



Hempsted Church of England Primary School

November 2022 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

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 zoom by and we're already planning events to make this Christmas a special one. There's quite a lot to catch up on in this newsletter and please make sure you check the calendar of events. Don't forget you can always check out the calendar on the school website.

Black History Month

Each class celebrated Black History month during October. The classes researched a number of themes that explored the lives of black people in the past, the present and how we should learn from the past to improve the future for everyone. Here is a flavour of what they have been learning.

Year 4 explored the greatness of some Black Sport Personalities over the last two centuries and what they also achieved to help others. Sporting heroes from the 20th century included Jesse Owens, Pelé and Mohammed Ali whilst from the 21st century they learned about Raheem Sterling MBE, Marcus Rashford MBE, Simone Biles, Serena Williams and Sir Mo Farah.



Year 3 learned about the life of Rosa Parks.

Year 1 read stories and made posters about the lives of Nelson Mandela and Mary Seacole.

Year 6 are learning about how Britain has changed since World War 2. In particular, they learned about the Windrush Generation and how they travelled to Britain to help rebuild the country following the war. They discovered that many of them lived in terrible conditions and endured awful racism. Even today, many of the Windrush Generation are still struggling to prove their right to stay in the UK, despite the promises made when they first came to Britain.



Harvest Service

We enjoyed our first harvest service in church for 3 years!! Nikki and Rachel gave the children a super service, reminding us all to say 'thank you' to God for what we have been given. As well as stories and prayers, we raised the roof with our favourite 'Harvest Samba'!!

Once again, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made contributions to our Harvest Collection. They filled the boot and back seat of my car, and were greatly received by the The Gloucester Foodbank.

Charity Fundraising

Despite some restrictions last year, the school council managed to raise £320. This was split equally between 'The Pied Piper Appeal' and 'New Start Cat Rescue.' We received lovely 'thank-yous' from both charities!

This year, the school council listened to requests from their classes. They have chosen to support 'The James Hopkins Trust' and 'Pets as Therapy.'

The Poppy Appeal

Still on the theme of charities, this week the school will be selling items to help raise funds for the Royal British Legion. They will be selling wrist bands for £1, slap bands for £1.50, poppy key rings for 50p and zip bands for 20p. They will also be selling paper poppies for a minimum donation of 10p. They will be on sale during playtimes until Friday, which is Armistice Day. Last year we raised an amazing £374.34!!!

The Really Wild Reading Festival

During the week starting 14th November, the Gloucester Schools Partnership is holding the Really Wild Reading Festival. During the week,

there will be a range of children's authors visiting schools to read their books to the children, do activities and hold question & answer sessions. Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3 are meeting Charlotte Middleton. Years 4, 5 and 6 are meeting Philip Ardagh and Andy Seed. Year 5 and 6 will also be travelling to Dinglewell Junior School to meet Catherine Bruton who has written the book that they are currently reading called The Last Ballet Shoes in Syria.



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.

Christmas!

If you have children in the juniors, you should now have received information about the iSingPop Christmas concert. If your child is in the infants, you will shortly be receiving information from their teachers about the Christmas nativities.

Attendance Update – Stricter Rules

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 be sending further information about attendance soon.

Illness: Clearly, there are times when children (and staff) are ill and need to stay at home. Please remember to notify the office by 9am on each day of absence. Children need to be **symptom free for 48 hours following sickness and/or diarrhoea. If your child has had a temperature, they should be free of temperature for 24 hours before returning to school.**

A message from Gloucestershire Music...

On 12th November we have free activities happening at 2 of our music centres:

Brookfield Music Centre is hosting a 'Try an Instrument Day' - 10-12, Sir Thomas Rich's School, Longlevens, Gloucester - for anyone that wants to try out an instrument and see what fantastic opportunities there are for beginners to more advanced learners. Sign up here for the free event LIVE Portal <https://gloucestershiremusic.paritor.com/>

Five Valleys Music Centre is holding an open morning for anyone that wants to come along and try it out - open to any young person who plays an instrument to absolutely any standard - 9.30-12.30, Archway School, Stroud. We also have 2 x 1hr harp sessions happening during this open day as well. Give us a call on 01452 427242 to book your place to come and try out the harp if you are a complete beginner (9:30am - 10:30am) or if you are an existing harpist there will be an opportunity to come and play with other young harpists from 10:30-11:30am. Places in the harp sessions are limited so please do book your place in advance if you want to take advance.

School Photographer

The school photographer is in school tomorrow (Tuesday). After the photoshoot, your child will be given a QR code to take home. This will allow parents to register online on the photographer's website. You will then receive a notification email when the photos are ready to view. If you don't receive a QR code, let the school office know.

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 year.

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

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.

WHO'S WHO 2022/23

Chair of Governors	Mr B Nash
Head Teacher	Mr R Waller - Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Deputy Head Teacher	Mr J Davis - Deputy DSL; Year 5 Class Teacher; Maths lead
Assistant Head	Mrs A Middleton (0.6) –Performance Management (LSWs) SENDCo; Deputy DSL; Pastoral Care

TEACHING STAFF WITH RESPONSIBILITIES

Reception	Miss P Quick – EYFS Coordinator
Year One	Mrs N Bickerton – Science
Year Two	Mrs N Chater (0.6) – Reading Lead Miss N Hughes (0.4) – PSHE, Music
Year Three	Mrs S Price – Geography, Design & Technology
Year Four	Mrs S Knight (0.4) – History Mrs L Hill (0.6) - RE
Year Five	Mr J Davis – Deputy Head, KS2 Leader, Maths
Year Six	Mrs J Boulton – Art, Writing Lead, KS2/3 Transition
PPA Cover	Miss D Price - Computing, Modern Foreign Languages and Music support

SUPPORT STAFF

<u>Administration</u>	Mrs D Beddall – School Administrator Mrs H Bircher – Finance Administrator
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Pastoral Lead Mrs K Subryan (Deputy DSL; HLTA)

Clerk to Governors Miss J Crandon

Learning Support

Key Stage One - Miss J Brooks, Mrs A Mooney, Miss M Rodway, Mrs S Jones,
Mrs H Stephens, Mrs R Thompson

Key Stage Two – Mrs S Gardner, Mrs J Shephard, Mrs J Dickson, Mrs J Wilkinson,
Mrs J Bassett (Sport Co-ordinator; HLTA), Ms C Graham (Academic Mentor),
Mrs S Francis (School-led tutoring)

IT Technician Hempsted I.T. (Mike Webb)

Catering – Cater Cater Ltd

Lunchtime Supervisors – Mrs E Jones, Mrs M Woodridge, Mrs M Yates, Mrs E Murphy,
Miss M Rodway, Mrs H Stephens, Mrs M Rigby, Miss L Falwasser, Miss K Farmer, Miss J
Joyce, Mrs H Doust

Caretaker – Mr G Read

Cleaners - Minster Cleaning

Breakfast & After School Club – Miss J Brooks, Mrs S Gardner, Mrs R Thompson, Miss L
Falwasser

Peripatetic Music Teachers

Mrs C Smith (keyboard), Mr P Richards (brass)

Additional Sports Coaches – Atlas Sports; Severn Vale Tumbling Club

Chair of the Friends – Mrs O'Neil

And finally...

I will be walking Year 4 down to the Recycling Centre on the 25th November. They will be taking part in a tree planting ceremony that launches the Severn Treescapes project. This is the start of a project that will link woodlands across Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. Last year we planted the first trees in the Hempsted Woods project, and now we've been asked to return to launch this project. I'm told that we may even get to meet Ellie Harrison from Countryfile!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Waller

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER			
Tuesday	8 th		School photographer in school
Tuesday	15 th	9am pm	Y5/6 trip to Dinglewell to meet Catherine Bruton Author visit – Philip Ardagh (Y4, 5, 6)
Thursday	17 th		Author visit – Charlotte Middleton (YR, 1, 2, 3)
Friday	18 th	pm	Author visit – Andy Seed (Y4, 5, 6)
Thursday	24 th	am	Rags 2 Riches Clothes Collection
Friday	25 th	10am	Y4 participation in tree planting ceremony (details to follow)
DECEMBER			
Monday to Wednesday	5 th to 7 th		iSingPop Christmas workshops
Monday	12 th	9.30am	Pantomime (in school)
Tuesday	13 th	9.30am	Reception Class nativity (details to follow) Christmas Dinner – please book ASAP
Wednesday	14 th	9.30am	Y1/2 nativity (details to follow) iSingPop Christmas Concerts (KS2)
Thursday	15 th	9.30am	Y1/2 nativity (details to follow)
Friday	16 th	9.30am	Christmas Service at St Swithuns (pupils & staff only) Class Christmas Parties
		2pm	End of Term 2
JANUARY			
Tuesday	3 rd		INSET day – school closed to pupils
Wednesday	4 th		Start of Term 3