure to welcome prospective families into school to see Harris in action. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to visit and learn more about our school community.

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Our next Open Days take place on **Tuesday**, and places are still available. If you know a family with a child due to start school, please encourage them to come along and see what makes Harris such a special place to learn and grow.

Reception and Pre-School Open Days. Tours will take place at 9.30am and 1.30pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday 20 October
- Thursday 5 November
- Friday 13 November

If you know of any families considering Harris for September 2027, please encourage them to book a visit. Please note that attending our Pre-School does not automatically guarantee a Reception place.

PTA News: We have several important PTA updates and upcoming events, so please take a moment to read the information below.

PTA Thank You: A huge thank you to our PTA for their recent donation of **£100 per class** to support enhanced provision, resources and equipment across the school. Their fundraising efforts make a real difference to the experiences and opportunities we can provide for our children, and we are incredibly grateful for the time, energy and commitment they give to our school community.

Break the Rules Day: Before half term, we will also be holding a fun **"Break the Rules Day" fundraiser on Friday 23 October**. Children can pay **50p per rule** they would like to break, up to a maximum of **six rules**:

- Wear non-uniform instead of school uniform
- Wear trainers instead of school shoes
- Save a healthy snack for lunchtime instead of breaktime
- Bring a flavoured drink instead of water
- Have a fun hairstyle
- Wear temporary tattoos or nail varnish

Please note: Any snack brought into school **must be nut-free**. This is an important safety requirement and is not a rule that can be broken.

Christmas Fair: I recently met with our PTA representatives to begin planning this year's **Christmas Fair**, which will take place on **Friday 27 November from 4.30pm to 6.30pm**. The fair is always a highlight of the school calendar and a wonderful opportunity for families, friends and the wider community to come together. We look forward to sharing more details over the coming weeks.

To support the Christmas Fair, we will be holding two non-uniform donation days:

- **20 November** - Rainbow Raffle Prize Donations (details to follow)
- **27 November** - Bottle and Chocolate Tombola Donations

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BBC Children in Need: We also cannot forget the national institution that is **BBC Children in Need**. On **Friday 13 November**, children are invited to come to school in their own clothes and make a donation if they wish. Please give as little or as much as you feel able. I am conscious that families are being asked to support several events during this busy half term and fully appreciate that not everyone will be able to contribute to every fundraiser. However, Children in Need is always an event that captures the imagination of our pupils and provides a wonderful opportunity to support children and young people across the country.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of both the school and the PTA. Together, these events help us raise valuable funds, strengthen our school community and create memorable experiences for our children.

Parents' Evenings

Bookings are now open for Parents' Evenings on 10 and 12 November. If you have not yet booked an appointment, please do so via the online booking system. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress and next steps with their class teacher. We look forward to seeing you there.

Before and After School Club

Our Before and After School Club is an important part of our provision, and we are committed to ensuring it remains sustainable and available for families who rely upon it.

We understand that some parents have been disappointed when sessions have been fully booked in recent weeks. However, effective staffing requires us to plan ahead. Decisions about staffing levels carry a significant financial commitment, and we must base these decisions on known, regular demand rather than occasional requests.

For this reason, our staffing and capacity are planned around long-term bookings. As a result, the number of ad hoc places available is extremely limited and cannot be guaranteed.

To help us manage places more effectively, we will be removing the ad hoc online booking option. Families requiring an occasional additional session should contact **Laura Barnett, Harris Hub Manager**, who will be able to check availability before confirming a place.

We strongly encourage families to book regular sessions wherever possible to avoid disappointment. This enables us to plan staffing appropriately, maintain safe ratios and ensure the long-term viability of the club for all families who need it.

Community Notice - Be a Chorister for the Day

Broughton Parish Church is offering children aged 6 and above the opportunity to take part in a free "Be a Chorister for the Day at Christmas" event on Sunday 15 November, 4.00pm-7.15pm.

The afternoon will include singing, games, refreshments, the chance to try on choir robes and explore the church organ, before taking part in Choral Evensong and singing Christmas carols.

No previous singing experience is required. For further information or to register, please email broughtonchurchchoir@gmail.com.

Community Notice - Lancashire Family Hubs Survey

Lancashire Family Hubs would like to hear from parents and carers about their experiences of Family Hub services. The survey takes around 5 minutes to complete and will help shape future services for children, young people and families across Lancashire.

Your feedback will help identify what is working well and where improvements can be made, ensuring that family voices remain at the heart of service development. To complete the survey, please visit: 🔗 https://lancashire.gov.uk/family-survey - Thank you for taking the time to share your views. Every response makes a difference.

Year 6 Residential Visit

Our Year 6 pupils returned from their Ullswater residential today after what sounds like a fantastic few days of adventure, challenge and teamwork. Mr Price visited the group during the week and reported that his leg was aching after just one day of walking, so I suspect the children may be ready for a well-earned rest this weekend!

A huge thank you to **Mrs Draper, Mr McCall and Mr Ridge** for giving up their time to make this valuable experience possible. Residential visits create memories that last a lifetime, and we are grateful for the dedication and care shown by staff in providing these opportunities for our children.

Thought for the Week: *If It's to Be, It's Up to Me*

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the opportunity to become independent. This journey begins in our Preschool and Reception classes, where children learn important self-care skills such as dressing themselves, managing their belongings and becoming toilet trained. As they move through school, these skills develop further, from taking responsibility for homework and organisation to preparing for the day ahead. By Year 6, many children are capable of getting themselves ready each morning, packing their school bag and taking ownership of their routines.

As adults, it is often quicker and easier to do things for children. However, when we step back and allow them to do things for themselves, we help them develop confidence, resilience and a sense of responsibility. An important lesson for every child to learn is: **"If it's to be, it's up to me."**

Children who take responsibility for their actions, choices and belongings are better prepared for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

This week, perhaps there is one thing you could encourage your child to do independently that you currently do for them. You may be surprised by how much they can achieve when given the opportunity.

With ambition, kindness and thankfulness,

P Johnson
Interim Headteacher

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