



HARTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL
HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
15th December 2023



Dear Parents/Carers and Families,

As the Autumn term draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a fantastic term it's been. As I look back over the last fourteen (!) weeks, I'm proud of everything we have done together, and everything the children and staff have achieved. These last few busy weeks have been nothing short of fabulous, and I've enjoyed every second of being your Acting Headteacher. After the holidays, Miss Fairweather returns to her role, and I will resume my post as Deputy Head. Thank you to each and every one of you for making my time in post so brilliant.

Winter Wonder Lights

Last Friday's Christmas Wonder Lights event was absolutely phenomenal. The atmosphere was buzzing from start to end, and it was such a joy to see so many of our families coming together to celebrate Christmas. It was a very special evening and one I was proud to be a part of. Early reports suggest that the event made nearly £9,000 for our PTA, which is incredible and will be used for a wide range of things in the coming year to benefit all of our children. Our front office staff have been contacting all raffle prize winners throughout this week.

A huge thank you goes out to the PTA and all of the staff and children who put time aside to work hard and provide such a brilliant evening for our community – your efforts are noted and greatly appreciated.

Early Years Performance

This morning was the first of our Early Year's performance of *The Twinkly Nativity*, and we have a second performance taking place this afternoon. This morning's show was an absolute treat, with every child playing their role exceptionally well – the school is definitely buzzing with the Christmas spirit! A huge thank you to the Early Years team for undertaking this massive task and to all the children for making their first ever school performance so memorable. The singing was amazing.

Key Stage 1 Performance

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we welcomed parents and carers to watch our Key Stage 1 Christmas performance, *Everyone Loves a Baby*. The children were spectacular, and the show was well-received by everyone in attendance. A huge thank you to the Key Stage 1 teachers for putting this whole show together – and to the children for putting on such a wonderful show.

Key Stage 2 Church Visits

Also on Tuesday and Wednesday, we had our Key Stage 2 performances at St. John's Church in Hartford. Whilst there, the children re-enacted the story of the nativity, we learned all about the visitors to the newborn Jesus and parents and carers were treated to a series of songs and poetry performances to truly get everyone feeling the Christmas spirit. Our Year 3 and 5 children were superb, and our Year 4 and 6 children equally fantastic.

The church was packed out with not even standing room available; a huge well done to all of our children for performing so well in front of such a huge crowd, and to the Key stage 2 staff for their tireless work putting this together.

Christmas Tree

You may have noticed the beautiful Christmas tree we have in our main hall – this was kindly donated, as it is every year, to our school by Mr Scott of JG Scott and Sons, parent of Hartford alumni Jamie and Ewan. We are incredibly grateful for this wonderfully kind gesture.

Christmas Dinner Day

Yesterday was our Christmas Dinner day and it was a very special lunch time! The children enjoyed a full turkey dinner (or a veggie equivalent!), along with crackers, hats, and Christmas music. A wonderful time was had by all.

Maths Challenge

Last month, four of our Year 6 children went across to Leftwich School for the Primary Team Mathematics Challenge in which a series of local primary teams competed against other local primary schools in the area. The Primary Team Challenge utilises resources supplied by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT). The UKMT Team Challenge promotes mathematical dexterity, teamwork and communication skills. It is a day full of students working together, through a range of Mathematical problems.

Our Year 6 team Kai, Tilly, Owen, and Seb came third overall – a huge well done to all four of our valiant team-members!

Christmas Class Parties

Monday 18th sees our Early Years and Key Stage 1 Christmas party, with our Key Stage 2 children joining the fun on Tuesday 19th. Parties will take place after lunch; we have an entertainer booked and there will be lots of fun and games for all of the children to enjoy as the term comes to a close. Thank you to the PTA for covering the cost of both parties. As per our earlier communication, we encourage the children to wear their Christmas jumpers along with jeans/jogging bottoms and sensible shoes or trainers **on both days**.

PTA Christmas Sale

After school today, the PTA will have a stall open outside Mrs Moore's Hall with some last-minute Christmas books, sweets, craft kits and decorations for sale. Payments via cash and card will be accepted; pop over for a bargain.

Early Years Open Day

We're running one more on Early Years 2024 Open Afternoon on Thursday 11th January at 2pm for families with a child due to begin school in September next year. Please share this date with your friends and family who may want to come along and see our Early Years classes in action.

Vale Royal Music Centre's Christmas Concert

Members of our Young Voices choir were invited to take part in a Christmas Concert held at St. John's Church on Tuesday 12th December. Fifteen members of our choir performed two songs as part of the concert and got to experience music and songs performed by the Vale Royal Band and Choir. It was a lovely evening and I'd like to thank Mrs Oldfield, Mrs Ovenden, and Miss Lee for accompanying myself and the children.

Year 6 Bikeability – W/C 15th January 2024

BikeRight! will be coming to school week commencing 15th January 2024 to run a Bikeability course for our Year 6 children. Bikeability is the new Cycling Proficiency for the 21st century. It's designed to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads. They will teach children to ride a bike to National Standards and introduce them to cycling as an everyday, fun, healthy activity, and an alternative mode of transport. We will be in touch after Christmas with further details/dates, so please look out for further communications.

Year 4 Swimming

Year 4 swimming lessons begin at Brio Leisure after the Christmas break for 4LO only. Please refer to recent communications regarding swimwear and transport arrangements. Further lessons for 4MH will take place later in the year.

Year 6 Victorian Day – Monday 8th January 2024

Throughout the spring term, our Year 6 history and geography topic will be The Industrious Victorians and we will be aiming to answer the question: Why was innovation important during the Victorian times? To introduce this new topic, we are going to hold a Victorian Day. The children will be immersed into life as a Victorian school pupil and will develop an understanding of what it was like to live and be educated during The Industrial Revolution and Queen Victoria's reign. The children will take part in Victorian style lessons and playtime activities and even have the chance to try some 'gruel'!

Holiday Activities with Food

A reminder that Cheshire West and Chester, in partnership with Edsential, are running a series of holiday clubs over the Christmas holidays with free places open to children in receipt of free school meals. You can read more, and check eligibility, here: https://edsential.com/haf-cheshire-west/?sender_id=5ad864cd98f8d

Term Dates 2024-25

Please find attached our finalised term dates for next academic year – thank you for your patience.

Last Day and 2024 INSET

Tuesday 19th December is our last school day before Christmas. Please do not forget that Wednesday 3rd January is an INSET day, and school is closed for children. We look forward to welcoming them back on Thursday 4th January.

CWAC Parent and Carer Forum

Click the following link to access the latest news and events from Cheshire West and Chester's Parent and Carer forum: [https://mailchi.mp/d322b68fcb60/pcf-news-and-events-december2023-16924348?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/d322b68fcb60/pcf-news-and-events-december2023-16924348?e=[UNIQID])

Have a great weekend and we will see you on Monday, warm regards

S L Cade

Mrs L Cade

Headteacher

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admin@hartfordprimary.cheshire.sch.uk

01606 74164