



Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

November 9th, 2021

Diary Dates

November

8th Maths Week
 11th Remembrance Day
 15th Anti-Bullying week
 19th Children in Need
 23rd Individual photos
 24th No Pens Day

December

1st Silent Disco KS1
 2nd Silent Disco KS2
 6-9th KS2 Evening shows
 7th Flu vaccinations YR-6
 7-8th YR, Y1 Xmas shows
 8-9th Y2 Xmas shows
 14th Nursery Xmas show
 15th KS1 Panto & Xmas Dinner/Jumper Day
 18th Christmas break

January

3rd Bank Holiday
 4th INSET (pupils not in)
 5th School re-opens

February

8th Safer Internet Day
 9th *Young Voices*
 10th YR/Y6 class photos
 14-18th Parents' evenings
 19th Half-term break
 28th School re-opens

March

3rd World Book Day
 8th Sport Relief
 21-25th Y3 residential

April

2nd Spring break
 18th Bank Holiday
 19th INSET (pupils not in)
 20th School re-opens
 23rd Theatre Show

May

2nd Bank Holiday
 9th Y6 SATs week
 25-27th Y4 residential
 28th Half-term break

June

6th Day off for Jubilee
 7th School re-opens
 Y1 Phonics check wk
 8th Class photos (YN,1-5)
 13th Y4 Times Tables wk
 16/17th Musical Theatre Club Performances
 20-24th Y6 residential
 23rd Infant Sports (am)
 30th Junior Sports (am)

July

11-15th Parents' Evenings
 20th Y6 Leavers' show
 22nd INSET (pupils not in)
 23rd Summer Break

The term so far

With just over half the autumn term completed, a big thank you to everyone for continuing to support us with keeping Covid at bay. We have all benefited from your efforts to keep children away from school, and have them PCR-tested, if they have shown any of the recognised symptoms of Covid-19: at no time in the previous half-term was more than one pupil at a time absent as a confirmed case. While cases have risen since the half-term break, they are still at low levels for a school of our size, and I encourage you all to continue your good practice as the winter months arrive, when the virus is more readily transmissible. If cases rise beyond a threshold then additional measures would need to be implemented, but this would follow discussion with the public health authorities.

While the bubble system and school-based contact tracing have ceased nationally, we have retained some elements of practice felt useful (e.g. staggered junior breaktimes, Google Classroom for homework). In most other ways school procedures have returned to normal, or as close as is seen to be safe. We are still avoiding large gatherings of pupils or staff, hence still no full assemblies or face-to-face staff meetings, but indoor PE and brass lessons for Y4 have resumed, as has inter-school sport.



Y4 brass lesson

Christmas Shows

The health situation permitting, we hope to be able to invite audiences to our Christmas shows once more. There will be multiple performances, to enable sufficient distancing to be achieved between a reduced number of audience members, and Year 1 and Year 2 will be presenting separate shows for the same reason. Junior children will be going one step further – through the door and out into the playground, with numbers too large to risk indoor performances (we have booked several crisp, calm, early evenings in December). More details about the shows will be distributed very soon.

Advice from the Director of Public Health (Nov 5, 2021)

If one individual in a household tests positive, any children and young people in that household who attend school or college should:

- Take a PCR test (ideally on Day 3-5 after first exposure), **and**
- Take a daily LFD test for 10 consecutive days from the date of first exposure
- Continue to attend school provided that their test results (PCR and LFD) are negative
- Self-isolate for 10 full days from the date of the test if any of test results are positive
- In the event of a **positive LFD test result**, obtain a confirmatory PCR test
- If the confirmatory PCR test is taken within the two days following the positive LFD result and PCR result is negative, the young person can return to school/college.

Staff Changes

Three members of staff have decided to seek pastures new at the end of the autumn term, and we wish them all the very best in the next chapter of their careers. Miss Hooks, Willow class teacher, has overseen the initial development of our Forest School provision, as well as facilitating our Eco events and serving as EYFS lead during Mrs Devlin's periods of maternity – she is taking up a new challenge at Dee Banks Special

School. Mrs Inchley, Nursery teacher and art guru, has left an indelible mark on our new school – literally, in the case of her beautiful corridor artwork – and will be exploring opportunities to utilise her artistic talents in education and other spheres. Miss Whelan, Year 3 Birch teacher, is also leaving, to pursue an alternative role in education. We wish them all a fond farewell – recruitment for their posts will commence this week.

Site Developments

The school site has seen some recent enhancements, with more to come over the year ahead. A flat pack shipping container was erected just before the half-term break to store our outdoor PE equipment, with a wooden screen constructed by Mr McCleary over the holiday. A joint project with CWAC to improve community access to local sports facilities has involved the construction of a wooden fence along the playground edge of the infant field, such that when the football pitch here is in use by community groups, separation from the rest of the school grounds remains. An access gate for this pitch has also been inserted into the perimeter fence near the end of the drop-off zone, and a kissing gate is to provide access to the community land south of the school.

PTA News

Our wonderful PTA have been champing at the bit to begin in-person fundraising once more, but in the meantime have been using online means to generate much-needed funds. An online raffle will be held again this year (December 15th) - last year's event raised £900!

Over the last year the PTA supported the following, amongst others:

- Christmas panto (online) & snacks; Christmas infant magic show
- Year 6: Leavers' hoodies; WW2 Evacuee visit coaches; Manley Mere adventurous activity day
- Reception - outdoor buildings/equipment
- Nursery – butterfly habitat



Y6 evacuees in an air raid shelter

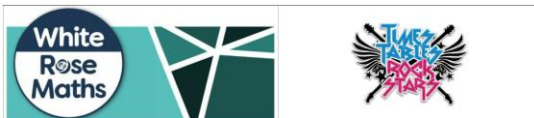
School Website

Lots of exciting new content has been added to the school website this term, the latest being the fantastic promo video on the homepage by *Lucky Pirate DroneWorx* (parent Mr Nott's company).

A considerable amount of curriculum material has been uploaded, to assist parents in understanding the approaches used in school – this can all be found under the *Learning* tab (especially, but not exclusively, within *School Subjects*).



Image from our new promo video



Behaviour Initiatives

To further encourage good behaviour at lunchtime, a half-termly *Golden Table* initiative has been launched. Some of the first winners are pictured at right – next half term's focus will be on manners and respect in the dining hall.



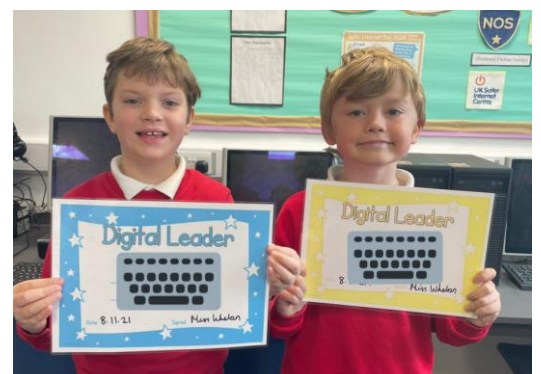
Some of the *Golden Table* winners

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

Y3 Birch: Jack Swadling	Y3 Hazel: Ruby Knott
Y4 Hawthorn: Ella Peers	Y4 Lime: Simeon Leyden
Y5 Larch: Charlie Maggs	Y5 Rowan: Evie Holgate-Stedmans
Y6 Alder: Cody Mercer	Y6 Sycamore: Sam Holloway

Pupil Democracy Returns

With the bubble system retired, face to face pupil meetings are now possible once more, and hence school democracy has returned. Following presentations by the candidates, elections for the School Council and the Digital Leader group have taken place, and a Silent Disco event has already been planned by the former.



Year 4 Digital Leaders

A Sample of School Activities



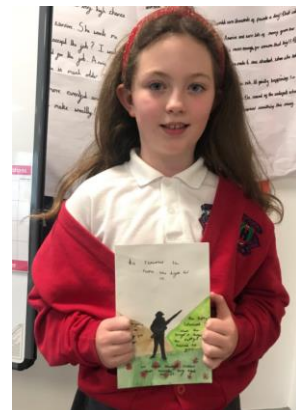
Nursery exploring a pumpkin!



Y5 Rowan making Greek pots



Leaves created for Deewater Grange care home



Remembrance art and poetry



Year 6 *Bikeability* training

Sport

Competitive sport has at last returned; so far our pupils have participated in touch rugby festivals for Year 4 and Year 6 at Chester Rugby Club, and the first match of the football league, with girls' matches to come later this week. Many congratulations to the rugby squads, who were singled out for their sportsmanship and respect for the other teams by the organisers.



Y4 and Y6 rugby festival squads

Leave of Absence

Please remember that requests for *Leave of Absence* must be made using the appropriate form, available online (*Parents* page, *Forms*) and from the school office, and must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the start of the period requested. Such requests will be authorised only in 'exceptional circumstances', as defined by the government, and parents may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice for an unauthorised absence of 5 school days or more.

These regulations only apply once a child has reached statutory school age (5 years old), but we would still appreciate completion of the relevant form by Nursery parents and parents of Reception children who are still only 4, to assist the office staff.

Further information is available online from CWAC ([Taking children on holiday during term time](#))

Best wishes from Mr Rose and all the staff