

HB newsletter: Autumn 2, Wk 1

Harper Bell
Seventh-day Adventist
Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all our pupils, families and staff following the half-term break! I hope everyone enjoyed a restful and enjoyable holiday and is feeling refreshed and ready for another exciting half term at Harper Bell.

It has been another highly successful week, with our children returning to school with fantastic attitudes towards their learning. It has been wonderful to see pupils working so hard, demonstrating positive learning behaviours and continuing to strive for excellence in everything they do. I would like to thank our dedicated staff for their continued hard work and commitment to ensuring that every child is supported to achieve their very best.

I would also like to thank our parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring positive attendance and punctuality. Every school day matters, and regular attendance is essential in helping children build strong learning habits, make consistent progress and achieve their full potential.

We have so much to look forward to over the coming weeks! This half term promises to be a particularly exciting one, with a range of parent workshops, special celebrations, curriculum enrichment opportunities and performances planned. These events provide wonderful opportunities to celebrate our children's achievements, strengthen our school community and create lasting memories together. Please continue to keep an eye on our school communications and calendar for further information.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. I look forward to another successful half term filled with Love, Learning and Laughter, as we continue to work together towards a more excellent way.

Mrs Susan Sidhu
Headteacher

Curriculum in action: Reception

Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist Primary School

📚 English - The Little Red Hen

This week, we started learning our new story, *The Little Red Hen*. 🐔🌾 We enjoyed listening to the story, meeting the characters and discussing the key events. We began learning new vocabulary and talking about the importance of helping others and working together.

🔷 Maths - 2D Shapes

In Maths, we have been learning to recognise and describe **2D shapes**. 🔺🟦🟢 We explored circles, triangles, squares and rectangles, describing their properties using words such as *sides*, *corners*, *straight* and *curved*. We also enjoyed spotting shapes in our classroom!

🎇 Topic - Celebrations

This term, we are learning all about **celebrations**! 🎉🎇 We have started exploring different special occasions, including Bonfire Night. We discussed how and why people celebrate and shared our own experiences of celebrations with our friends.

⚽🚧 Special Event - Animal Man Visit! 🚓

We had a fantastic time during our **Animal Man visit**! 🦎🐾 The children had the exciting opportunity to see, touch and hold a variety of animals. We learnt interesting facts about the animals and how to handle them gently and safely. Everyone showed great curiosity and bravery. It was a wonderful experience, and we all had a brilliant day! 🌈







Curriculum in action: Year 1

Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist Primary School

English - Reading and Writing

This week, we started exploring our new story, *My Hair* by Hannah Lee. We familiarised ourselves with the story by rehearsing the key events and learning new vocabulary. We enjoyed discussing different hairstyles and celebrating what makes us unique!

Maths - Addition

In Maths, we have been finding missing parts in addition number sentences. We used **part-whole models** to help us understand how numbers can be split into different parts and how to find a missing number.

Computing - Algorithms

In Computing, we learnt about **algorithms**. We discovered that an algorithm is a set of instructions that we follow in the correct order to complete a task.

Art and Design - Axles and Wheels

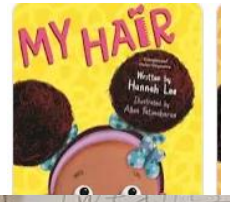
Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring how **wheels and axles** work together. We are looking forward to designing and making our own moving creations!

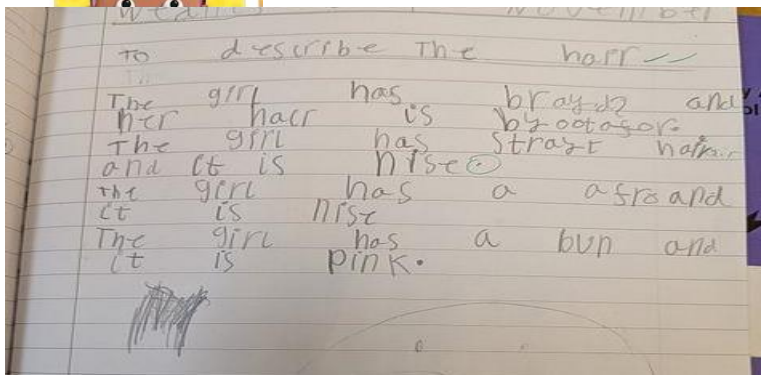
PSHE - Celebrating Differences

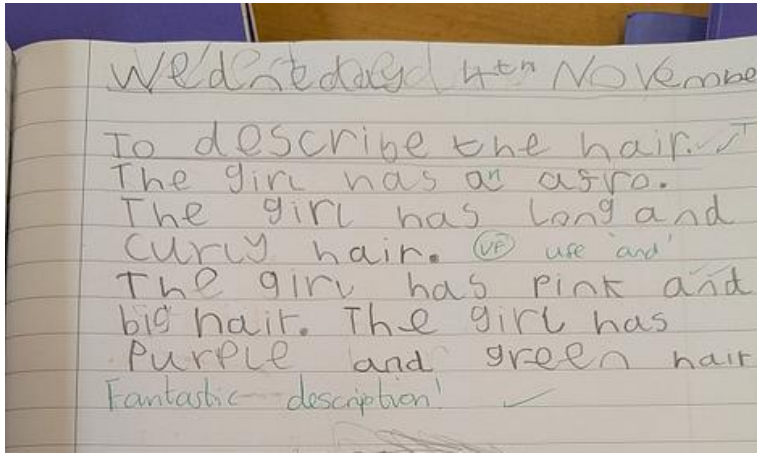
In PSHE, we have been celebrating our differences. We discussed how everyone is special and unique and why it is important to show kindness, respect and acceptance towards others.

RE - Judaism and Mitzvot

In RE, we have started learning about **Judaism**. We explored the meaning of *mitzvah* (plural: *mitzvot*) and how Jewish people follow God's commandments and show kindness through good deeds.







Curriculum in action: Year 2

Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist Primary School

🌞 Year 2 – A Brilliant First Week Back!

What a wonderful start to Autumn 2 we have had in Year 2! The children have come back full of energy, kindness and a real eagerness to learn. We are so proud of them!

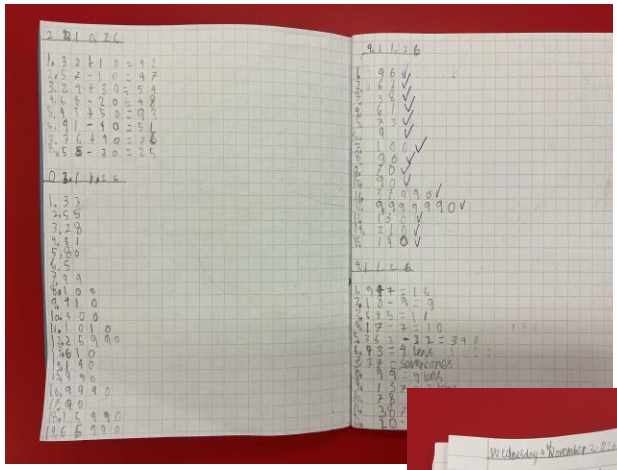
🔢 **Maths:** We have continued our addition and subtraction unit! The children have been learning to add three 1-digit numbers and to find 10 more than a number. They have been spotting patterns and growing in confidence with their calculations.

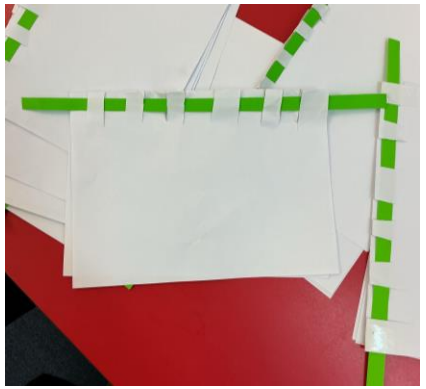
📰 **Writing:** We have started our exciting new unit on The Day the Crayons Quit! The children made predictions about the story and read a surprising letter from the felt pens saying they quit. Next week, they will write their own persuasive letters to change the felt pens' minds.

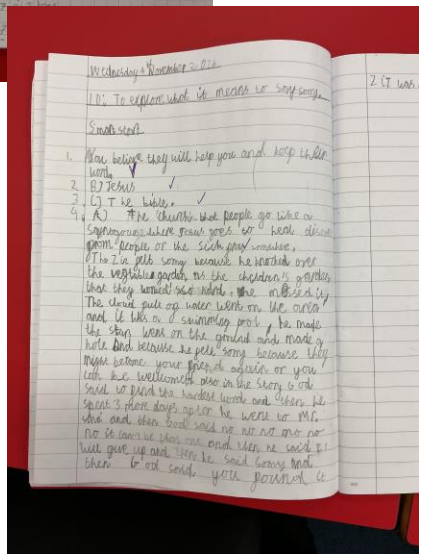
🔬 **Science:** We have been learning all about minibeasts and their microhabitats! The children have explored the small places where minibeasts live and thought about why each one suits the creatures that live there.

🎨 DT: The children have been introduced to sewing, practising important skills ready for making their own pouches. They have shown wonderful patience and care!

⛪ **RE:** We have been exploring a big question: Why do Jewish people show repentance at New Year? The children have learnt about Rosh Hashanah and thought about what it means to say sorry and make a fresh start.







Curriculum in action: Year 3

Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist Primary School

Year 3 - A Wonderful First Week Back!

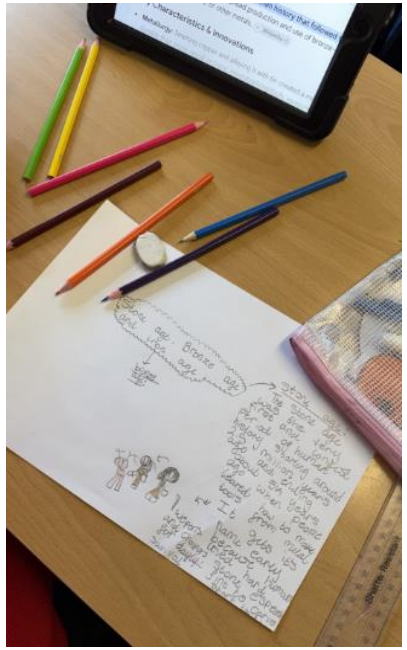
What a fantastic first week back we have had in Year 3! The children have returned with wonderful enthusiasm, positive attitudes and a brilliant readiness to learn. We are so proud of their hard work!

Maths: We have continued our addition and subtraction unit, learning how to add 2-digit and 3-digit numbers with an exchange. The children have been practising their column methods and developing their confidence when solving calculations.

Writing: We have started our exciting new poetry unit! The children have been exploring different poems and discovering how poets use interesting vocabulary to create images and feelings.

Science: We have begun learning about rocks and fossils! The children have been exploring different types of rocks and discovering how fossils can help us learn about the past.

History: We have started our fascinating new topic exploring the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. The children have been learning about life long ago and how early humans lived and survived.







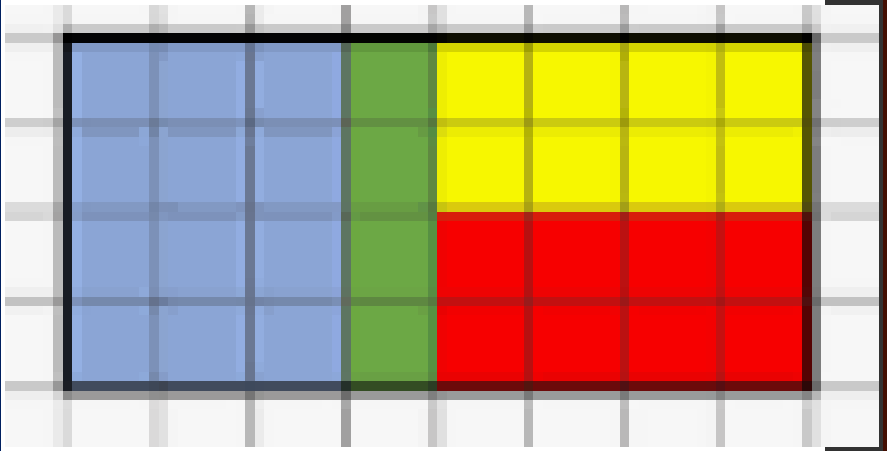


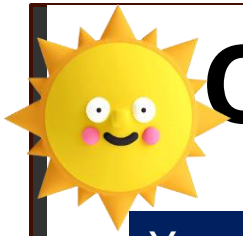
Curriculum in action: Year 4

Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist Primary School

🔢 **Maths:** This week, the children have been developing their understanding of area, learning how to measure the space covered by different shapes. They have explored finding area by counting squares, which will allow us to progress to using square centimetres (cm^2) as a standard unit of measurement. The children have been encouraged to work systematically, counting carefully and recognising how squares can be used to calculate and compare the areas of different shapes.

📚 **Reading:** In Reading, the children have been continuing to develop their vocabulary and retrieval skills. They have explored the meanings of unfamiliar words, using clues from the text to deepen their understanding and expand their vocabulary. The children have also been practising retrieving key information from texts, identifying important details and using evidence to support their answers. These skills are helping them become increasingly confident and independent readers.





Curriculum in action: Year 5

Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist Primary School

Year 5 have returned after half term with a positive attitude and a readiness to learn. It has been lovely to see pupils settling back into routines, approaching tasks with enthusiasm and taking pride in their work.

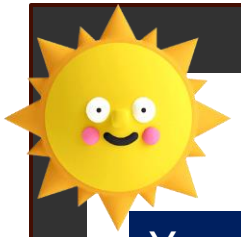
In **Writing**, we have been revisiting key grammar and punctuation skills in preparation for our next unit. Pupils are strengthening their understanding of how to construct clear, accurate sentences and use punctuation effectively to enhance their writing.

In **Maths**, our focus has been on developing arithmetic skills. Pupils have been practising their calculations, building confidence and working towards greater accuracy and efficiency.

In **Reading**, we have been developing fluency and retrieval skills, alongside reading aloud with intonation. We are learning how pace and expression help bring a text to life, while looking carefully for information to support our answers.

Our **Climate Ed workshop** also provided an opportunity to consider how we can care for the world around us. We explored our shared responsibility for the environment and thought about how everyday choices can contribute to a healthier planet.

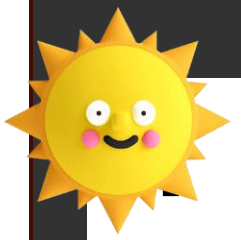
We are proud of Year 5's encouraging start to the half term and look forward to seeing their confidence and independence continue to grow!



Curriculum in action: Year 6

Harper Bell
Seventh-day Adventist
Primary School

Year 6 have been demonstrating fantastic maturity when using their iPads. Pupils are making sensible, responsible choices and using technology purposefully to enhance their learning. We are proud of the independence and focus they are showing. In **Maths**, we are growing increasingly confident with long division. This is a lengthy process with several steps to remember, but pupils are persevering and developing their understanding brilliantly. If parents would like a reminder of the method when supporting their child at home, this [Corbettmaths long division video](https://corbettmathsprimary.com/2020/05/22/long-division-video/) is a useful guide. In **Writing**, we have edited and published our suspense narrative openings inspired by *A Monster Calls*. Pupils have worked hard to improve their writing and present their finished pieces with care and pride. Year 6 also took part in a **Climate Ed workshop**, providing an opportunity to think about caring for our planet and the part we can all play in protecting the environment. This encouraged us to consider how small changes can make a positive difference. We are also incredibly proud of everyone who went **swimming yesterday**. They were excellent role models and wonderful representatives of Harper Bell, showing collaboration, bravery and resilience. Whether trying something unfamiliar or encouraging a classmate, pupils approached the session with a positive attitude. We cannot wait to see their confidence continue to grow throughout this half term!



HB Home Learning: Autumn 2, Wk 1

Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist Primary School

Reception:

Spell CVC words.
Spell tricky words.

Year 1: Practise subtraction sums and spell tricky words.

Reading books allocated please return Tuesday after holiday.

Year 2:

- Homework is now in homework books. Please look after the books and ensure they are **returned by Wednesdays.**
- Logins for TT Rockstar have been given out

Year 3

Homework is in homework books. Please look after the books and ensure they are returned by Wednesdays.

Year 4

Homework books sent home:
-Maths
-Reading Comprehension
-Spelling

Year 5:

- Homework is now in homework books. Please look after these books and ensure they are returned by Wednesdays.

Year 6:

- Homework in homework books.
- Children should also be practising times tables on TT Rockstars. Logins have been sent home. Their accounts are monitored to see when they last logged in.





In our Local Community

Harper Bell
Seventh-day Adventist
Primary School

Family Wellbeing Zone

https://familywellbeingzone.org.uk/

https://greensquareaccord.co.uk/news/community/introducing-the-family-wellbeing-zone



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Primary School



Harper Bell SDA Primary School

After School Club!

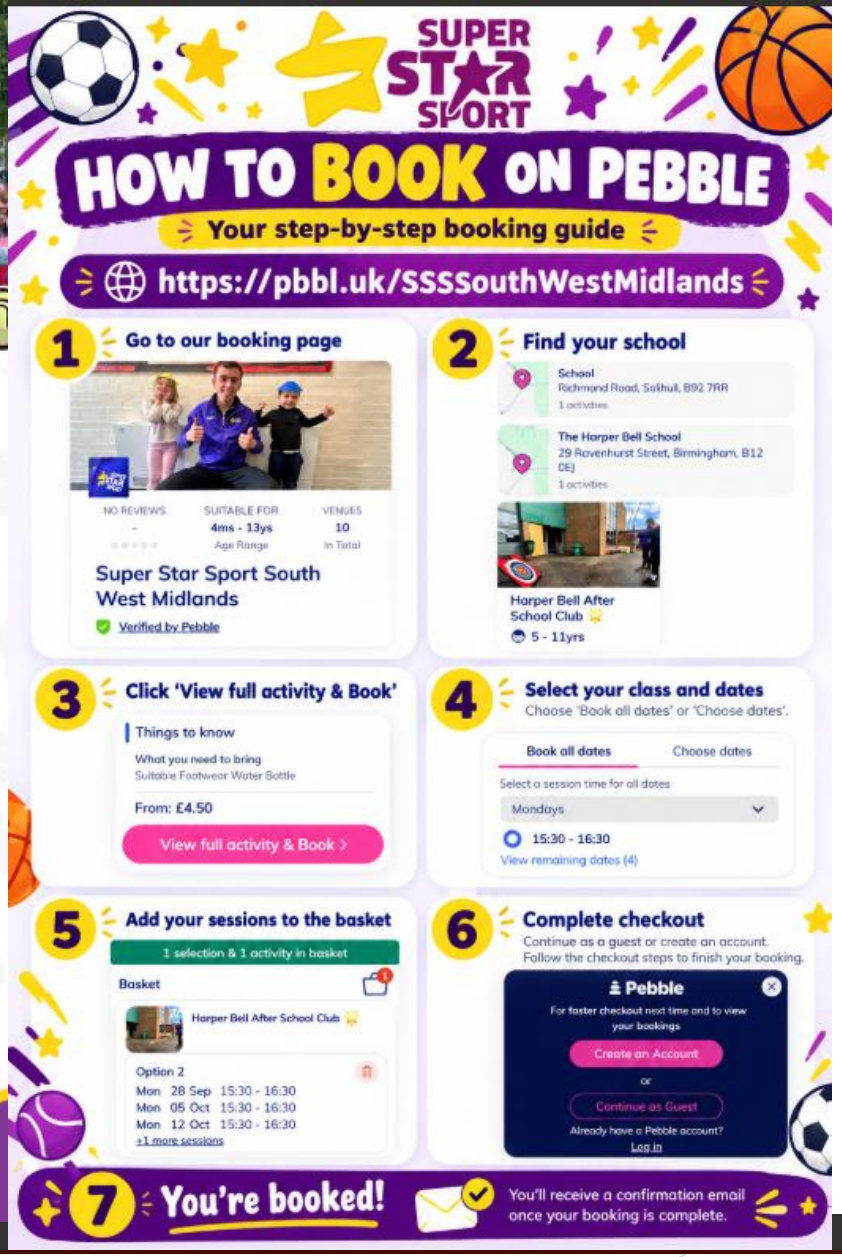
Option 1 – Full Session
Monday to Thursday: Collection by 5:00 pm
Friday: Collection by 2:30 pm

Option 2 – Early Collection
Monday to Thursday: Collection by 4:30 pm
Friday: Collection by 2:00 pm

Monday: Football
Tuesday: Dodgeball
Wednesday: Multisports
Thursday: Archery
Friday: Discovery Club

SCAN HERE

To book:
Visit www.superstarsport.co.uk
Go to "Book Now" & select your club!





Harper Bell is part of the British Council Learning Sectors programme, supported by Formula 1®

We are delighted to share that our school has joined the British Council's Learning Sectors programme, supported by Formula 1®. This exciting international initiative connects schools in the UK with partner schools in India or Spain for a five-month project, giving our pupils the opportunity to collaborate with young people from around the world.

What will our pupils be doing?

STEM learning
Pupils will take part in curriculum-linked activities focused on science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

Broadcasting and media
Pupils will explore the world of broadcasting and media, including insights from experts at Formula 1®.

International collaboration
Our pupils will work with pupils in our partner school to share ideas, learn from each other and design creative solutions to real-world challenges.

Real-world inspiration
Through activities and expert input from Formula 1®, pupils will learn about innovation, careers and the exciting opportunities that STEM and media can offer.

What are the benefits for our pupils?

- Develops 21st century skills such as critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving and digital literacy.
- Builds intercultural awareness and global citizenship.
- Enhances communication and presentation skills through media-inspired activities.
- Gives insight into real-world careers in STEM, broadcasting and sport.
- Creates meaningful links with an international school community.

We are proud to be part of this inspiring programme, which supports our commitment to providing a broad, enriching curriculum and preparing our pupils to be confident, compassionate and globally aware citizens.

Harper Bell
Seventh-day Adventist Primary School





Harper Bell
Seventh-day Adventist Primary School

Parent Voice
You Said – We Did

LISTENING • WORKING TOGETHER • MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Thank you ♥ for your continued feedback and support. Together, we make our school even better!

You said...
You would like specific lunchtime supports for pupils who require help with a specific area of learning.

We did...
In addition to targeted in-class support and interventions, we now target pupils' individual needs through:
- Maths lunchtime clubs
- Times tables lunchtime club
- Knowledge booster club.

MATHS
TIMES TABLES
KNOWLEDGE

You said...
You would like clearer communication of key dates and events.

We did...
We now ensure all dates are posted on the Class Dojo main page in addition to our newsletter.

ClassDojo

You said...
You would like more sporting opportunities.

We did...
We have introduced after school sporting provision and invited a world class athlete into school.

You said...
You would like to feel more involved with and informed about your child's learning in school.

We did...
We now have frequent (at least half-termly) parent workshops to share our learning and how we teach, a weekly newsletter that explains our learning from the week and class teacher updates on Class Dojo.

You said...
You want to be fully aware of the home learning offer.

Learn Practise Grow

We did...
We have shared online platforms in which teachers can monitor progress during home learning and homework books to allow learning to be transferred consistently and effectively between home and school.

You said...
You would like more enjoyable community events.

We did...
We have put on a range of events, including those to celebrate parents, carers and families. Such events will continue to be planned and published throughout the year.

You said...
You would like the opportunity to take learning beyond the school day.

We did...
We have arranged an 11+ tuition offer.

11+

FAITH | COMMUNITY | *A more excelent way* | EXCELLENCE | OPPORTUNITY

HARPER BELL ADVENTIST SCHOOL
A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

Inclusion Coffee Morning

Working together to support every child to flourish

All parents and carers are warmly welcome!



- Meet specialist professionals
- Learn practical strategies for home and school
- Ask questions and gain useful advice
- Find out about the support available
- Connect with other parents and carers

Date:
Wednesday 18th November

Venue:
Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist School

8:30am – Arrival, refreshments and an opportunity to meet other parents and carers
8:45am – Session begins
9:45am (approximately) – Session concludes

Professionals Involved

Confirmed Attendees

Zoe Atzori
Communication and Autism Team (CAT)
Supporting children's communication, social interaction and autism-related-needs, including practical strategies for home and school.

