

Newsletter 15- Thursday 17th December 2020

Dear Families,

We are so glad that we managed to get to the end of term without any more class closures and that the children were able to do their Christmas performances and have Christmas lunch! The children and staff had so much fun pulling the crackers and telling the jokes!

Thank you for bearing with us with the technology with our Christmas performances. Inevitably things go wrong when recording live. The low point at Wednesday's Nursery performance was the camera slowly getting lower and lower as I was saying the thank you at the end of the show until all that could be seen was the floor!. We are all looking forward to holding them in person next year! That aside, the children all did an absolutely fantastic job and we couldn't have been any prouder of them. They gave it their all despite there not really being an audience and their joy and passion shone through moving us all. With everything going on at the moment, it certainly was just what we needed to lift the spirits! Well done to everyone!

Year Two Carol Singing: Our carol singing was postponed to today and the children did such a wonderful job of representing our school. They sang with such gusto and brightened up many of our local residents' days! Well done Year Two and thank you!

Christmas Dinner: We thoroughly enjoyed our delicious Christmas Dinner that was served on Wednesday lunchtime. The teaching staff joined the children for this complete with crackers and party hats! Check out our Twitter page for photographs of the day!

New Reception Cohort 2021: Please do spread the word about these zoom sessions as we can't do them in person at the moment. Thank you.

The forthcoming dates are as follows:

Date	Time
Thursday 7 th January	5.30pm
Tuesday 12 th January	2pm

INSET days: Our next INSET day is Friday 15th January. The staff will be attending some Talk for Writing training remotely on that day.

Uniform: As you know, Clothing4 went into Administration earlier this year and are no longer supplying uniform. Currently, 'My Uniform' on Wellington Street, Burton, stocks our uniform. We are looking into using other suppliers too to give parents choice and to make it as accessible to buy as possible. More information will follow in the New Year.

Please can I remind parents when buying any new items of uniform to refer to the guide on our website and ensure what you are buying is on that list? We would ask that PE trainers are black if you are buying new ones and that school shoes or boots are also black with as little decoration on them as possible. Also, any hair accessories should be modest and in schools colours - thank you.

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Parents' Guide for online safety:

Some of our children may have a new device for Christmas or spend a bit longer on them than normal due to the Tier 3 restrictions. Please take a moment to look at this excellent guide from Think U Know that helps parents navigate their way around this.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parents-guide-being-social-online/>

There has also been a 'Keeping Your Child Safe Online' guide produced by Staffordshire police which has been attached to this email. I cannot recommend highly enough that you take time to read this and visit some of the sites it suggests.

This week's round up:

Nursery: This week, the children have been busy wrapping everything in sight in Santa's workshop! They have explored shapes by using them to create Christmas trees and stockings and have learned all about Christmas around the world, ending the week by making paper stars, just like people do in India to decorate their homes.

Reception: In reception this week, we were so proud of our children who did an excellent job of the Nativity. A big thank you to all the grown-ups at home for the wonderful costumes you provided - they looked brilliant! We have had lots of Christmas fun in school - making decorations, mixing up some reindeer food, singing songs and learning about the pantomime! Every child will have a purple book to bring home, to practice blending sounds together to read words over Christmas - let us know how you get on in your child's reading diary!

Year One: This week Year One have been excellent mathematicians by creating their own patterns in Maths. They have also written up a whole story - the Tale of Peter Rabbit

Year Two: This week the children did their Christmas performance, learning Christmas carols. Yesterday, the children made their own gingerbread and calculated maths problems to solve the mystery of Neville the naughty elf!

Harrier Award: The Harrier Value for this half term is Respect. Read on to find out who was given the Harrier Award this morning in our virtual assembly.

Congratulations to the following children:

Class	Name	Reason
Nursery	Alice	Alice made lots of new friends on Wednesday when she came to the morning session. She showed respect by sharing her toys - well done Alice!
Reception	Hendrix	For working really hard on his targets and greeting everyone he meets with a "Hello" and a smile!
Year 1	Teddy	For showing such respect to all adults in school and always having a kind word for everyone!
	Jackson	Mrs Hopkins chose Jackson to receive a Harrier Award this week as she saw him giving his Mum his umbrella on the way home as she was getting wet! He then tried to help another pupil when they were finding something difficult without anyone asking him to. What a star!
Year 2	Rahmatulla	For always being respectful and hardworking in whatever he does!

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Procedures if there is a positive case: The email sent with this newsletter included guidance regarding our procedures are in this situation. To summarise,;

- In the event that your child has a confirmed positive Covid-19 test result on or before 23rd December, we ask that you email Mrs Dennis as a matter of urgency, using jane.dennis@henhurstridgeacademy.org
- There is no need to inform us of negative test results or positive test results from Thursday 24th December onwards. Please note that there is also no need to inform us if another family member tests positive.
- In the event of your child being identified as having had contact with a child or member of staff testing positive on or before 23rd December, we will contact you to advise how long your child needs to self-isolate for.

A final word of thanks: I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support this term in what has undoubtedly been one of the hardest times. This has made a difficult situation so much easier to manage. Your kind words, support and encouragement has meant a lot to myself and the staff. Thank you for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts that you have sent in - we have never seen so many chocolates and biscuits in our staffroom... well they didn't last very long!

All that is left for me to say is, have a wonderful time over the festive break, please keep safe and I hope you get to enjoy time with your families. I also hope that you don't hear from me again until **Monday 4th January 2021** on our first day back at school!

Season's Greetings!

With best wishes

Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy Family

Resident Christmas Card:

Well done to Freya in Year 2 whose painting was selected to be the cover of our Christmas card that was sent to the local residents this year! Please see below:

