



HAMPRESTON CE (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

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To love God and to love one another

Autumn Term 2023 - Newsletter 13

8th December 2023

Dear Parents,

The wonderful British climate continues to surprise us as we've had a little of everything this week. Thank you all for your continued understanding and patience as we manage the significant amount of rainfall this week has given us.

In school, the excitement of the children is tangible and there is a feeling in the air that Christmas is just around the corner. With the many stories I've been told of naughty elves at home, I'm sure many of you feel it too...

Carols by Candlelight

What a beautiful Carols by candlelight service we had on Tuesday and it was lovely to see the church packed with family and friends – didn't it look magical? The children thoroughly loved taking part, with confident and clear readings from Year 4 children and a selection of traditional carols and newer Christmassy numbers. It truly reflected the effort of the teachers and I know they were grateful for your hearty singing too.

Well done to the children. I hope it was a little taste of Christmas magic and that it has set you in the spirit of the festive season.

Christmas Post Box

The Christmas Post Box has never been so busy and we know there are a few final families needing to make use of it this Christmas. Since there is no postal strike at Hampreston, we will keep the post box open on Monday and Tuesday next week for any last-minute cards to be sent. Then it will be over to the Year 4 sorting office and delivery 'elves'!

Save the Children, Christmas Jumper Day

The school looked brilliant yesterday as children came in wearing a whole host of festive attire and really made the most of the opportunity to 'Christmas-ify' some of their own clothes. Thank you for your kind donations, all of which will go to Save the Children this Christmastime. Thanks to your help, we have raised £31.91!

Christingle Service – Friday 15th December

We are looking forward to ending our term next Friday with our Christingle celebration, the perfect way to celebrate Christmas as a whole school. Parents are warmly invited to join us at All Saints Hampreston for approximately 1pm as the school joins together. The service should last around 45 minutes and give children one last chance to share the Christmas story together.

As in previous years, we will once again hold a retiring collection in support of Jaiden, who we support through the brilliant charity Compassion. Supporting Jaiden means he receives food, clothes and an opportunity to attend school, all for just a little over £200. The school council have a little way to go this year and I know any donations will be very gratefully received.

Finally, please remember that **school closes after the Christingle service, approximately 2pm next Friday**. After the service, staff will bring children back to school to collect their belongings before dismissing them from the playground in the usual way.

Newspapers

If anybody would like to donate old newspapers we would be very grateful to receive them at school please as our stocks have run out.



All Saints Church, Hampreston

As a school, we love to support our local church, All Saints. At this very special time of year, the church wanted to make everyone aware of their Christmas events and services. While we are always careful not to bombard families with leaflets and flyers, the children have already come home with these this week. If you are looking for a way to mark the festive period, why not come along to All Saints?

Staff News

Christmas is a very exciting time for us all, but this year will be filled with even more excitement for one of our brilliant teachers. For those of you wondering, Mrs Noyle has not been at the mince pies (well, she has, but that's another story), instead we are thrilled to announce that Mrs Noyle is expecting her first baby in the spring! I know you will join me in offering her a huge congratulations as she and her husband take on the thrills and spills of babies!! No doubt this will be a Christmas to remember for them both!

On a practical note, we will be looking into staffing arrangements in EYFS for the summer term and will keep you informed.

PTA News

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Christmas Fair, whether through donations, baking, volunteering or attending.

We couldn't have done it without you and we raised an amazing £540!

To see what we plan to spend this on for the children next year, watch this space!



As we head into the last week of the term, I know there will be excitement and energy in homes as in school. Next week we have a few little surprises for the children, nativities and maybe even a very special visitor!!

Have a fantastic weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Williams
Headteacher



This Week:

To help support you at home and to spark conversations about learning, here is what the children have been covering this week.

	English	Mathematics
EYFS	This week has been Christmas week! We have made glitter decorations, acted out the Christmas story, made paper chains, and decorated the classroom. We have thoroughly enjoyed practising our nativity songs in preparation for the performance next week.	
	In English, we have been writing letters to Santa and making cards for our class elf, Sprout. We have been recapping all of the phonics graphemes we have learnt this term and practising reading and writing our tricky words.	In Maths, we have been making Christmas repeated patterns, ordering numbers, and completing Christmas colouring with a mathematical twist!
Year 1	The children have been working really hard on their performance skills whilst practising this year's nativity. We have also been focussing on phonics during English sessions. We have been recapping all the new and alternate sounds we have learned this half term in preparation for the half termly phonics quizzes. All the children have worked really hard with their sounding, blending, chunking and decoding.	In maths, we have been putting all the strategies we have learned into practise to help us solve addition and subtraction problems. We have counted up cubes, used 10 frames and counters, drawn dots, crossed out and taken away objects, used our fingers and our knowledge of number bonds.
Year 2	This week in English the children have completed an independent write describing Santa's workshop where all sorts of problems have happened. The children brilliantly described what they could see and have applied their knowledge of expanded noun phrases to make their sentences more exciting.	In Maths this week the children have completed arithmetic and reasoning assessments. They have all worked really hard to answer some tricky questions and I am very proud of how well they have done.
Year 3	This week, the children have learnt about imperative verbs (bossy words!). Using these, the children have written their own recipe on how to make bird seed cake following a practical science lesson. I have been impressed with not only the use of imperative verbs, but the use of time connectives and accurate layout of what a recipe needs.	This week, the children have recapped some of the trickier concepts learnt over this half term in preparation for the end of term maths quizzes! Towards the end of the week, the children have enjoyed creating their own Christmas board games and playing them against each other. It was lovely to see all the children use their creativity in maths!
Year 4	This week has been a busy one for our Year 4 children! They've been putting their maths skills to the test in assessments and have been doing a fantastic job applying what they've learned throughout this term. In addition to their maths, the children have been getting creative during our Design and Technology week. They've been busy using pneumatics to make amazing moving Christmas window displays. The children have really enjoyed the design process, worked brilliantly in different groups and have put their imaginations to work to create some truly impressive displays.	



Diary Dates 2023-2024

Autumn Term

Monday 11 th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 12 th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Party Afternoon
Friday 15 th December	Christingle Service 1pm approx.. Last day of term

Spring Term

Tuesday 2 nd January	INSET DAY
Friday 2 nd February	Big Me Day
Tuesday 6 th February	Internet Safety Day
Friday 9 th February	Healthy School Day & Walk-2-School Morning Half term begins

Half Term

Monday 19 th February	School Opens
Tuesday 20 th February	Pancake Race (Year 4)
Tuesday 27 th February	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 28 th February	Parent Consultations
Thursday 28 th March	Easter Service 1pm Last day of term

Summer Term

Monday 15 th April	School Opens
Friday 24 th May	Half term begins

Half Term

Monday 3 rd June	School Opens
Friday 21 st June	Sports Day
Friday 19 th July	Leavers Service 2pm Year Ends for students
Monday 22 nd July	INSET DAY
Tuesday 23 rd July	INSET DAY

