



Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

March 29th, 2024

Diary Dates

Addition Change

April

- 15th INSET (pupils not in)
- 16th School re-opens
- 19th *The Selfish Giant* play
- 24-26th Y5 residential

May

- 6th Bank Holiday
- 13th Y6 SATs week
- 22/23rd *Shrek the Musical*
- 24th Half-term break

June

- 3rd INSET (pupils not in)
- 4th School re-opens
- 10th Y1 Phonics check wk
Y4 Times Tables wk
- 13th Class photos
- 14th Infant Sports (am)
- 17-21st Y6 residential
- 19th Nursery Sports (am)
- 25th Class swap morning
Y6 High school visits
- 27th Junior Sports (am)

July

- 8-11th Parents' Evenings
- 23rd Y6 Leavers' show
- 24th Summer Break

What a busy half term it has been! With less than three weeks since the last newsletter, a lot has been happening in school, as summarised in the following pages.

Regrettably, the last week was obviously disrupted by the closure on Wednesday, the result of a power outage caused by a goose, of all things. While we could have managed without electricity with difficulty but for some time, the school's water is also reliant on a power supply, and was more affected on this occasion than during previous outages (with no running water from the very start). For hygiene reasons, it was therefore necessary to close – we are working with the supplier to seek a long-term solution to this problem.

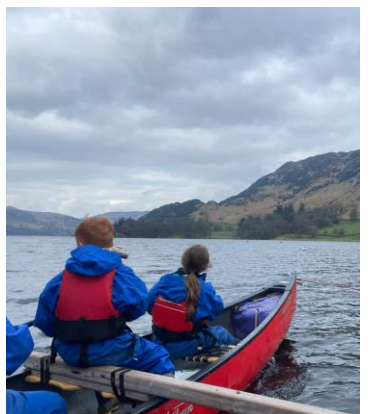
Tree Planting

Pupils and staff enjoyed working with Dave and his Mersey Forest team to plant almost 300 trees around the perimeter of the school grounds, contributing both to the future of the school and the global environment. Children from all classes from Reception to Year 6 took part, with the project initiated by our Chair of Governors Louise Gibson – much muddy fun was had by all!



Year 4 Lake District Residential

Pupils from Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic visit to Patterdale as preparation for their geography work about the Lake District in the summer term. Amid the fantastic scenery of the Helvellyn and Ullswater area, they enjoyed a range of exciting outdoor activities and wonderful food in an outstanding centre we will certainly aim to use again. Many thanks to the staff team for facilitating the visit and giving up their free time to do so (Miss Avery, Miss Bunning, Miss Giles, Mrs Harrison-Smith, Miss Hickman, Mrs Nicholson and Miss Parry).



Reception visit to St Luke's church

Both Reception classes recently visited St Luke's church, where they met the vicar, Andy Stinson. The children enjoyed a hunt around the church, looking at the different artefacts, tried on the vicar's robes, listened to the Easter story and sang a song.



Behaviour Awards

The winners of the KS2 individual behaviour prizes for this half term are as below - and well done to the other children whose behaviour has been exemplary:

Y3 Birch: Jamie Rayner	Y3 Hazel: Cameron Ross
Y4 Hawthorn: Luna Renshaw	Y4 Lime: Mabli Thomas
Y5 Larch: Shriya Bansidmar	Y5 Rowan: Ryan Jenkins
Y6 Alder: Jason Cheung	Y6 Sycamore: Poppy Griffiths

Zones of Regulation

This term, staff and governors have completed training sessions focused on emotional regulation and a trauma-informed approach, and we are delighted to share that we are now delivering *Zones of Regulation* across the whole-school, from EYFS to Year 6. This approach aims to help our pupils recognise when they are experiencing different emotions, and enable them to use strategies to support changes in their energy levels. We hope to provide support and training for parents in this in the summer term.

My Happy Mind

For the second year, we are continuing to use *My Happy Mind* in school to support the mental wellbeing of our pupils. We are confident that this programme helps equip children with the knowledge, skills and tools to help them thrive.

My Happy Mind have recently updated their parent app, which we would encourage you to use at home. **Search 'myHappyMind' in your app store and use the identification code: 111093.** Using this free resource will support your child's mental health and well-being.

School lunches: price increase and daily ordering

Our catering supplier Edsential, in common with all such providers, has implemented a cost increase for school meals as of April 1st. As is the case with other local schools, we must therefore, and with regret, increase the cost of a **school lunch to £3 from the start of the summer term.**

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).

Can we also please remind everyone that **lunches should ideally be ordered by 8am each day.** While the system in use does enable children to add/amend orders during morning registration, this gives the catering team less time to prepare and eats into valuable learning time - at present, up to 70 children a day are not ordering until then, so your co-operation with this would really be appreciated.

Staffing

We have bid a fond farewell to Mr Sam Jones, who has taught KS1 Elm with Miss Bate since September, covering Mrs Jones' maternity leave. Sam's last day was unfortunately cut short by the school closure, but he was in school with pupils until the last of them left, and we wish him all the best in his future roles.

We have also been joined this term by five trainee teachers from both Chester and Wrexham Universities, an investment in the future of the profession - these are:

Miss Jones (Y6 Alder), Miss Dodd (Y6 Sycamore), Miss Parry (Y4 Lime), Miss Charles (Y3 Birch) and Mr Trotman (KS1 Beech).

PTA

Many thanks to the PTA and to everyone who was able to contribute to the recent *Rags2Riches* clothes collection, which raised £81 for school funds (see right).

The Easter Egg design competition received lots of entries - thank you to everyone who entered. The chosen designs are shown on the next page, with chocolate eggs received by the winners in Thursday's assembly, while their designs were projected above them for all to see.



PTA Easter Egg Design Competition Winners

The winners' designs are pictured below, and a stunning collection they are too, which can be seen in more detail at the bottom of the PTA's school website page (click [HERE](#)).



Nursery: Mia H



Reception: Henry M



Reception: Marcus D



KS1: James H



KS1: Emmy C



KS1: Savir B



Year 3: Ivy D



Year 3: Chloe A



Year 4: Elissa P



Year 4: Isadora KS



Year 5: Lara E



Year 5: Francesca K



Year 6: Alex D



Year 6: Noah S

SPORT

Football

There was further success for our boys' team this last half term, winning their local league and thereby progressing to the Chester Champions finals in the summer term. In a tightly contested group containing Boughton Heath, Guilden Sutton and Oldfield, the boys won through on goal difference – Mr Pullman again coaching the team to victory!

Every child who has attended the Y6 after-school football club was also able to represent the school in B team matches at Christleton High, revealing the depth of talent within the school. Further events for Y6 girls and Y4 are to follow after Easter.

CEPD Netball Tournaments

Our pupils recently took part in both A and B team netball tournaments at Blacon High school, where they performed admirably. Coached by Miss Avery and Miss Bunning, the A team (including some Y5 pupils from Miss Carpenter's club) performed particularly well, winning four of their five matches, and finished fourth overall from the seventeen schools taking part (over two tournament events, with results combined). Very well done to all our players, both more and less experienced – you did us proud!

Place:	Team:	Points:	Goal Diff:
1	St Oswalds	12	+19
2	St Martins	12	+10
3	Newton	10	+6
4	Huntington	10	+4

Netball squads

A team: Tilly Connolly, Maisie Gamble, Annie Knights, Elizabeth Marsh, Ollie McMillan, Elissa Sayer, Charlotte Woolley

B team: Merrilees Drake, Amy Duffy, Riley Foster Lovell, Seth Jackson, Simeon Leyden, Olivia McConnell, Gwen Parsonage, Ami Williams

Cross Country

We were delighted to receive further news about the recent cross-country event held at the Ellesmere Port Sports Village. Once the points had been tallied, it emerged that our Y6 boys team had won their team event! All four boys (Alex, Archie, Nathan and Oliver, pictured) received their medals in a recent assembly, and the team received a trophy to celebrate their achievement – many congratulations to them on an outstanding performance.



HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Vehicles onsite

- All drivers using the drop-off zone are requested to follow the advice of the signs recently placed there, and to turn off their engines while waiting for their children to get out and leave for school.
- All cars in the drop-off zone, especially in the morning, should be facing the exit, having gone round the internal roundabout – any cars facing towards the school building have been driven there in contravention of the guidance issued, showing a lack of consideration for others following the rules and posing a risk when leaving the space against the flow of traffic.
- It is obviously both hazardous and inconsiderate to stop and allow children to leave a car while it is still on the internal mini-roundabout – please do not do this (or, as has even been seen, park on the roundabout).
- All parents/carers with school car park permits are asked to display these on dashboards when parking onsite – this will be checked on a regular basis going forward.

Social Media

- Parents/carers of all pupils, but especially of upper juniors, are advised to regularly monitor the electronic devices and social media of their children. Unkind, and worse, comments are occasionally brought to the school's attention, showing that some children do not have the maturity to have unsupervised access to such facilities (quite aside from the standard 16+ age limit applicable to *Whatsapp*, for example).

KS2 Bible Cover Designs

Each year Mrs Harrison-Smith, our RE subject leader, invites children in the lower juniors to provide designs for a dust cover for the school Bible. The winners of this year's competition are shown below, and received a tasty (Easter-themed!) prize on Thursday.



Sophia Smalls



Scarlet Owen



Elizabeth Hennessy



Avery Leung

Happy Easter
from Mr Rose and all the staff



Please do remember that school does not reopen to pupils until Tuesday April 16th, with an INSET day on the Monday.