Hexton JMI School Newsletter

Headteacher's message

What a chilly week we've had at Hexton this week! The children have enjoyed exploring the ice and some even made tiny ice snowmen during play times!

This week in Monday's assembly, we continued our learning about Advent. Each week we will learn about 2 countries. This week it was Malta and Norway. In Malta, we learnt that a child, normally aged 7-10, does the sermon at the midnight mass instead of the priest! 'The Preaching of the Child' or 'Priedka tat-Tifel' is an old and popular tradition that has taken place in churches since 1883. In Norway, people put out a bowl of rice pudding for the barn elf. If they do not, he may consider that he is not well enough looked after and play tricks on them! The Norwegian Christmas lunch is a rib of lamb followed by rice pudding. Children count down to Christmas using an orange with cloves stuck into it – they remove a clove every day and when the last one is removed it's Christmas!

The panto on Tuesday was a great success. Children and staff alike came back saying how great it was and how funny the actors were.

This week in Acorn class, children have enjoyed Christmas/Winter-themed busy fingers activities such as Christmas tree needle ice, pom pom tweezer painting and exploring winter flora. In Oak class, during art, children were given freedom to make what they wanted. Mrs Calvert said how creative they were and able to solve problems. They made lanterns, magazines and lots of other paper crafts.

This week I went to see years three and four in their learning. Pupils were very able to say what helps them in their maths e.g. manipulatives such as bead strings or drawing pictures to represent their maths. Attitudes to maths are very positive. We are currently developing ways to teach all three year groups concurrently in more manageable ways.

See you this evening at the Christmas fayre!

Dates

* £1 donation optional

Date	Event
Fri 9th Dec	HPA Christmas Fayre 3:15-5:15
Sun 11th Dec	Christingle at St Faith's
Tue 13th Dec	Christmas dinner day
	Christmas jumper day
Wed 14th Dec	Christmas performance (p.m.)
Thur 15th Dec	Christmas service at St Faith's (a.m.)
Fri 16th Dec	Christmas parties
Weds 21st Dec	End of term 1:30 pm – non-uniform day
22nd Dec-4th Jan	*Christmas holidays*
Thur 5th Jan	First day back
9th-13th Jan	Creativity week
Sun 15th Jan	Deadline for application to primary schools
6th-12th Feb	Children's mental health week
Tue 7th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Fri 11th Feb	HPA Valentine's Disco TBC
13th-17th Feb	*Half term*
Mon 20th Feb	INSET day (no school)
27th Feb-3rd Mar	Book week
Thurs 2nd Mar	World Book Day*
13th-17th Mar	STEM week
Fri 17th Mar	Red Nose Day*
Sat 1st Apr	HPA ball TBC
3rd-14th April	*Easter Holidays*
Mon 17th Apr	INSET day (no school)
Mon 17th Apr	Primary School Allocation Day
Mon 1st May	Bank holiday
Mon 8th May	Bank holiday
Fri 26th May	INSET day (no school)

This week's letters

Letter from Jim McManus regarding scarlet fever, Time to read (R parents only).

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow…

Golden Ticket Winners

Congratulations to our 'Golden Ticket' winners for showing the school values. These children will have a tea party with Mrs Squires every Friday afternoon.

Acorn class: Iris
Oak class: Lillie

Please send in any achievements outside school so that we can celebrate them each Friday.

Weekly Sports Star

Congratulations to our sports stars:

Acorn: Lily
Oak: Ayla

Lily has supported others despite being unable to participate at times. Ayla has been very creative in gymnastics and has created some amazing routines. Well done to everyone for working hard in PE.

House Points

Each week children collect team points in school. The average house point scores so far this term are:

St Faiths: 5
Manor: 3
Ravensburgh: 5

The children earn points for displaying the values in their learning and behaviour.

100% Attendance

Congratulations to all the children who have achieved 100% attendance this week, coming to school every day, on time.

Finley, Evie, Lily, Carter, Clark, Eliza, Iris.

Whole school attendance this week: **74.6%**

Governor snapshot: Mark Hall

I'm proud to be Chair of Governors for Hexton JMI. I've been involved with the school for 4 years ever since my daughter joined the reception class. I'm pleased to be involved in this historic village school and I'm willing to do whatever I can to continue to provide the best possible education for our children in such a lovely and unique setting. Being Chair means working with our headteacher to ensure we maintain the high standards of education; it means working with the other governors to be ensure we are working as effectively as possible and it also means being the headteacher's 'critical friend' which holds the head accountable. What else can I tell you about myself? In my day job I work for TUI, the holiday company (which does let me travel the world occasionally!); I'm a big Newcastle United fan. I'm a proud dad to three children and finally, if I can find any more time, I like to train and compete in triathlons (very badly!).

Christmas events next week

There is just over a week left of term and we have managed to pack lots into the timetable! Tonight after school is the HPA Christmas Fayre. Those attending will need to remember to bring some money to get the most out of the games, food stalls and raffle that will be there. It will run inside school from 3:15-5:15. Please meet your children at the gate and make your way inside.

Next week, on Tuesday, it is both Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinner day. Children may come dressed in their own clothes as well as wearing their jumper if they wish. On Wednesday at 2p.m. we have our Christmas production. As children change afterwards, you are welcome to join me in the learning zone for tea and coffee. On Thursday at 10:30a.m., we have our service at St Faith's. Again, all families are welcome to meet us there. Please wrap up warm and provide warm coats, hats and scarves for the children as the church is very chilly. Finally, on Friday afternoon next week, we have our Christmas parties. Children may bring party wear to change into in a named plastic bag or their school bag.

I will include details for the end of term in next week's newsletter.

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow...