



# Hempsted Church of England Primary School

## September 2022 Newsletter



Dear Parents, Governors and Friends of the School,

Welcome back!! It was great to see the children return to school on Wednesday. There was a mixture of nerves and excitement, and the children felt the same too!!

As this is the first newsletter of the academic year, there's a lot of information in it. Please read this carefully. There is also further information on the school website.

Future newsletters will aim to give you a flavour of what the children will be doing, or have done in school.

### **The Death of Her Majesty The Queen**

It was with enormous sadness that we learned about the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

As well as being the longest serving monarch in our history, she was the head of the Church of England. As a Church of England school, the Queen was an important part of our lives here in Hempsted. We have always marked special milestones in the Queen's lifetime, and had whole school community celebrations for her diamond jubilee in 2012, and the platinum jubilee just this year.



Nikki Arthy led a service in church for us today, and the children's response were truly amazing. We were very proud of them! We will be thinking about how we can further commemorate the Queen's life over the next few days. We will also keep you updated on any other national events such as a potential bank holiday, but as of yet, nothing has been announced.



With the death of the Queen, we now have a King, and learning about King Charles III will be important to us too.

### **Staffing – Senior Leadership Team (SLT)**

For those of you new to the school, the SLT consists of Mr Waller, Mr Davis and Mrs Middleton. As well as teaching, Mr Davis has some non-contact time dedicated to his school leadership role. We work closely with the staff, governors, pupils and parents to try to make our school the best it can be. We aim to be as open and approachable as possible, and welcome any parent who has any constructive comments about how we can improve the school for the benefit of the pupils and the community.

### **Staff Leaving – Staff Joining!**

We are very lucky to have a stable staffing structure at the school – this leads to consistency throughout the school, and an experienced teaching team. Occasionally, someone leaves and at the end of the last academic year we said goodbye to Mrs Catherine Smith. Mrs Smith had worked for us for a number of years as a teaching assistant with the Y6 class who left last year. She had also been a school governor as well. We would like to give our thanks to

her for her dedication to the school. However, she hasn't gone completely and will be delivering peripatetic music lessons to a number of pupils in school this year!

### **Music Tuition**

On the theme of music tuition...

Just a reminder that music instrument tuition is once again available at school for children in Years 3-6.

Lessons are during school hours, given by tutors from Gloucester Academy of Music (including our very own Mrs. Smith, who plays violin and piano!), with 10 lessons per term. Instruments, which can be hired, include:

- Strings (violin, cello)
- Woodwind (flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, recorder)
- Brass (trumpet, cornet, French horn, trombone)
- Piano
- Guitar

Please use the links below for more information and to book lessons or hire an instrument:

Gloucester Academy of Music (for booking lessons) –  
[www.glosacadmusic.org/schools/individual-lessons-in-schools/](http://www.glosacadmusic.org/schools/individual-lessons-in-schools/)

Gloucestershire Music (to hire an instrument) - [www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk/instrument-hire/](http://www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk/instrument-hire/)

You will then be contacted by the tutor with details of lesson timings etc.

### **Our Expectations**

The start of the school year is always a good time to revisit the school 'Golden Rules'. The staff and children wrote these together. We believe that they are good rules for life and we refer to them throughout the entire school year. The Golden Rules are:

-  We always tell the truth
-  We treat everyone with compassion and respect
-  We listen to each other
-  We try our best and persevere
-  We look after our world

Each class also has its own set of class rules, written by the class, for the class. Children are taught that rules are there to keep everyone safe and happy.

### **Value for the Term**

Our value for this term is 'Thankfulness'. In our Collective Worship, we will be exploring the value of thankfulness through Bible stories, readings and drama. We will look at quotes that get us thinking such as:

"It is not happy people who are thankful; it is thankful people who are happy." (Anon)

"Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day." (Alice Morse Earle)

"When eating a fruit think of the person who planted the tree." (Vietnamese Proverb)

We have all faced challenges recently, so we will be encouraging the children to reflect on their day and remember the good things!

### **SATS**

We are now in a position to share our provisional KS2 performance data. The Y6 children sat reading and maths tests in May. They also took a test in grammar, punctuation and spelling. Writing was through teacher assessment. We are delighted with how well the children

performed, exceeding pre-pandemic national data (2019) in most areas, and far exceeding the national picture for this year. Well done to the children, and all of the staff that supported them through their time here. The results were:

		<b>Test Results</b>			
		<b>Percentage at outcome</b>			
		<b>Below standard</b>	<b>Not achieved standard</b>	<b>Achieved Standard or better</b>	<b>High Standard</b>
<b>Grammar Punctuation &amp; Spelling</b>	<b>School</b>	0	9	91	38
	<b>National 2019</b>	3	19	78	36
	<b>National <u>2022</u></b>	28		72	not available
<b>Reading</b>	<b>School</b>	0	19	81	34
	<b>National 2019</b>	3	23	73	27
	<b>National <u>2022</u></b>	26		74	not available
<b>Maths</b>	<b>School</b>	0	6	94	28
	<b>National 2019</b>	3	18	79	27
	<b>National <u>2022</u></b>	29		71	not available
<b>Writing (teacher assessment)</b>	<b>School</b>	25		75	3
	<b>National 2019</b>	21		78	20
	<b>National <u>2022</u></b>	31		69	not available

### **Dates**

Please find below some advance dates for your diary. Further details will follow closer to the event.

