



# Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Diary Dates

### January

3<sup>rd</sup> INSET (pupils not in)  
4<sup>th</sup> School re-opens

### February

1<sup>st</sup> Young Voices (choir)  
9<sup>th</sup> YR/Y6 class photos  
14<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day  
14-16<sup>th</sup> Parents' evenings  
18<sup>th</sup> Half-term break  
27<sup>th</sup> School re-opens

### March

2<sup>nd</sup> World Book Day  
17<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day  
20-22<sup>nd</sup> Y3 Birch residential  
22-24<sup>th</sup> Y3 Hazel residential

### April

1<sup>st</sup> Spring break  
17<sup>th</sup> INSET (pupils not in)  
18<sup>th</sup> School re-opens  
World Science week  
21<sup>st</sup> Wind in the Willows  
24-26<sup>th</sup> Y5 residential

### May

1<sup>st</sup> May Bank Holiday  
8<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday for King's Coronation (sch closed)  
9-12<sup>th</sup> Y6 SATs  
10-12<sup>th</sup> Y4 residential  
27<sup>th</sup> Half-term break

### June

5<sup>th</sup> School re-opens  
Y6 residential  
12<sup>th</sup> Y1 Phonics check wk  
Y4 Times Tables wk  
20<sup>th</sup> Class photos (YN, 1-5)  
22<sup>nd</sup> Infant Sports (am)  
29<sup>th</sup> Junior Sports (am)

### July

4<sup>th</sup> YR New starters eve  
11-13<sup>th</sup> Parents' Evenings  
19<sup>th</sup> Y6 Leavers' show  
20<sup>th</sup> Pupils' last day  
21<sup>st</sup> INSET (pupils not in)

### September

4<sup>th</sup> INSET (pupils not in)  
5<sup>th</sup> School re-opens

While medical matters have reared their head once more, with the concerning increase in viral infections noted nationally of late, we have otherwise enjoyed a term full of normal school activities: educational visits (WW2 evacuation to Tatton for Y6, Roman Chester visit for Y4), awareness raising (British Values day, internet safety workshops, anti-bullying week), charitable events (Children in Need, Harvest donations), community contact (Remembrance service, care home visits) and more, as described below. Long may all of this normality continue.

## A message from the Governors

*Dear Parents,*

*As the end of 2022 fast approaches, we, as your Board of Governors for Huntington Primary, wish you all a very happy Christmas.*

*The governing board has changed considerably over the past couple of years and we are very keen to engage with parents and regularly let you know of the things we are doing in 2023.*

*An effective governing board must cover the following key areas:*

- Works with the headteacher to promote and maintain high standards of educational achievement*
- Ensures the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction*
- Reviews the educational performance of the school*
- Ensures oversight of the financial performance of the school and effective use of the school's resources*

*As Governors we also share a common objective which relates to the wider school community – working in partnership with you as parents/carers and staff to ensure that every child can succeed and reach their potential. To achieve this, and to carry out our role as Governors effectively, we need to know what issues are important to you (so we remain responsive) and ensure that you know what issues Governors are discussing (so that we remain accountable). With that in mind, a parent survey will be coming out in the New Year and we hope you can share your views with us. We will, of course, share our findings. A survey is only worthwhile if we acknowledge what is said!*

*We, as a governing board, are a team, and you can find information about who we are on the school website. <https://www.huntington.cheshire.sch.uk/page/governors/63031>*

*We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the coming months, and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for our school.*

*We wish you a happy Christmas and a wonderful 2023*

*With best wishes  
Governors of Huntington Community Primary*

## Curriculum Developments

The *Little Wandle* phonics scheme is proving successful in raising reading attainment in the younger classes, with considerable time and resource devoted to ensuring that its 'keep up, not catch up' approach pays dividends. A 'reading spine' has also been developed, to enable children to access regularly-changed texts of quality in their classrooms, and reading workshops have been held for junior parents to provide advice about the school's approach and ways in which parents can support their children at home.

The school's new Science scheme, introduced in September, is being enjoyed by pupils, with its increased focus on practical investigations (find out more by searching with the Twitter hashtag #HCPSSci).

In Maths, the school has embarked on the *Developing Mastery* programme, supported by the regional Maths Hub and NCETM, while continuing to provide younger children with access to *Mastering Number* sessions in Reception, Y1 and Y2 for a second year (also a Maths Hub/NCETM initiative). An enjoyable Maths Week was also recently held, with Maths shields given for achievement.



