



# Newsletter



Newsletter 8

17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



It has been an absolute pleasure to be able to welcome you back into school to share Christmas events over the past few weeks; thank you very much for all you have done to comply with the arrangements we have put into place for everyone's safety. It has been a fantastic end to a year which didn't start as we hoped! I know there have been challenges throughout 2021; we have really valued the way you work with us with such positivity and mutual respect, always keeping the children at the centre, supporting them to be the confident cheerful children they are.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the amazing commitment, versatility, flexibility and hard work of the staff. The last 18 months have been quite an adventure, but the way this time has been faced with generosity of spirit, humour, optimism and team work has been remarkable. I cannot thank them enough for working together to make school such a happy place of learning and fun for everyone.

Lastly, our Governors have continued to show true dedication to the children and the school. Although it has been harder for them to undertake their roles, they have adapted to different working practices, ensuring they fulfil their responsibilities. We are very fortunate to have a strong Governing Body with such a wide range of appropriate skills and relevant experience.

Whilst we haven't chosen the year we were given, we have chosen to make the best of it, and have many things to reflect on with great pride. I wish you all the happy, safe and relaxing Christmas, and know that whatever 2022 brings, together, we will make it a success for our children.



## **School plays and Carol Service**

We could not be prouder of our fantastic children – they have been amazing! Every child in the school has had the opportunity to be in a production and despite the timetabling challenges of fitting so many plays in, things could not have gone more smoothly. The children have been brilliant in rehearsals and put on great performances. Thank you for all your support and kind comments – they mean a lot.



### **Christmas Lunch**

A huge thank you to Elaine, our school cook, and her lovely team, Carol, Janine and Melanie, who produced a delicious lunch for us all on Wednesday. They worked so hard to get everything ready and served with a smile, even down to the last meal served.



### **Christmas Tree Festival**



For a number of years, we have decorated a tree for the Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival. Everyone is involved, from Nursery to Year 6, and we always have a wide and varied selection of decorations. This year, for the first time ever, we were delighted to win first place with our tree 'Wishing you a heavenly Christmas', on the theme of angels. Any ideas for next year will be welcomed!



### **Pantomime**

We had a fantastic time at the pantomime - due to cancellations, we were the only school there! The children's behaviour was outstanding throughout, and we enjoyed a brilliant show. The children had many highlights – the most popular moment appears to be when Year 6 were soaked during a laundry washing scene; it is a good job they, and the staff, are such good sports! We really appreciate the hard work of the PTFA, who funded the coach costs, and you for supporting this trip and the PTFA events.



### **Reading Challenge!**

The reading challenge is continuing to go well and we are currently enjoying relaxing in the Bahamas! Please keep reading with your children – we hope to get home by Monday!



### **School Uniform and Shoes**

There have been a number of variations of school uniform creeping in recently, including a wide range of shoe and boot types. The school uniform is as follows:

- Navy blue skirt, pinafore dress, culottes, navy trousers or grey trousers/shorts
- Pale blue/navy polo shirt\*
- Navy blue jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan/school fleece\*
- White, grey or navy socks/tights
- Sensible black flat shoes
- Blue/white check dresses or playsuits (summer)

Polo shirts, sweatshirts, sweater cardigans, fleeces, and coats with the school logo can be bought [Wovina](#) - this link is also on the school website. Plain versions are available from supermarkets. Good quality second hand uniform is available free, or for a small donation, from the school office as part of our re-cycling commitment. Whilst it is cold, plain flat black boots may also be worn. Trainers can only be worn for outdoor play and PE.

Please can all uniform be named, so that we can return it to you if it is lost?

As introduced by the School Council a number of years ago, children can wear any socks or tights they choose on Fridays – we call it Funky Friday. It is always a pleasure to see the range and variety, although it does give me tights envy!



### **January arrangements**

Following media reports around the arrangements for schools in January, I can confirm that schools have **not** received any advice or information which would suggest that we will be moving to online learning again. Clearly, the situation may change over the coming weeks, but at this point, the expectation is that we will be back to school on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January.



### **Happy New Year – in different languages**

We are aware of a number of families in school where a parent or grandparent has English as an additional language. We would be delighted to receive ‘Happy New Year’ messages in their first language, which we will display in the hall to welcome the children back. Please send them in via [email](#) or on paper to the school office. Thank you in advance for your help!



### **Leaving and Coming Back**

School finishes at 1.15pm on Tuesday 21st December. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January, at 8.55 a.m.

On behalf of all of the staff, I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for reading this newsletter. Please remember I am always happy to discuss any issues with you.

Liz Pollard  
HEADTEACHER