



# Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers

Over the past 12 months we have had to accelerate our review of how we communicate with you and how we educate your child. Please read this entire letter to find out how we plan to do both over the next 12 months and beyond.

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## Communication with parents/carers

We want to ensure we always have clear lines of communication with all of our school community. Over the past weeks we have needed to send sensitive, important correspondence outside of school hours and this has been a challenge to achieve, often via text. We have therefore invested in SchoolPing and have started using the service this term. Many of you have already signed up and now receive school letters, reminders and news this way.

SchoolPing help us monitor engagement, and we can see that, even though the majority of parents/carers have signed up, only about half of you are reading messages. **We will be using SchoolPing as our sole whole-school/office communication tool from Monday 18th January. After this date we will not be using T2P text alerts. Please ensure you have full access to your SchoolPing account by this date or you may miss important communications.**

SchoolPing is a free app which sends instant messages straight to your smartphone, wherever you are. If you do not have access to a smartphone, you can also receive messages via email or by logging in to your account on the web. Whether you're at work, at home or on the go, all you need is an internet connection to stay up to date with all of the school's news.

The benefits of using SchoolPing:

- Complete consent / trip forms in seconds
- Messages delivered straight to your smartphone via the SchoolPing app
- Notifications will alert you to new messages, meaning you will never miss anything important
- It is free to download the SchoolPing app and it is available on iOS and Android
- You choose how to view your messages, whether it's on your phone, tablet or computer
- See special school moments with photos, videos, sound clips and documents, all viewable within the app
- Book parents' evening time slots in seconds

To use SchoolPing and issue your welcome invites, we will require your email address. Please provide the name and email address for each contact you would like to receive SchoolPing messages, via this form:

<https://forms.gle/tmfxEFC5b4rLDyQm8>

Please be assured that SchoolPing is registered with the Data Protection Registrar and guarantees that all information provided by yourself will be kept private and will not be passed on to any other organisation.

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## Apps and Websites we use

We are always looking for tools that will help engage and support our pupils in their learning. At Harriers, we believe these tools can take many forms, from a forest school, to a science experiment, to a poem. Inevitably, most resources that can be used at school and at home are now online or app-based and we have looked to utilise these new resources, especially over the past 12 months when remote learning has come to the forefront.

We have invested time and money into researching and trialling options to ensure we can provide a range of online tools that are of high quality and have a positive impact on learning. We are confident we have strong online content to support our teaching and learning in school and, at the moment most importantly, at home.

We realise that the range of apps, online programs, usernames and passwords can seem daunting and confusing. We have therefore compiled a list of apps and web-based programs that we use in school, refer to or ask pupils to access. Hopefully this will help you make sense of your Tapestry from your Purple Mash!

The complete list can be found at the end of this letter and includes the name, year groups that use it, purpose of each, and whether passwords are required (and where to find them!).

If you have any questions, then please ask you child's class teacher via Seesaw (it's on the list!).

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## Digital Devices and Data

All of these apps and websites are useless if children are not accessing them at home. We realise this can be challenging if you do not have suitable devices to use or cannot get online due to wifi or mobile data issues.

### **Please do not let this be a barrier to your child's learning!**

We can support you now:

- We have chromebooks that we can loan for the duration of the lockdown, and possibly beyond
- We have donated devices (e.g. tablets) that we can give out
- We have 4G dongles we can loan so you can access home wifi
- We can help sign you up to a government scheme to boost your mobile data

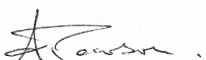
Please email [office@harriers-aspirations.org](mailto:office@harriers-aspirations.org) as soon as possible if any of these would help your child access their remote learning provision. We have a limited number of devices and dongles and the government data scheme is already open, so please contact us straight away and we will help you as we can.

As our supply is limited, please only request a device if you have a genuine need.

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I hope you have found this information useful. We appreciate there is a lot a apps and websites to access, but they do all support your child's learning in different ways. Please do get in touch if we can answer your questions or support you further.

Yours faithfully,



Alex Pearson  
Executive Principal

## List of Apps or Websites used at Harriers

App/Website	Year groups	Format & Purpose	Password shared?
Seesaw	1-6	App Teacher to parent communication, setting remote learning, pupils can share work, staff can respond... and much more	Yes, in homework book
Tapestry	N & R	App Similar to Seesaw, but is also used as an assessment tool by staff	All individually set
Times Table Rockstars	Y1-6	Website Practice times tables recall speed.	Passwords sent via Seesaw
Text alerts (Teachers2Parents)	All - for now	Text From Monday 18.1.21 this will only be rarely used and will be discontinued at the end of the school year.	n/a
SchoolPing	All - replacing T2P	App or via email Whole school communications and can be tailored for classes or groups. Will be used to communicate all messages from the school as a whole, the principal and the office.	Provide email address via form or to office to sign up.
Purple Mash	All	Website Used to provide online learning linked to our curriculum and for homework.	Yes, in homework book
Accelerated Reader	1-6	Website Children test their knowledge of the books they have read, this allows them to then progress through reading bands.	Passwords are in home learning books. Website link sent via seesaw at start of lockdown.
Lexia	2-6 (not all pupils)	Website Pupils invited to access. Used to improve reading and reading comprehension, allowing pupils to accelerate their reading age. Normally used in school, but remote access given during lockdown.	Sent via Seesaw
ParentPay	All	Website Book and pay for school meals, trips etc	Contact <a href="mailto:office@harriers-aspirations.org">office@harriers-aspirations.org</a> to gain access
Class dojo	All	Website Rewards pupils for good work and behaviour. Do not use to message teachers, use Seesaw instead.	Codes Sent in Sept, contact teacher (via Seesaw) if access required.
Zoom	All	Website or App Used for livestreaming	Link sent via Seesaw as required
Loom	All	Website or App	Link sent via Seesaw as

		Used to deliver teaching as part of remote learning	required
School website & social media	All	<a href="http://www.harriers-aspirations.org">www.harriers-aspirations.org</a> Information, policies, letters, newsletters and much more! Also see our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts for additional content.	n/a

There are additional apps or websites used by certain year groups, but not across the school.

The apps/websites below are used in school only, but you may hear them mentioned sometimes.

CPOMS	All	Used in school to record information about pupils.	n/a
DCPro	All	Used in school to record and track pupil assessment data.	n/a
PiXL	All	App and website Pupils may use some activities, like times tables, but mainly used in school to support teacher assessment and for teaching.	Contact teacher via Seesaw