



# Hempsted Church of England Primary School

## November 2024 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers and Governors,

Welcome to the November newsletter. The school is a very busy place to be right now, with lots going on, exciting events and lots of learning as well. The first half-term seemed to be a very long one and we're now planning events to celebrate Christmas. The snow and frost is certainly making it known that winter is on its way.

### **Emails**

This is the first newsletter to reach you by email. Thank you to all parents for providing up to date email addresses. Going forward all newsletters and most class letters will be sent to you by email. Please ensure that if one parent/carer is not receiving emails from the school that you contact the school office on 01452 523567 or email Mrs Beddall at [admin@hempsted.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hempsted.gloucs.sch.uk)

### **World War Two Evacuation Experience**

Class Six ended their World War Two topic on a high just before half term, when they time travelled back to 1940 and were 'evacuated' to the countryside. They travelled by steam train from Winchcombe to Broadway and then back again. Along the way they had a sing-a-long of wartime songs and there was a mysterious German 'spy' on the train, who was apprehended at the station. They then went to meet their new 'teacher', who told them more about the jobs they may have to do with their new family and they were shown many interesting artefacts. There was also an air raid which meant they had to take cover in an ARP shelter and sit in almost darkness listening to the 'bombs' outside. They found it very scary! Once the all-clear sounded, they had to gather hoses and water and then take it in turns to use a stirrup pump to activate the hoses. They were all very good at that! Well done Class Six!



## Harvest Service

We had the pleasure of Nikki and Rachel visiting us for this year's Harvest Service. We would like to give a big 'thank you' to everyone who donated to our harvest collection. This has been used to support The Family Haven and stock up the Hempsted Community Pantry, which is available to support anyone who needs it through the difficult winter months. Please also remember that you can donate at any time to the foodbank.

## Knitting Club

Knitting Club have been working very hard in our lunchtime knitting club, with Mrs Dickson and Mrs Mooney to learn how to crochet and knit. The children have been learning how to chain rows in crochet and have produced some beautiful flowers and knit other items that we have now put together to create the first ever Hempsted School post box topper.

Our design is inspired by Harvest Festival and we hope that it will inspire everyone who passes it in the village to donate to a foodbank. We hope everyone loves it as much as we do.



## The Poppy Appeal

Thank you to the School Council who have been raising money to support the Royal British Legion. Their poppy shop was a huge success and the collection pots were full by the end of the week. Thank you to all who donated and bought a poppy or wrist band.

## Class 4 Making Use Of The Leaves!

Class 4 had fun collecting the fallen autumn leaves to make leaf mould. Each group had a black bag to fill with as many leaves as possible in 10 minutes. The children were amazed how heavy their bags were.

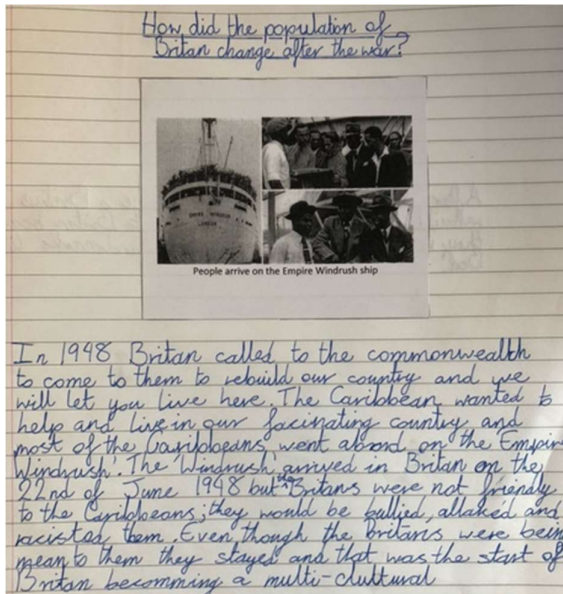
The collected leaves will be stored in the black bag, with some holes and kept moist. The leaves will naturally break down over 12-18 months to reveal a dark-brown, light compost/mulch, which we can then use in our school garden.



## Black History Month.

October was Black History Month and through the school we spent time learning about significant people and events. We have designed our curriculum so that children learn about a different aspect of this as they progress through the school.

In year six they have been learning about WW2 and as part of that they have been learning about how the HMT Empire Windrush ship transported Caribbean people to Britain. These people came to help rebuild the country from the damage of the war. They looked at the discrimination they sadly faced when they arrived and the contribution they made to make our country more diverse.



## Children in Need.

Once again Children in Need was a huge success and as a school we have raised £424.99 for a fantastic charity that does so much to help young people. Thank you to all the parents, carers and children and congratulations to the winners of the Pudsey Raffle.



## **Jewellery in School**

A reminder that pupils are only permitted to wear a watch and a single pair of small-sized stud earrings. NO HOOPS!! Other jewellery items should not be worn. Earrings must be removed for PE and games lessons. If your child is unable to remove their own earrings, please provide **micropore tape** so that they can be covered for these lessons.

## **School Photographer**

The school photographer has already been into school. Please remember you have until the 27th November to order your photos and receive free delivery. Use the QR code your child has brought home to order. Orders after this date will incur postal charges.

## **Parent/Teacher Consultations**

Thank you to all of you who attended the meetings. It is an ideal opportunity for both teachers and you to share successes, concerns and targets regarding your child's progress. We want to remove any barriers which may prevent individual children from reaching their full potential – an effective dialogue with parents and support at home are always vital.

## **Attendance**

School attendance continues to be good. As we enter the winter months, we will see an increase in the normal winter illnesses causing children to be off school. This is unavoidable. However, this is a reminder that holidays must not be booked during term time. It is often a cause of upset to parents when they see 'unauthorised absence' on their child's record so please remember that term time leave can only be authorised in 'exceptional circumstances'. The government defines persistent absence as that of 90% and below which is the equivalent of a day absent per fortnight. Our school attendance target is 95%+. We will continue to send you your child's attendance record every term.

## **Winters on its way – be prepared!**

As weather more typical of the season takes hold, please remember to always send your child to school with a coat and, if necessary, a pair of wellies, hat, gloves and a scarf so that they are comfortable at morning and lunchtime plays. This will also help with those more unplanned moments of the school day such as an autumn walk or exploring the first frosts of the season. I would also recommend packing a spare pair of socks in case they get wet during break or lunch.

This newsletter is always a good opportunity to remind you of our procedures for closure due to adverse weather conditions, which are overleaf.

## **Hempsted C of E Primary School**

### **Adverse Weather Conditions**

On rare occasions in winter, conditions may be hazardous with snow and ice. A decision will be made by the Senior Leadership Team, based on local conditions and whether it is safe to open the school. This will take into account conditions within school grounds **and** the local area. Consideration also must be given to the safety of staff travelling from further distances.



#### **If in doubt:**

- Check your phone for a text from us
- Consult the council website - <https://closures.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>
- Listen to local radio bulletins
- Consider possibilities for child care

As a very last resort, ring school, but please delay your call until after 8am.

**We will open** as long as it is safe to do so **and** we are confident that sufficient staff will be in school. We appreciate a sudden school closure is extremely disruptive for working parents. However, always make sure that you have a contingency plan for child care should a class or the school close.

**If we are not opening** this will be posted on the school and council website, a text will be sent to the priority mobile that we have for you and the closure will be stated on local radio bulletins.

#### **If the weather deteriorates during the day**

- School **will** be kept open until the last child has left the premises.
- Only in extreme circumstances would school close and a pupil **would never** be sent home without a parent/carer.
- If the weather is severe parents may contact the school if they feel that they would like to collect their child early for safety reasons (i.e. travelling/walking long distances or collecting children from other closed schools). Children will not be let out during the final 15 minutes of the day.

## Important Dates for Your Diary

<b>November</b>			
Friday	29 <sup>th</sup>		Friends' Christmas Disco Reception class and KS1 5.15-6.30pm KS2 6.45-8pm
<b>December</b>			
Tuesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Reception Nativity
Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Y1/2 Nativity
Friday	13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Y1/2 Nativity
		3.20pm	Santa Run (cross country club)
Monday	16 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Lunch – please order on School Money ASAP
Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm and 6pm	KS2 Carol Service in St Swithuns Church
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	School Christmas Service at St Swithuns Church (staff & pupils only)
		<b>2pm</b>	Christmas Parties End of Term 2
<b>January</b>			
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup>	8.50am	Back to school!
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup>		Year R and 6 height and weight checks.
Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup>		Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Camp Fire Day.



# Coffee and Chat

The parish and school pastoral team work together to support Hempsted families. Every Tuesday we hold **'Coffee and Chat'** in the **Lysons Hall** (next to the church on St Swithuns Road) **9am – 10 am** during term time. The church pastoral team also hold specific **Coffee and Chat Plus sessions during the summer holidays**. This is an opportunity for you to meet other parents, talk to us, share experiences and make new friends. From time to time, we organise activities such as bingo, art and crafts and mindfulness. We look forward to meeting you.

**You are welcome to bring your little ones!**

We hope you can join us!

Come and join us for some festive treats

# CHRISTMAS 2024

## Christmas Fayre

Lysons Hall  
Hempsted GL2 5LH  
Saturday  
7th December  
12noon  
to 4pm

## Christmas Tree Festival

St Swithun's Church  
Hempsted GL2 5LH  
From Saturday  
7th December  
Church open daily  
9 to 4pm



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Local stalls include Ellie Sims Art; Wreath's & Christmas Decorations by Di; Holistic Therapies & Gifts; Kate's handmade ceramics; Ronnett's woodwork; handmade jewellery; cards & gift tags; cakes & produce; and free childrens craft activity and child friendly stall from Coffee & Chat, winter punch, tea, coffee, squash, mince pies and seasonal treats  
- Hempsted Community Raffle will be drawn at 2pm -

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For further information contact  
Debbie Hotchkins: 0786 674 7844 / [debbie.hotchkins@btinternet.com](mailto:debbie.hotchkins@btinternet.com)

All money raised for our historic churches St. Swithun's Parish of Hempsted with  
St Mary de Lode & St Mary de Crypt