

## The Head's Lines

Christmas is well and truly upon us; rehearsals are under way for both the Nativity and Carols by Candlelight, the Christmas tree decorations created by the children have been installed and displayed in St Nicholas' Church in Barton-le-Clay and the excitement of this festive season can be felt at every turn. On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December, we have been invited to visit the Grimston family at Hexton manor where we will be singing Carols around the tree and also exchanging Christmas cards! We all look forward to seeing you at the Christmas events listed, sharing some of our learning from this term and wishing you all a very Happy Christmas in the next few weeks.

Mrs Fenner

## Open Day and School Promotion

Thank you to the members of the HPA who attended our recent Open Morning. We seemed to be inundated with a great number of visitors, both locally and further afield, and the feedback was very positive. There is still time to visit the school for parents who are considering places for Reception in September 2020. Please direct anyone who you might know in this position to contact the school office to arrange a visit. We will be trying to update our Facebook page with events happening in school and our new website is now up and running which will continue to be updated.

## Wellbeing day and Children in Need



The children enjoyed the day doing fitness activities and yoga followed by Hot Chocolate and biscuits.



## Hitchin Christmas Hamper Appeal

The Hitchin Christmas Hamper Appeal 2019 supports local individuals and families at Christmas with a food hamper. Hexton School have pledged to donate 30 cartons of gravy (including vegetarian) to this appeal and we would like to ask if any parents could kindly help us with this and donate some gravy!

**Thank you for all the donations so far, but please keep them coming!**



## Scholastic Book Fair

The Book Fair is in school until Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Children will have had opportunity to have a preview of books available and a flyer has also been sent home. Any books sold through the school will help raise funds in commission which will be used to restock our reading scheme and book shelves.



## Reading

Encouraging reading is vitally important and receiving a, special Christmas book, fun annual or the latest best seller for Christmas is a great way to encourage the love of reading in your child. On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January children will have the opportunity to share a book they might receive for Christmas in assembly so that children can be inspired by what their peers are reading and we can celebrate books together as whole school. This is an optional activity and not all children are expected to join in. Reading is hugely important and what better time to celebrate the gift of storytelling than at Christmas. We look forward to sharing some new and exciting books on the day.

## Sun Reading Campaign

We have signed up for The Sun's Books for Schools initiative. The Sun has teamed up with HarperCollins to provide schools across England, Wales and Northern Ireland a free pack of 106 books, worth more than £600! Please help us collect tokens that will be printed in The Sun and The Sun on Sunday from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

## Shared Learning/Shared Reading

Due to other activities happening in school in the next few weeks the Shared reading sessions will be suspended until after the New Year.

There will be a Shared Learning session for both Acorn and Oak class on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** from 2.45pm. This is a nice opportunity for your children to share some of their work from the last term with you, however due to space please be aware that a maximum of 2 adults per child is permitted.

## Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals

Since the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals for Key Stage 1 pupils, there has been a significant reduction in the number of families applying for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals funding. If you have a child who has moved into Year 3, school meals are now chargeable. Therefore, if you think you might be eligible to apply Free School Meals, please visit the following website: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) or click on the following link [Free schools meals](#)

As a school, we also benefit financially from funding for Pupil Premium pupils so even if your child is in Key Stage 1 we would encourage you to apply. Not only will the school receive additional funds, it also saves you having to remember to apply when your child moves into Year 3. If you need any additional information, please speak to Mrs Fenner, Mrs Hibon or Mrs Spurr in the school office in confidence.

## Attendance

Whilst I know parents will try to avoid this whenever possible, we have had a number of requests for term time absences this term and for next. Ongoing poor attendance is a factor often linked to low levels of academic success. Many pupils have difficulty maintaining friendships if they have long or numerous periods of absence. The chart below outlines how quickly learning hours can be lost and when absence becomes a cause for concern. Please do speak to Mrs Fenner if you have any questions surrounding this.

Attendance description	Percentage	Actual Attendance	Whole days absence	Learning hours lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5%	7.5	37.5
Below Average	95%	180.5%	9.5	47.5
Cause for concern	90%	171 days	19	95



## Christmas Events

Over the next few weeks there will be lots of activities going on in school to help everyone get in the mood for the Christmas festivities, here's a reminder of what's to come:

- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas crafts afternoon from 1.30pm. Parents are welcome to come and join their children for this.
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Rocksteady Concert at 9.15am. The concert will take place in the school hall, please come along and support the children who are part of the Rocksteady Music School at Hexton.
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Acorn Class Nativity at 2.15pm and 5.30pm. Families will be allocated 2 tickets per performance.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Carols by Candlelight at St Faith's Church at 6pm. Children will need to be at the Church for 5.45, in school uniform. A maximum of 4 tickets will be allocated per family.
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – HPA Christmas Fayre from 1.30pm



We hope some of you were able to get to St Nicholas' Church in Barton-le-Clay at the weekend and see Hexton School's tree. Thank you to Mrs Wills working with the children to make their decorations, it looked fantastic!



*Congratulations* to the following children who have been awarded a Golden Ticket during the month of November

🍌 **Gabby, Clark, Edward, Eliza, Evie & Amber**

🌳 **Roman, Joseph, Thea, Grace, Anaya & Alice**

### HPA News



With just over £300 raised in total from the Halloween disco, Film club and Christmas designs The HPA would like thank all the parents for their contributions, helping to make these activities such a success!