### Christmas Celebrations

A normal programme of Christmas shows resumed this year, with indoor performances for all year groups (Nursery with *A Song of Christmas*; Reception with *Born in a Barn*; Year 1 with *The Bossy King*; Year 2 with *A Miracle in Town*; and the juniors with *I'm Going to Shine*, performed separately by Y3/5 and Y4/6, twice each, making eight performances in all). As atmospheric as last year's outdoor performances were for the junior children, we were all grateful to invite everyone inside this time, especially during the cold weather.

Other Christmas events included Santa visiting Nursery and Reception, a seasonal theatre production (*The Clockmaker's Christmas*) and lots of Christmas craft activities.



### PTA Christmas Fayre

Many thanks to the PTA and all who supported the Christmas Fayre, through donations, attendance or helping organise the event. An appearance by Father Christmas, live music from the choir and piano tutor Will Hay, a games room and a wide range of stalls made for a wonderful afternoon of fundraising. This was held after school for the first time, and was a great success in terms of atmosphere and funds raised. Thank you!



### Choir in the Community

The school choir, coached by Mrs Caldecott, made a welcome return visit to the Deewater Grange Care Home in the last week of term, where the residents greatly enjoyed the singing, and the children enjoyed the biscuits and hot chocolate they received. Earlier in the festive season, the choir also sang at the Huntington Christmas Lights Switch-on at the village green, adding much to the occasion.





## On Best Behaviour

The winners of the KS2 individual behaviour prizes for the last half term were as below, all receiving Amazon vouchers - and well done to all the other children whose behaviour has been exemplary.

Y3 Birch: Isabella Chadwick  
Y4 Hawthorn: Doga Gurdas  
Y5 Larch: Nathan Li  
Y6 Alder: Lana Lu

Y3 Hazel: Sarah Hennessy  
Y4 Lime: Serena Abbinante  
Y5 Rowan: Seth Jackson  
Y6 Sycamore: Aarav Nair

## Golden Table

Congratulations to the children who received Golden Tickets for their behaviour at lunchtime over the past half-term, and were rewarded with a seat at the Golden Table on the last day of term (some shown below).



## Musical Performances

Year 4 have enjoyed learning samba instruments this term, benefiting from the expertise of *Music for Life* tutors and participation in a concert for parents (shown at right). Pupils of Will Hay also performed for a concert video shown in classes.



## Sport

Pupils in years 4 and 6 took part in three football tournaments at Christleton High School in November and December, organised by the English Schools' Football Association (these were for Under 9 girls, and for Under 11 Girls and Under 11 boys). Our girls' team are also through to the second round of the Chester Cup, the boys' team made a successful start to the league season (a 1-0 home victory against Farndon), and the year 4 team have played four matches of their campaign. Year 3 and 4 children have also developed their swimming skills at Christleton pool, and year 4 and 6 pupils took part in a touch rugby festival at Chester Rugby Club earlier in the term. The school also won the participation trophy for the MBNA Mini-Marathon.



Learning water survival techniques



Year 4 girls' football team



MBNA Mini-Marathon winners

## Friends of Caldly Nature Park

The Friends of Caldly Nature Park have launched an interactive trail in the park, consisting of 10 marker posts, each with a QR code that links to online information about the park, its habitat and the wildlife species within it.

They have also launched a new website, at <https://www.caldynaturepark.com/>, with an introduction to the trail at <https://www.caldynaturepark.com/qr-walking-trail>

The site also features a link to our own interactive school page about Caldly Brook, directly accessible [HERE](#).



## Health, Safety and Wellbeing

### Seasonal Illness

Many children were off ill in the last week of term - please refer to the [recent letter](#) regarding scarlet fever/Strep A, outlining symptoms, if you have any concerns.

### Ice and frozen water

After the recent tragic case in Solihull, in which lives were lost when children played on a frozen lake, the children in assembly on the last day of term (Y2-6) were reminded of the dangers of such places. Please reinforce this message at home.

### Cycle Training

Year 6 pupils took to the playground and the streets to develop their cycling skills in December, completing the Bikeability programme, provided free of charge by CWAC. The cold certainly sharpened their senses!



*A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
from all the staff and pupils at Huntington  
Primary*



*Please note that [applications for the Reception classes](#) for next September must be submitted online to CWAC by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023*