

Friday 10th December 2021

Message from Mrs Hopkins:

Dear Families,

I can hardly believe we are only one week from the end of the Autumn Term and what a term it has been! We have been busy developing our curriculum and the children have thoroughly enjoyed the learning missions they have been on!

We are very much looking forward to seeing what Home Learning they have been doing connected to that mission. Please bring anything in next week related to that so it can be shared with the class.

We have had lots of fun events such as Hello Yellow Day and Children in Need. The Bhangra dancing workshop was absolutely brilliant last week and we look forward to welcoming Vijay back again soon.

We launched our Polar Express Mini mission with a Pyjama day on Monday. It is fabulous doing a whole school project together and seeing how this progresses right from Early Years up to Year 3. Please follow us on Twitter to find out more. In addition to this, the children are busy learning their songs for the 'Big little Nativity' with our eldest children learning scripts too! Phew! It's all going on and we will definitely be ready for that two-week break!

We are looking forward to welcoming each of our year group's parents in, please see information further on in the newsletter about this. We've also got Christmas dinner and visits from Father Christmas to enjoy too! It's going to be an action-packed week finished off with Christmas Jumper Day on the last day!

Thank you for your support over what has been an incredibly turbulent term with COVID19, staff and pupil absences but as always, we have faced this challenge together. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who have given their all in the past term which is reflected in the excellent learning opportunities the children have had through topics such as The Polar Express and pulling off a Nativity performance in very challenging circumstances. Our support staff have all completely stepped up to cover the staffing absences to ensure the continuity of provision for the children. It has been a team effort and it is a team I am extremely proud to lead. On that note, I wish you all a wonderful, peaceful break when it arrives and if you are celebrating Christmas, a very happy Christmas. Here's to a much more settled new year!

With very best wishes, Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Family x

Christmas Dinner Wednesday 15th December:

Thank you for completing the survey about your child's dinner option. We are looking forward to all sitting together to eat our lunch with crackers and party hats. Photos will be on Twitter!

Father Christmas is visiting...on Wednesday afternoon after the Christmas Lunch. The children will be given a gift from him which has been provided by The Friends of Henhurst PTA. We know they will have a lovely time! Again, photos on Twitter.

Christmas Jumper Day is on our last day, Friday 17th December. Your child can wear their own clothes with a Christmas Jumper for a donation of £1 which will go straight to Save the Children charity.



Lost property: We have a lot of lost property that we will put on a table at the Christmas performances. Please do come and have a look as we know some parents have reported missing items. If they are not claimed we will put them on our Pre-owned uniform rail. See below. Please do put your child's names in all items of uniform, that way when they get misplaced, we're able to get them back to the right person.

Pre-owned Uniform Rail: Through parent donations and samples from the uniform shop, we have quite a few items on our pre-owned uniform rail. All items have been washed and you just need to make a donation. The rail will be out during the Christmas Performances.

COVID19: As you know, we've also had a number of COVID19 cases in school. Fortunately, all those that have been ill are back in school or soon will be. Thank you for your continued support with this. You have been absolutely great in getting PCRs for your child/ren if needed and keeping them off if there's any COVID19 symptoms. It looks like we're in for a few more difficult months with the new variant so continued vigilance is very much appreciated.

New pupil: A very warm welcome to Constantine who joins us in Year 2. He has recently moved up from London and has settled in brilliantly already!

New family additions: Two families have much to celebrate! Halle in Year 3 has become big sister to Taite and Jacob & Lucas Rainsford are big brothers to Evie!

For more information about the Christmas Performances - see below.

Return to school after the holidays: The children are due to return to school on Wednesday 4th January 2022. The 3rd January is an INSET day.

Christmas Performances:

We are still going ahead with our new revised dates and times for our Christmas performances (please see a reminder below) but we are asking parents to follow the guidance that was released yesterday from the Dfe:

- Take a Lateral Flow Test before entering school and if positive DO NOT attend
- Wear a face covering at all times unless you are exempt and in which case please wear the sunflower lanyard
- Use the hand sanitiser or washing facilities on arrival
- Maintain social distancing as much as possible
- DO NOT attend if you have any of the 3 top COVID19 symptoms
- Avoid bringing younger siblings if possible, to reduce numbers

In the meantime, school will ensure the chairs are spread out as much as possible and that the hall is well ventilated.

Many schools are choosing not to host events so please do play your part in keeping everyone safe.

Year group	Date & Time	Doors open
3	Monday 13 th December 2pm	From 1:40pm
Reception	Tuesday 14 th December 9am	From 8:30am - when you have dropped your child off
1	Tuesday 14 th December 2pm	From 1:40pm
2	Wednesday 15 th December 9am	From 8:30am - when you have dropped your child off
Nursery	Thursday 16 th December 9am	As above

Filming & Photography: We are unable to allow any parent to film or take photographs during the performance as several children do not have permission to be filmed or photographed. At the end of the performance, you will have an opportunity to take a photograph of your child should you wish to do so. We ask that this is done in a calm and safe way so that the children and adults are not put at risk due to lack of social distancing.

Parking: Please park responsibly when you stay for the performance as your car will be parked on the estate for longer than usual and it would be unacceptable to make it difficult for residents to go about their daily business.

Refreshments organised by The Friends of Henhurst PTA: Refreshments will be available before each performance for a donation and tickets for a raffle. This will be drawn at the last performance and prize winners notified if not at that showing. Please bring change.

We very much look forward to seeing you there.

Date	Event	Additional information
Monday 20th December - Monday 3rd January Christmas Holidays		
Tuesday 4th January	INSET DAY	Children not in school, back on Wednesday 5th.
Tuesday 1 st February	Year 1 Phonics Check Parent Information Event	6pm via Zoom. Invites sent out a week before the event.
4 th - 11 th February	Children's Mental Health Week & the launch of 10 Good Deeds in 10 Days event	Events to be organised throughout the week, more information nearer the time.
Tuesday 8 th February	Safer Internet Day	Events to be organised, more information nearer the time.
Tuesday 8 th February	Kamkwamba Class Assembly	9am in the hall - all parents/carers of this class welcome.
Monday 21st February-Friday 25th February - Half Term		
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day	Children to dress up as a book character for the day.
Monday 7th March	INSET DAY	Children not in school.
Tuesday 8 th March	Packham Class Assembly	9am in the hall - all parents/carers of this class welcome.
Friday 18 th March	Red Nose Day	Children can wear their own clothes for the day - £1 to charity.
Wednesday 23 rd March	Mothers' Day Lunch	12pm Mums are cordially invited to join us for lunch. This will be dependent on COVID19.
Tuesday 29 th March	Parent Consultation Meetings	3-5pm appointments will be scheduled nearer the time.
Thursday 31 st March	Parent Consultation Meetings	4-6:30pm as above.
Tuesday 5 th April	Silva Class Assembly	9am in the hall - all parents/carers of this class welcome.