



Hempsted Church of England Primary School December 2020 Newsletter



Growing Together in God's Love

Wednesday 2nd December 2020

Dear Parents, Governors and Friends of the School,

Welcome to the December newsletter. As the year draws to a close, it's fair to say that it has been like no other year that we remember. It has been a journey for us all but I'm delighted that the children are back at school, and even when they can't be in their classroom, remote learning is in place. We've now had to use remote learning with two year groups, and so far it is going well, but as with anything new there are glitches and ways to improve things.

Orienteering Day

Last week Team Hempsted organised 2 orienteering days for the children. Orienteering is a cross curricular outdoor activity that supports subjects such as maths, PE and geography. Each class were given challenges to solve, clues were situated all within the school grounds.



It was such an amazing 2 days to see the children running around, working as a team, supporting each other and solving their challenges. Crossing the Swamp was so much fun, the children had to use carpet tiles to cross the



swamp without putting their hands or feet in. The children had to explore the school grounds looking for pieces of a puzzle then put it altogether, seeing the children have this freedom was such a good sight to see.

Here are some of the comments from the children:

"I liked following all of the arrows to find our pieces." Harriet

"It was really fun because it's very good and challenging" Szymon

"It was exciting because I like exploring and finding things." Jesse

"It was amazing. I loved it. It was so fun I want to do it again. I had freedom everywhere, well not everywhere. My favourite part was the puzzle."

With no Inter School sports taking place due to Covid 19, we are working hard in keeping the children active. In October, we hosted an Intra-House Tri Golf day, with equipment borrowed from Hartpury College. Hempsted School's field became a golf course. All Key Stage 2 children participated competing for the House Trophy. With 10 different golfing activities to try, the children were having fun but also experiencing the competitive challenge of it. All the children had individual score cards and these were totalled up to make an overall House score:

Whitefield 474 points

Beale 426 points

Kynaburgh 405 points

Raikes 399 points

Congratulations **Whitefield** on an amazing score and win.

Tim Knibbs from Gloucester School Sports Network came into school and helped to run these eventful days. A huge thank you to GSSN for continually supporting our school throughout the past few months.

We still have Atlas Sports coming into school for physical activity sessions. They specialise in the delivery of outstanding primary physical education. Last term Key Stage 2 covered football and at the end of the term they all competed in an Intra-House football tournament. The overall scores were as follows:

Raikes 17

Whitefield 16

Kynaburgh 10

Beale 2

Congratulations **Raikes** on your amazing win.

This term we are doing Tag Rugby. There will be an Intra House Tag Rugby Tournament the last session of this term.

Covid Update

At the time of writing we have our Year 4 bubble isolating at home and engaged in their home learning. Whilst news headlines suggest numbers are falling in Gloucester, there still seems to be a large number of schools reporting cases. In a primary school, a case reported in a bubble literally means the whole bubble has to isolate. Therefore, as we approach Christmas and a relaxation of the rules to allow three households to mix, I do urge increased vigilance both in looking out for symptoms and following the guidelines. Any case reported in a class in the last week of term would have consequences for the Christmas period.

It is also timely to remind you to ensure that your children are with you at the beginning and end of day and not running around the grounds and mixing with other pupils and parents from other bubbles.

Remembrance

Once again, we marked Armistice Day with a minute of silence. I am always impressed by the children's awareness of this and we all stood in our bubbles on the field, reflecting in silence about the sacrifices that have been made. After the silence was over, the children and staff all looked at each other and acknowledged that this was the first time we had been able to see us all together since the 20th of March!

Harvest Foodbank Collection

I've had confirmation that our collection for this year's Foodbank was our best ever – we collected 152kg of food donations. This is 50% higher than last year. We are planning to do another collection just before Christmas.

Children in Need

On the theme of being charitable, we collected £238 for this year's Children in Need Appeal. Again, given the limitations on what we can do, I think this is a great effort. Thank you!!

Toilet Twinning

But the generosity of you all doesn't end there!! Last year's school charities were The Family Haven and Toilet Twinning. Last year, we collected enough money to be able to twin all of the school's toilet blocks to toilet blocks in Africa. By doing this, we have helped to provide not only better facilities to some disadvantaged communities, but also to provide health education around the prevention of germs spreading in close communities. In fact, for every £1 spent, a community gains £5.50 in better health and productivity. We were able to donate £360. We have twinned with toilets in Mozambique, Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo.

For the rest of this academic year, any further funds raised will be donated to The Family Haven in Gloucester.

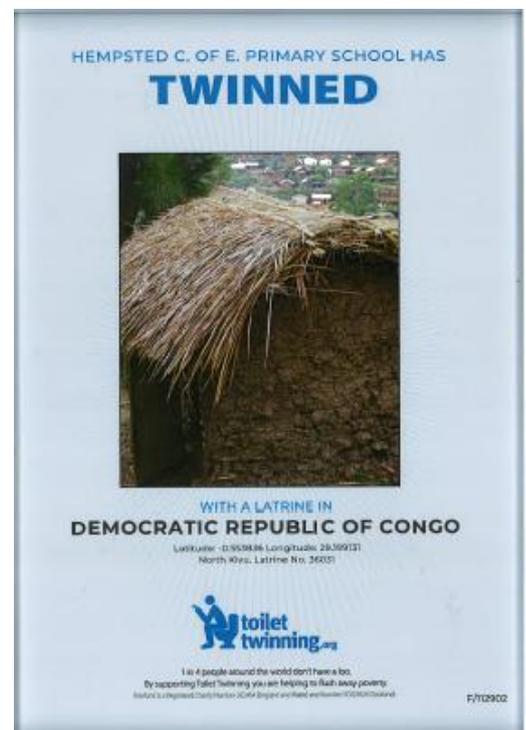
Christmas

You should have received the details of the Hempsted 'Comfort and Joy' Christmas trail by now. Please email the office if you need another copy.

Sadly, we are very restricted this year in what we can do, both down to the 'bubbles' and the very limited space that we have. However, we are still going to try and record a nativity by the Reception class which will be available on the school website once it's done.

Christmas Cards

Please do not send in Christmas cards this year. Ziva (in Year 6) has generously made large paper Christmas tree cards for each class, as well as making baubles for



the children to write their message on. These will be decorated and displayed on the classroom windows for all to see. Well done and thank you to Ziva!

Christmas Lunch

This will be on Thursday 17th December. Orders must be received by **11th December. Late orders can't be accepted.**

Christmas Parties on Friday 18th December

The children's class parties will be on the final day of term. We are extremely thankful to Cater Cater Ltd for once again providing all of the pupils with a party box of food on this day. Therefore, you will not need to send your child with lunch as it will be provided. This is very generous of the company – thank you!!



Christmas Jumpers

It is a tradition now that the children wear a Christmas jumper on the last day of term. We would still like the children to wear school skirts/trousers and school shoes, but simply swap their school jumper for a Christmas jumper.

If your child would like to wear their Christmas jumper on the last day, please could we request a small donation of 50p or £1 to go towards the Family Haven.

A Christmas Book

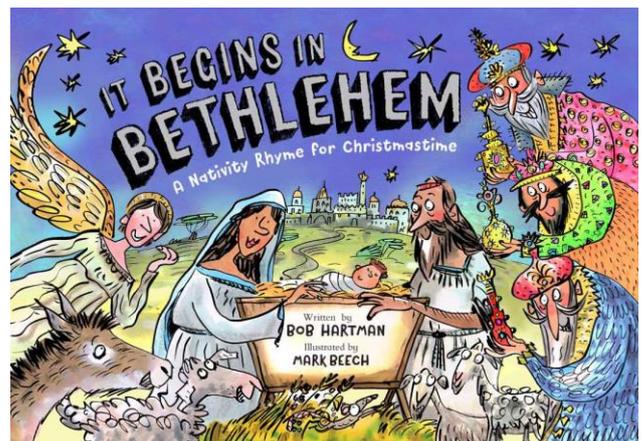
Mrs Wain, a member of the parish pastoral team, has found a lovely book to share with the children. It's called 'It Begins in Bethlehem' and is written by Bob Hartman. Very kindly, our cleaning company, **Minster Cleaning**, have paid for each child in the school to receive their own copy of the book.



Key Stage 2 Book Donations

If you are looking to buy your child new reading books for Christmas and need to make some space on your bookshelf, then the school will happily receive any good quality 'junior' reading books that your child has finished with.

The books need to be in good condition and be 'quality' texts. If your child really enjoyed it, it is likely then another child in the class would as well.



More details will follow shortly so please don't send in anything yet.

Photos

The children's photographs have now been delivered. We are currently quarantining them and will send them home next week.

Smart Watches

Please can I bring it to your attention that 'Smart' Watches are not allowed to be worn in school in any year group.

Year 2 and Year 3 Phonics Screening Check

Year 2: The current Year 2 children should have completed this statutory check of their decoding abilities back in June. This will be done on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th December. The check takes a few minutes and is carried out by the class teacher.

Year 3: If your child did not pass the check when they were in Y1, they will do it again next week. They will do it with Mrs Chater, who will ensure she follows Covid guidelines.

****Asthma****

Please can we ask parents to notify us if your child has a diagnosis of asthma. If they have a **Wheeze Management Plan** you must provide school with a copy of it.



Please can I also remind parents that the school does have emergency inhalers for use if the child's own inhaler is unavailable. If your child has ever been diagnosed with asthma, or prescribed an inhaler, then you will be able to sign a **consent form** to allow the school to administer the emergency inhaler. Without this consent form, the emergency inhaler can't be administered.

Birthdays

Some children like to bring something in to share with their class when it is their birthday. This is still fine to do, but we get a whole range of things sent in, many of them inappropriate! Therefore, if your child wants to bring something in for their birthday, it can only be 'shop bought' cupcakes that are still sealed in their original wrapper. The staff will then ensure that they are given out safely.

Bikes/Scooters

Please do not allow your child to ride their bike or scooter on the school grounds. This is for the safety of everyone.

Parking

It's been a while since I've had to mention parking, but it's been drawn to my attention that it's a particular issue near the Post Office at the end of the school day. I have spoken to PCSO Sexton who informs me that it has been raised with her and that some cars have indeed been ticketed. Please walk to school where possible but if you do have to drive, park sensibly for everyone's safety. Please do not block neighbour's driveways as this results in me getting a furious phonecall from them! If you do have to drive, why not park a little further away and be prepared to walk just that bit further?

Breakfast and After-School Club

We have been very carefully increasing the size of the Breakfast and After-School Club bubbles. We do now have some spare capacity, so if you need to use this, please email Mrs Subryan at afterschoolclub@hempsted.gloucs.sch.uk . As numbers are restricted, we do insist that you book at least 2 sessions a week. Sessions can now be booked on School Money website up to February half-term.

And finally...

There will be one short newsletter before the end of term. Please remember that school finishes early on Friday 18th December (see below). Stay safe and let us all make the Christmas break together!

Yours sincerely



Mr R. Waller
Head Teacher

Important Dates

<u>DECEMBER</u>			
Monday and Tuesday	7 th /8 th		Phonics Screening Check (All Year 2, some Year 3)
Friday	11 th		Friends non-uniform day (details to follow)
Wednesday	16 th	1.30pm	Christingle making and Christmas Service
Thursday	17 th		Christmas Dinner
Friday	18 th		Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Parties
		2pm 2.10pm	End of Term for R, Y1, Y3 and Y5 End of Term for Y2, Y4 and Y6
<u>JANUARY</u>			
Monday	4 th	All Day	INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Tuesday	5 th		Start of Term 3
Friday	15 th		Closing date for Reception 2021 applications