The HPA Christmas Fayre is taking place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and we would be hugely grateful for any donations of thing to go towards a Christmas hamper and/or any prizes for the Tombola.



# Diary dates

## Hexton School dates 2019-2020

\*New dates added/changed will be in bold

<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Crafts Afternoon @ 1.30pm - 3pm</b>
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Rocksteady Concert @ 9.15am</b> <b>Whole school visit to Hexton Manor @ 1.30pm</b>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Acorn Christmas Nativity @ 2.15pm Acorn Christmas Nativity @ 5.30pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols by Candlelight @ 6.00pm at St Faith's Church
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Fayre @ 1.30pm - 3.30pm</b> End of Term
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 23 <sup>rd</sup> December - 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET DAY
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Children Return to school
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole school panto trip
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Happy School Bag Collection - HPA
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Young Voices 02 Arena
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Feeling Good Week
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Safe Internet Day
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent consultation meetings @ 3.30pm - 7.00pm
HALF TERM 17 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> February	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Sport Relief
16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> March	Assessment Week
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	End of Term
EASTER HOLIDAYS 6 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> April	

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Term Starts
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Whole school and Class Photos
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	VE Day Bank Holiday
11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS
18 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> May	KS1 SATS
18 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Assessment Week
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	INSET DAY
HALF TERM 25 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> May	
8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Yr 1 Phonics Screening Check
15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Yr 4 Multiplication Table Check
29 <sup>th</sup> June – 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Yr 6 Isle of Wight Trip
6 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition Week
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Secondary School Transition Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Afternoon
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports to Parents
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers Assembly End of Term

# Term Dates 2019-2020

## Autumn Term 2019

Monday 2 September - Friday 20 December 2019

Half Term: Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November 2019

**INSET Day: Monday 2 September 2019**

**OCCASIONAL Day: Friday 29 November 2019**

## Spring Term 2020

Monday 6 January – Friday 3 April 2020

Half Term: Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February 2020

**INSET Day: Monday 6 January 2020**

## Summer Term 2020

Tuesday 20 April – Tuesday 21 July 2020

Half Term: Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May 2020

**Bank Holiday: Friday 8 May 2020**

**INSET Day: Friday 22 May 2020**

**INSET Day: Monday 20 July 2020**

**INSET Day: Tuesday 21 July**

# Hexton JMI School



**Hexton JMI School  
Parent's Association**  
Registered Charity no.1001060



✉ Hexton, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3JL

☎ 01582 881248

🌐 [www.hextonschool.org.uk](http://www.hextonschool.org.uk)

✉ [admin@hexton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hexton.herts.sch.uk)



Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted to announce that the school is holding a clothing collection with **Happy School Bag Fundraising Project**.

This scheme is designed to help schools raise needed funds as well as helping the environment by keeping textiles away from landfills. By taking part in this scheme, you help reduce the amount of reusable textile waste and give the clothing a new lease of life.

To take part you simply need to fill the bags provided or any plastic bags with unwanted but clean and reusable clothing. We accept children's and adults' clothes including paired shoes, (accessories: handbags, belts, jewellery, etc...).

Remember the more you fill up the bag(s) the more the school can raise.

The Happy School Bag van will be collecting from our school on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020. Please bring all your bags to the School Office and help us have an amazing collection.

Many thanks!

HPA & School Office

# Community News

*Please note, the following events/activities are run independently of Hexton JMI School*



The Hitchin Christmas Hamper Appeal 2019 supports local individuals and families at Christmas with a food hamper. This year we are delivering 120 hampers filled with everything needed for a festive meal including a joint of meat, fresh vegetables and all the trimmings. Plus extra store cupboard essentials to help with meals throughout the holiday period and some extra treats including selection boxes, mince pies, and biscuits.

- Tea
- Dried Pasta
- Rice
- Pasta/Curry Sauces
- Tinned Soup
- Tinned Veg
- Tinned Puddings
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Fish
- Breakfast Cereals
- Batter Mix
- Stock Cubes

Please think of us and add an extra tin to your next shop, above is an idea of the type of dry store cupboard items we need. Also check with your child's school as they will be collecting allocated items for the hampers too!

## Donation Points

**Brookers:** 39 Bucklersbury, Hitchin & Unit 7, Bilton Rd, Cadwell Lane, Hitchin

**Hitchin Initiative & Information:** 1A Churchyard, Hitchin (9.30-4pm ex Weds 9.30-1pm closed Sun)



Hitchin Market will be running a Toy Drive where local people and businesses can donate new toys which will be given to Lister Hospital and to local children.

Donations can be left with Hitchin Markets Ltd on the market trading days of Tuesday, Friday and Saturday

# ***MAGIC SHOW with MATTHEW GARRETT***



**GOLD STAR MEMBER OF THE MAGIC CIRCLE**

**[www.professionalmagic.com](http://www.professionalmagic.com)**

ON

## **Hitchin Market**

***A mixture of magic, circus skills & more!***

**Sat 14th Dec - 11am - 12pm - 1pm**

+ Other entertainment and our

Traditional Market /Craft & Farmers/Gift Fair

Raffles to win:

Christmas Hamper & Kids Party

[www.hitchinmarkets.co.uk](http://www.hitchinmarkets.co.uk)