Natalie Cooper
Language, Learning and Strategic Support (LLSS)
Advice on supporting children's language development, learning needs and access to education.

Attendance to be confirmed

Bismah Tanveer
Speech and Language Therapist
Information and guidance about speech, language and communication development.

Occupational Therapy
Information about supporting children's sensory, physical and everyday functional needs.

If these professionals are unable to attend, relevant information will still be provided.

Information to be provided by

Peggy Barrett
Educational Psychology
Supporting children's learning, development, wellbeing and understanding of additional needs.

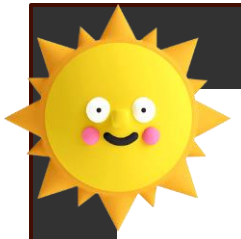
Adele Kershaw
City of Birminghan School (Advisory Teacher)
Practical guidance on supporting children's behaviour, emotional regulation and positive wellbeing.

Working Together for Every Child

At Harper Bell, we believe that every child deserves to feel included, valued and supported to achieve their full potential. Strong partnerships between home, school and specialist professionals are essential in helping our children flourish.

A more excellent way

Harper Bell
Seventh-day Adventist Primary School



YOUR VOICE CAN HELP CREATE CHANGE

bvsc research

Take part in a friendly community conversation about health and wellbeing in Birmingham and Solihull.



Join a friendly community conversation about:

- The challenges people face in their communities
- Ideas for overcoming those challenges
- How we can create healthier, happier communities together

Your experiences and ideas can help shape future community support and services.

World Cafe Details

Location: Billesley Ark - 725 Yardley Wood Rd, Birmingham, B13 0PT
Date: 26th October 2026
Time: 10.30am to 01.30pm
To book your place:

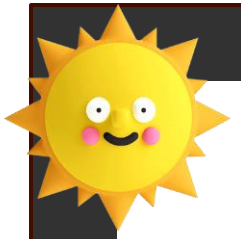
SCAN HERE

Lunch, tea, coffee and refreshments provided.
No expertise needed - just bring your experiences and ideas
£50 LOVE2SHOP VOUCHER FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS



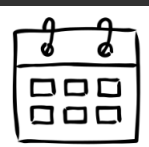
Be heard. Be involved. Be part of the change.
Your experiences and ideas could help improve health and wellbeing for people across Birmingham and Solihull.

Harper Bell
Seventh-day Adventist Primary School



Dates for your diary







Harper Bell
Seventh-day Adventist
Primary School

Tue 10 Nov	Reception/Year 1 Parent Reading Workshop
Wed 11 Nov	Remembrance Worship
Tue 17 Nov	Year 2 Parent Reading Workshop
Wed 18 Nov	Inclusion Multi-agency Coffee Morning
Thu 19 Nov	Year 4 Viking Experience
Thu 19 Nov	Year 4 Anglo-Saxon Experience
Tue 24 Nov	Year 3 Parent Reading Workshop
Tue 1 Dec	Year 4 Parent Reading Workshop
Mon 7 Dec (11am-12pm)	Choir Performance (Abbey Rose Nursing Home)
Tue 8 Dec	Year 5 Parent Reading Workshop
Wed 9 Dec	Advent and Christmas Community Service
Thu 10 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Mon 14 Dec (10.30am-11.30am)	Choir Performance (Edgbaston Manor Nursing Home)
Tue 15 Dec	Year 6 Parent Reading Workshop





Spiritual thought for the week...



Harper Bell
Seventh-day Adventist
Primary School

“And yet I show you a more excellent way.” – 1 Corinthians 12:31

At Harper Bell, our school motto, “A More Excellent Way,” reminds us that true excellence is not simply about being the best or achieving the highest results. It is about the choices we make, the kindness we show and the love we share with others.

In the Bible, the Apostle Paul introduces a more excellent way before teaching us about the importance of love in 1 Corinthians 13. He reminds us that even our greatest achievements mean little without love at the heart of our actions.







Attendance Page

Harper Bell
Seventh-day Adventist Primary School



This week: 98.2%