Infant Nativities – week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> December

KS2 Christmas concert – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Parent/Teacher consultations

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July (am) – KS2 sports day; Reserve date 11<sup>th</sup> July

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July (am) – KS1 sports day; Reserve date 12<sup>th</sup> July

### **Communication**

If you're new to the school, and even if you aren't, please remember to read each newsletter carefully. The newsletters will aim to let you know what the classes have been up to, and inform you of any dates or other information that you need to know. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email, please let the office know.

In addition,

- Our curriculum outlines provide a synopsis of your child's learning that will take place

during the term ahead. Please take time to read them – there may be some activities or visits related to the topic that you could do with your child. Please note that we are no longer sending paper copies of these home – they are available via the class pages on the school website.

- If you need to speak to us, the administration office is staffed from 8am until 4:30pm. The telephone is usually answered but if the telephone is in use it automatically goes to answer phone. Please leave a message, as these are checked regularly throughout the day. Messages for staff will be passed on.
- Emergency messages (eg school closure) and reminders are sent through a text messaging service. Please ensure that you keep contact numbers up-to-date.
- You should be aware of the email address for each class teacher. If a matter is particularly important or urgent, please also copy the school office into the email. Whilst teachers endeavour to check their email regularly, it isn't always possible. The school office address is [admin@hempsted.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hempsted.gloucs.sch.uk)

### **Inhalers**

A number of pupils keep inhalers in school. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that these are in date.

We also have emergency inhalers. If your child has a diagnosis of asthma, we can use these inhalers in an emergency. However, we need your written permission to do this, so please let the office know if you would like the permission form.



### **Bumped Heads**

Still on the theme of communication, if your child receives a bumped head during the day, we will always aim to let you know. In most cases, this will be verbally either at pick-up time, or by telephone. Usually this is simply to make you aware, just in case there are any delayed complications. As an additional safeguard, we may send you a text message as well, just in case we don't get to speak to you later. Please don't be alarmed by the message!

If your child has received a bumped head, then we ask that you look out for the following symptoms:

- headache
- nausea (feeling sick)
- dizziness
- blurred vision

If your child develops these, you should then seek medical advice.

In the case of more serious knocks to the head, we will contact you straight away.

### **\*\*\*CONTACT DETAILS\*\*\***

If you have changed your contact details – address, mobile numbers, land lines, emails – it is vital that we have that information. Please ensure that you let us know!

### **Lunch Boxes**

It is always really good to see healthy snacks and balanced lunches. The children are very knowledgeable about the importance of '5 a day', a varied/balanced diet from the different food groups and not too much sugar or fat.

We have a few rules about what should be provided. Please note:

1. We expect that children will be given food that they normally eat.
2. We do not allow sweets, fizzy drinks or chocolate bars.
3. Children must ask to leave the table and we expect all/most food to be eaten.

\*\*\* Just to remind you that **nuts (including foods containing nuts ) are not allowed** in school because we have children who suffer from allergies. \*\*\*

All Key Stage One (Reception, Class One and Class Two) children have a piece of fruit provided for their snack through the government's 'Free Fruit and Veg Scheme'.

All Key Stage Two children need to bring their own fruit for snack time.

### **Hair and Jewellery in PE**

One pair of plain stud earrings is allowed. Earrings should also be removed for PE. If your child is unable to remove their earrings, then you must send them to school with a roll of micropore tape. Also, if your child has hair that obstructs their view when they look down, then this must be tied back. Please send in a hair bobble.

### **Thank You to the 2022 Leavers!**

A huge 'Thank you' to the parents of last year's Class Six who very kindly gave the school a new bench. On the very last day of term, we had a lovely celebration with the children and their families. We wish them the best of luck as they start their new schools.

### **Hello to the New Starters! Reception 2022**

Our new Reception children have begun. They are currently attending school in two groups on a part-time basis. This allows the Reception staff to really get to know the children well before they all come in to school together.

### **And finally...**

That was a lot of information! Please remember that if there's anything you're not sure about, please ask! We aim to be as approachable as possible, and to create a school community that is friendly and welcoming. I look forward to sharing another successful year with you.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Waller

## **Important Dates for Your Diary**

<b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b>			
Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Start of year church service (Y1-6)
Saturday	17 <sup>th</sup>		Grammar schools test day
<b><u>OCTOBER</u></b>			
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Harvest Service at St Swithuns
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm	<b>Year 6</b> trip (details to follow) End of Term 1
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>		<b>INSET Day</b> (school closed to pupils)
Monday	31 <sup>st</sup>		Start of Term 2
<b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b>			
Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	2.15pm	Reception Class church service Parent/Teacher Consultations
Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Flu immunisation (details to follow) Parent/Teacher Consultations
Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup>		School photographer in school