



# Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Diary Dates Addition

### October

20<sup>th</sup> Half-term break  
30<sup>th</sup> School re-opens

### November

2<sup>nd</sup> PTA AGM  
6<sup>th</sup> Maths Week  
10<sup>th</sup> PTA Quiz Night  
Open Morning  
12<sup>th</sup> Remembrance  
Sunday; Divali  
13<sup>th</sup> Anti-Bullying week  
17<sup>th</sup> Children in Need  
21<sup>st</sup> Individual photos  
25<sup>th</sup> Xmas Lights On  
29<sup>th</sup> A Christmas Carol

### December

4<sup>th</sup> Pupil flu vaccinations  
5<sup>th</sup> KS1 Xmas Show (am)  
6<sup>th</sup> YR Xmas Show (am)  
KS1 Xmas Show (pm)  
11<sup>th</sup> Y4/6 Xmas Carols  
12<sup>th</sup> Y3/5 Xmas Carols  
13<sup>th</sup> YN Xmas show (am)  
15<sup>th</sup> Christmas break

### January

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

### February

5/6<sup>th</sup> Y3 Parents' evenings  
6<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day  
7<sup>th</sup> Young Voices (choir)  
10<sup>th</sup> Chinese New Year  
12-15<sup>th</sup> Parents' evenings  
12-16<sup>th</sup> Y3 residential  
16<sup>th</sup> Half-term break  
26<sup>th</sup> School re-opens

### March

7<sup>th</sup> World Book Day  
15<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day  
20-22<sup>nd</sup> Y4 residential  
28<sup>th</sup> Easter break

### April

15<sup>th</sup> INSET (pupils not in)  
16<sup>th</sup> School re-opens  
19<sup>th</sup> *The Selfish Giant* play  
22-24<sup>th</sup> Y5 residential

### May

6<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday  
13<sup>th</sup> Y6 SATs week  
24<sup>th</sup> Half-term break

### June

3<sup>rd</sup> INSET (pupils not in)  
4<sup>th</sup> School re-opens  
10<sup>th</sup> Y1 Phonics check wk  
Y4 Times Tables wk  
12<sup>th</sup> *Shrek the Musical*  
13<sup>th</sup> Class photos  
*Shrek the Musical*  
14<sup>th</sup> Infant Sports (am)  
17-21<sup>st</sup> Y6 residential  
19<sup>th</sup> Nursery Sports (am)  
27<sup>th</sup> Junior Sports (am)

### July

9-11<sup>th</sup> Parents' Evenings  
23<sup>rd</sup> Y6 Leavers' show  
24<sup>th</sup> Summer Break

## The term so far

With the half term break approaching, it's time to catch up on the many things that have been going on in school, and provide some pointers for the run-up to Christmas.

## Healthy Lifestyle

Two major announcements here, indicating our commitment to healthy living and sport.

More than 100 of our pupils took part in the **MBNA Mini-Marathon**, and on Friday they gathered together in school, with their medals, to learn that their efforts had been rewarded with the retention of the MBNA Participation Trophy, for the school with the most children taking part. Well done to each and every one of them, and to all the parents/carers who cheered them on.



We also learned that our sports provision in and out of school during 2022-23 has been recognised as being at the gold level for the School Games awards, improving on our longstanding silver rating. Our letterhead logo has consequently been upgraded, and we look forward to further extending our PE offer during the coming year - thanks to Miss Carpenter, PE lead, for her efforts with this.

## Residential Visits

Our residential visits for all junior year groups, unusual for a primary school, are further evidence of our belief in the value of education outside the classroom and a healthy lifestyle. We have been mindful of the increasing costs of these, however, to both parents and school, hence the survey distributed in the summer term. Support from parents/carers for continued visits in every junior year was very strong, with 95% either in favour (86%) or did not mind (9%). Hence, we will continue to offer these at present, and have secured a new venue for the Lake District visit that ties in with Year 4's summer term geography topic. Our visits in 2023-24, and their principal curriculum focuses, will therefore be as below (all these visits are for three days, except for the full week visit in Year 6):

- Year 3: Burwardsley, Cheshire (History – Stone Age to Iron Age)
- Year 4: Patterdale, Lake District (Geography – UK contrasting locality)
- Year 5: RobinWood Centre, Wrexham (PE – Outdoor & Adventurous Activities)
- Year 6: Conway Centre, Anglesey (PE – Outdoor & Adventurous Activities)

## Additional Open Morning

We have had further requests for appointments to visit the school from prospective parents looking at September 2024 Reception entry. As a result, we will be holding an additional Open Morning on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Harvest Donations

Many thanks to all who were able to spare donations of food for our Harvest collection. The 86kg collected was very gratefully received by the staff of the West Cheshire Foodbank, who were helped to load up their van by the Year 6 pupils pictured.



<https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

## PTA

After a successful series of both large-scale events and pupil-focused fun/competitions last year, our PTA are starting this year with some fun for the adults – a **Wine and Cake Evening** (including the AGM) on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and a **Quiz Night** on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for the Quiz Night have now been released and are on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't miss out. Test your knowledge and get to know fellow parents, in good-natured competition with the teachers' and governors' teams.

The invitation to the Wine and Cake Evening is available [HERE](#) (on the [PTA's webpage](#)) and includes a nomination form for Officers/Members of the PTA Committee (all parents/carers are automatically members of the wider PTA). Please complete and return the form as soon as possible (paper copies will also be distributed).



## Hedgehog Watch

Over the past few weeks our motion-tracking camera, loaned as part of Chester Zoo's Hedgehog Watch, has been keeping an eye on nocturnal comings and goings in the Forest School area. With the project now complete, there were sadly no hedgehogs to report, but there was certainly some wildlife making use of the hedgehog box placed near the camera – see if your children can identify the creatures below (in increasing order of difficulty – is it a leaf in the last photo?).



## Lunch Ordering and Price Increase

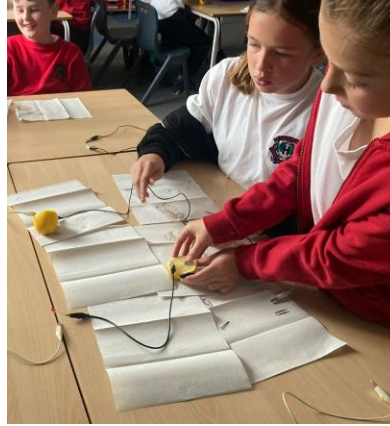
As you will know, we are implementing a new meal-ordering system from our catering supplier Edsential, together with an alternative online payment system, ParentPay, from their financial partner. Edsential's own online system is used in the majority of the schools they supply, and has advantages for allergen control, school administration and overall efficiency.

Simultaneously, but unconnected, the Governing Board have decided that we must include an additional cost element to ensure we have funds to replace kitchen equipment when it becomes unusable (which is the school's responsibility, not Edsential's). Therefore, **the cost of a school lunch will increase to £2.80** (a 4% increase) when the new ordering system is implemented. Families who are struggling in the current economic climate are reminded that they may apply for the provision of free school meals if they meet the criteria (click [HERE](#) to visit CWAC's information page).

## A sample of recent school activities



KS1 troll art (collage)



Fruit batteries in Y6 Science



Forest School fun



Y6 evacuated to Stockport in the most stylish of 1940s' fashion



A hair-raising *Mad Science* assembly

### Pupil Participation

Our new School Council has begun its meetings for the year, with each junior class having elected one pupil following a presentation and voting process.

The Sports Council have also begun their work for the year – they are:

Y3 Spencer Best, Elizabeth Hunter-Jones

Y4 Jack Jeffs Tabitha Stenning

Y5 Isla Holgate-Stedmans, Emilia Hughes

Y6 Zoe Gilbert, Ollie McMillan, Archie Lacken

School librarians and games leaders have had interviews for their posts too.

See our [Children's Councils](#) page on the website for more details.



School Council 2023-24

## Sport

The sporting calendar began with touch rugby festivals for Y4 and Y6 pupils last week, hosted at Chester Rugby Club and organised by the Chester School Sport Partnership. Huntington pupils performed admirably, winning the majority of their games and further developing the skills they have been practising in PE lessons. Football league fixtures and friendlies will begin after half-term, with several ESFA football tournaments also to take place at Christleton High School before Christmas.

### Touch Rugby Squads

**Year 4** Archie Abraham, Jaxon Foster-Lovell, Harry Freeman, Ellie Hay, Elizabeth Hennessy, Rupert Hughes, Cai Jones, Ares Kumral, Lucy McConnell, Lucas McKay, Aadya Naikoti, Chloe Roberts

**Year 6** Sam Evans, Sam Gilbert, Zoe Gilbert, Poppy Griffiths, Seth Jackson, Nathan Li, Joseph Mosely-Moore, Ella Peers, Elissa Sayer, Eban Thomas, Charlotte Woolley

## Chester FC Football Opportunities

### **Junior Pan-Disability Football**

Chester FC Junior Pan-Disability Football is open to young people aged 7-15 with learning, physical or sensory disabilities.

The inclusive coaching sessions offer youngsters the opportunity to play football, develop their skills and make friends in a fun, safe environment with FA qualified coaches. Sessions take place on Tuesdays and the cost is £4 per week. There are also opportunities to represent Chester FC in the Cheshire Ability Counts League.

For more information, click [HERE](#), email [community@chesterfc.com](mailto:community@chesterfc.com) or book online at <https://portal.sportskey.com/venues/chester-fc-community-trust/events>

### **Wildcats Girls Football**

Chester FC Wildcats is non-competitive football for girls aged 5-11 who want to give it a go for the very first time or want to play with other girls their own age - making them ideal for any girls who have been inspired by the Lionesses this summer!

Sessions focus on developing your child's fundamental movement skills – agility, balance coordination and speed – required not only for football but for all sports. Girls will learn new football skills, make brilliant friendships and have fun together. Sessions run on Wednesdays from 5pm to 6pm for girls aged 5-11 with all abilities and levels of experience welcome. The cost is £3 per week.

For more information, click [HERE](#), email [community@chesterfc.com](mailto:community@chesterfc.com) or book online at <https://portal.sportskey.com/venues/chester-fc-community-trust/events>

## Health, Safety and Wellbeing

### Bikes and scooters on site

Please note that it is school policy that **only Y5/6 children should come to school on a bike unaccompanied** (and then wearing a helmet, of course).

To reduce possible injury to both children and adults using the school pavements, Y5/6 cyclists were also reminded some weeks ago that they should **get off and push their bike at the outer school gates on arrival, or on departure push their bike from the bike shed to the outer gates**. Beyond the white gate, they should preferably still push their bike until they are safely across the pedestrian crossing – this will mean they are under more control across this short but hazardous distance.

**The same applies to older children on sturdy metal scooters**, which also pose a risk when travelling at speed.

### Nut free school

A reminder to all that Huntington is a nut-free school - this is to safeguard those pupils who could experience anaphylactic shock from contact with nuts or nut-based products (e.g. Nutella bars and most Kinder products).

**Please do not allow your child to bring any such products into school**, in their packed lunch or as a breaktime snack.

Quite a few products aimed at and popular with children contain **hazelnut paste** - this is not always obvious until you look at the ingredients, but the paste is just as dangerous as nuts themselves, so products containing this should also not be brought into school.

Many thanks for your help with this.

### Vehicles on site

A letter was distributed on October 10<sup>th</sup> regarding use of the school car park, car park permits and general site safety regarding vehicles – this can be accessed [HERE](#).

*Kind regards,  
Mr Rose*