



Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

December 17th, 2021

Diary Dates

January

- 3rd Bank Holiday
- 4th **INSET (pupils not in)**
- 5th School re-opens
- 19th Photos (absentees)
- 28th Girls' football finals

February

- 8th Safer Internet Day
- 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

- 4th Y5 residential
- 11-15th Parents' Evenings
- 20th Y6 Leavers' show
- 22nd INSET (pupils not in)
- 23rd Summer Break

We wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas period, following what has been a term of near-normality, but with very clear signs now of more uncertain times ahead. The second half of the term saw classes in three different year groups enter enhanced safety measures for a period. The measures proved effective, however, and the outbreaks (more than two pupils with Covid in a class) were contained. No-one knows what the New Year will bring, of course – we are updating our contingency plans, hoping for the best but planning for other scenarios.

I would urge all members of the school community who are eligible for the booster vaccine to access that as quickly as possible, to mitigate the effects of the Omicron variant and allow as normal a return to school as we can (remembering that **pupils do not return until Wednesday, January 5th**). CWAC will actually be using our old school site as a vaccination centre from early January, so when booking online (not walk-in) you will have the chance to attend very locally (and nostalgically for many). Further Covid guidance is available in the *Health, Safety and Wellbeing* section near the end.

Christmas Celebrations

With considerable planning to minimise the risk from Covid, we were pleased to be able to present a variety of live Christmas events this year. Three different indoor shows were mounted (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2), together with a presentation of Nursery Christmas songs. With a larger number of classes in the juniors, carol performances took place outside under the stars, which added considerably to the atmosphere (although did require a weather postponement of one week for Y3/5 – roofs were invented for a reason, it appears). In all, to minimise the numbers on site simultaneously, eleven different performances took place, and provided a very welcome return to some degree of normality.



Other Christmas events included Santa visiting Nursery, an online panto presentation in each class (with snacks and crackers courtesy of the PTA), and Christmas stories with hot chocolate in the outdoor classroom. Thanks to the PTA also for providing much-needed warm drinks during the KS2 outdoor performances, and to Walkers Garden Centre for our lovely Christmas tree planters.



Staff Changes

As Mrs Inchley, Miss Hooks and Miss Whelan depart for pastures new, we welcome three new teachers to the school in January. Mrs Jankowska will be joining Mrs Roberts in our Nursery job share, Mrs Hardisty will be teaching Reception Willow class, and Mrs Scott will be teaching Year 3 Birch – we welcome them to our school community and know that you will do the same.

Choir in the Community

The school choir, coached by Mrs Caldecott, made much appreciated visits to the Deewater Grange and Grosvenor Manor Care Homes during this past week. The residents were treated to a selection of festive songs, which were greatly appreciated – and in turn there were tasty treats for the children, which were also enjoyed!



Room to read

Funded by the PTA, our Reading Shed was erected by Mr McCleary and is visible in the background of the photo at left, which shows Mrs Thomson reading Christmas stories to Y2 Cedar children while they enjoy their hot chocolate. KS2 children have been invited to enter a competition to create a welcoming exterior design for the shed.



At right you can see our new KS2 library decoration, featuring a fabulous forest theme inspired by Mrs Arnott and brought to life in her inimitable style by Mrs Inchley.

On Best Behaviour

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, including those who have received a seat at the Golden Table today.

Y3 Birch: Mya Hooper	Y3 Hazel: Gabrielle Morris
Y4 Hawthorn: Ted Saunders	Y4 Lime: Riley Foster-Lovell
Y5 Larch: Aarav Nair	Y5 Rowan: Ayla Roberts
Y6 Alder: Micaela Simpson	Y6 Sycamore: Emilia Hill

Sport

Our football teams have enjoyed success this half-term, rounded off by this week's 9-3 cup victory against Acresfield. Prior to this, our girls' team played three, won three, at an afternoon of league fixtures at the Catholic High School, and were runners-up (on penalties) in a tournament at Christleton High, giving them a place in the Cheshire Finals early in the New Year. Pupils from Y4 (girls) and Y5/6 (boys) also took part in two further tournaments held at Christleton High this term.

Family fun morning: make bird boxes at Jubilee Field (this Saturday)

The Parish Council have arranged for Conservation Volunteers to run a bird box making session on Saturday morning: they then hope to put the boxes up in Jubilee Field to welcome new birds to the local environment. Your child may be able to choose where to put the bird box on the field, so they can come back and see the birds flying in and out of the home they built. There will also be a camp fire with marshmallows.

WHEN? This Saturday 18th December 10:30am - 12:30pm

WHERE? Jubilee Field, Huntington

Please note: Despite being outdoors where social distancing is easier to follow, it is still asked that **families please do a Lateral Flow Test before attending**. This is to protect the volunteers, other families and visitors to Jubilee Field.

Many thanks from Mrs Gibson, Clerk to Parish Council

Friends of Caldly Nature Park

The latest (Autumn) edition of the Caldly Nature Park newsletter is now available via our *Eco Learning* page. Just click the bird at right to read their news.



Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Road safety (Co-op)

Residents have expressed concern at the parking of some parents/carers using the Co-op to leave vehicles for drop-off and pick-up. Likely this use is not condoned by the owners, but this regardless, with delivery lorries accessing the site regularly, particular care must be taken when walking through the site, if an accident is to be avoided.

Covid-19

Visitors to school

In line with guidance, we strongly encourage any parents/carers entering the school building beyond the outer foyer to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before doing so.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19

If identified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive case (whether Omicron or not), all adults who are fully vaccinated, and children aged 5 and over, should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. If they test negative, the children can continue to attend school.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests (responding again if a positive test result occurs).

For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).

Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is **not vaccinated, must isolate** in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.



*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 15th January 2022