

## The Head's Lines

And so we welcome Christmas! It might feel and look very different to our traditional school festive season but we are looking forward to sharing this with you none the less. Santa knows that we have all been using our GRs quite a bit this year and we have heard, from reliable sources, that he might just be visiting us before the end of term!

Please note that we will be ending school early on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 1:30pm, to allow cleaning staff to meet cleaning protocols before the start of the holidays.

Mrs Fenner

## Virtual Tour and School Promotion

Due to the government restrictions, we unfortunately had to cancel our Open Day appointments for prospective parents in November and whilst we are reconsidering how we showcase our school at the moment we do now have our Virtual Tour on both the school website (<https://www.hexton.herts.sch.uk/our-school/virtual-tour>) and Facebook page (<https://fb.watch/1ZqzBWo7f/>).

As parents of current children in Hexton School, you are our best advocates. Therefore, we are asking if you can mention and/or share our Facebook page with any prospective parent or group you may be linked to help us spread the word! Thank You.

## Remembrance Day



For Remembrance Day the children came into school wearing something red – raising **£41.10** for the Royal British Legion. They spent the day learning about what the day means and making their own poppies!

## Children in Need



For Children in Need the children came into school wearing something spotty – raising **£43**. They spent the day learning about what Children in Need raises money for and where the money goes and enjoyed fun activities during the day.

## 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. Reading is hugely important and what better time to celebrate the gift of storytelling than at Christmas. We look forward to sharing lots of Christmas and winter themed texts with children in school as we approach the festive season.



## 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 Miss Butler in the school office in confidence.

## Breakfast Club

We still have places available in our Breakfast Club. Please let the school office know if you are interested in this.

## Attendance

We continue to have high attendance in school and are grateful to parents who are following the guidelines when a suspected case of Covid-19 occurs within their family. We know that it is often confusing to separate Covid-19 symptoms from common colds and winter illnesses. Whilst some schools are not accepting children in school with any symptoms of any illnesses, we feel that is important that children attend school regularly and wherever possible. If your child demonstrates any of the Covid-19 symptoms, please DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL. Please follow the steps in the guidance we have previously released.

We will continue to ask parents to keep their child at home for a period of 48 hours following a bout of diarrhoea or vomiting commencing from the last episode of illness.

We will continue to contact you if your child becomes unwell at school and needs to be collected to go home. This will include when we feel a child may be demonstrating Covid-19 symptoms. In this case, we will ask you to arrange for your child to be tested and not return to school until we have confirmation of negative test or your child has self-isolated for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. If your child is generally unwell, please also consider if it is in their best interest to be at school. Please contact the school office if your child will be absent from school for any reason.

## 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, although things will be happening slightly differently this year, it will be just as fun for the children - here's a reminder of what's to come:

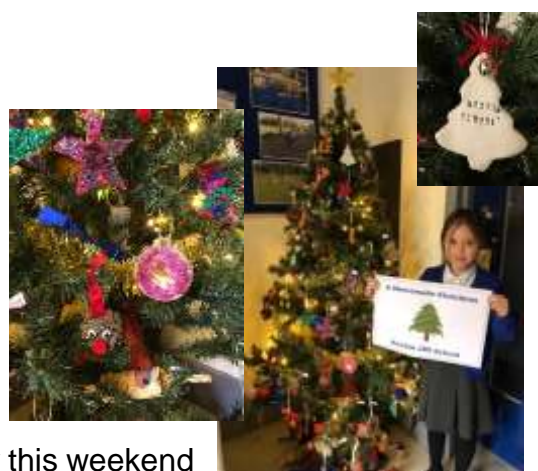
- Friday 4th December - Christmas Jumper Day
- Saturday 5th December and Sunday 6th December - Christmas Tree festival
- Tuesday 8th December – Christmas craft afternoon
- Friday 11th December - Class Christmas card exchange
- Friday 11th December - Virtual School Pantomime, with Christmas Jumpers
- Week beginning 14th December - Class festive messages sent to parents
- Wednesday 16th December - Christmas lunch
- Thursday 17th December - virtual Santa visit



### The Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival for St Nicholas' Church in Barton-le-Clay is working differently this year. Instead of the trees being displayed in the church, they will be displayed in windows and gardens around the village on Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December.

Visit <http://stnicholas-barton.org.uk/> to download a trail map.



We hope some of you are able to get to Barton-le-Clay this weekend and see Hexton School's tree, 'A Homemade Christmas'

Thank you to Mrs Wills for working with the children to make their decorations and a big thank you to Linzi Hyde for hosting our tree!

### Christmas cards

This year we are arranging for children to create a class Christmas card which each child will receive with all their friends names included.

**We would therefore ask that pupils do not bring Christmas cards into school.**

### Virtual Panto

A big thank you to the HPA for funding the cost of the virtual Panto.

### Festive messages

Each class will prepare a festive Christmas message for their families which we will video, following GDPR guidance, and send home to parents during the week beginning the 14<sup>th</sup> December.

### Christmas Lunch

If your child would like to have the Christmas Lunch on 16<sup>th</sup> December please can you return the slip to the School Office asap, if you have not already done so – thank you.





# Hexton JMI School 2020 Tea towels



Children and staff at our lovely school have put their artistic skills to the test, proudly producing this BRILLIANT tea towel packed with self portraits.

It would make a fantastic Christmas present or keepsake for your family and friends. Order yours today from the HPA.

## £4 each

Simply pay Hexton Parents Association via bank transfer to 30-10-49 00466823 using your child's name as a reference and the HPA will distribute the Tea towels on receipt.

Thank you for your support!

All profits will go back into the school towards new equipment and activities for the children.





# Diary dates

## Hexton School dates 2020-2021

\*New dates added/changed will be in bold

<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Jumper Day</b>
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Tree Festival Trail, Barton-le-clay</b>
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Crafts Afternoon</b>
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Class Christmas card exchange</b> <b>Virtual School Pantomime, with Christmas Jumpers!</b>
<b>w/c 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Class festive messages sent to parents</b>
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas lunch</b>
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Virtual Santa visit</b>
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>End of Term – Early finish @ 1.30pm</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 18<sup>th</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Children Return to school</b>

# Term Dates 2020-2021

## Autumn Term 2020

Wednesday 2 September - Friday 18 December 2020  
Half Term: Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October 2020

**INSET Day: Wednesday 2 September 2020**  
**INSET Day: Thursday 3 September 2020**  
**INSET Day: Friday 4 September 2020**  
**OCCASIONAL Day: Friday 27 November 2020**

## Spring Term 2021

Monday 4 January – Friday 26 March 2021  
Half Term: Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2021

**INSET Day: Monday 4 January 2021**

## Summer Term 2021

Monday 12 April – Thursday 22 July 2021  
Half Term: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021

**Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May 2021**  
**INSET Day: Friday 28 May 2021**

# Term Dates 2021-2022

## Autumn Term 2021

Wednesday 1 September – Tuesday 21 December 2021  
Half Term: Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October 2021

**INSET Day: Wednesday 1 September 2021**  
**OCCASIONAL Day: Friday 26 November 2021**

## Spring Term 2022

Wednesday 5 January – Friday 1 April 2022  
Half Term: Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February 2022

**INSET Day: Wednesday 5 January 2022**

## Summer Term 2022

Tuesday 19 April – Friday 22 July 2022  
Half Term: Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June 2022

**INSET Day: Tuesday 19 April 2022**  
**Bank Holiday: Monday 2 May 2022**  
**INSET Day: Friday 27 May 2022**  
**INSET Day: Monday 6 June 2022**



## Community News

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



The Hitchin Christmas Hamper **Appeal** supports local individuals and families at Christmas with a festive food parcel. Last year we provided 151 hampers . This year however Covid 19 has changed how we are running the appeal. Instead of food donations this year we are asking you to help us raise **funds** so we can give our families supermarket vouchers plus we still want to be able to give gift bags to the children.

If you can **donate** to the Christmas Hamper Appeal fund then please go to the JustGiving Page  
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/feedHitchin>

Doing your **shopping online** this year? Even if you can't **shop local** this year, you can still **support the community** by shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and nominate **Rotary Club Of Hitchin Tilehouse Trust Fund** as your charity of choice. They will receive a percentage of the price of your purchase at no extra cost to you.







christchurch  
METHODIST AND UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
hitchin

# Celebrate Christmas With a Nativity Treasure Hunt!

**This year the Christmas story goes out to the streets of Hitchin! You are warmly invited to participate in an all age treasure hunt to explore the story of the first Christmas, then join us online in our virtual nativity service.**

## **How will it work?**

We'll send you a series of nativity-themed tasks to do on foot around Hitchin. You can send us videos and pictures of your progress, then come to our virtual nativity service on 24th December to experience the highlights and celebrate with us.

The treasure map and clues will be released on November 29th on our website, or email us for a copy.

There's a version for adults and children, as well as one to do if you're isolating at home. Why not do all three!

## **Who is it for?**

Everyone! Whether you're young or old, nimble or housebound, there will be something for everyone.

## **How do I join the nativity service?**

The service will be virtual. You can join us at [christchurchhitchin.org.uk](http://christchurchhitchin.org.uk).

To register, contact  
[treasure@christchurchhitchin.org.uk](mailto:treasure@christchurchhitchin.org.uk)

