



Issue 8

Friday 6th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here comes Christmas!

Christmas celebrations have clearly now started! As in all households, school is now even busier than normal, but children continue to work really hard alongside the staff. We have already seen a number of events and look forward to experiencing and sharing the rest over the next couple of weeks. Arbor messages will continue to be sent with reminders, so please take a moment to check on these.

We are delighted to welcome a new member of staff to the team: Mrs Zoe Humphrey. Mrs Humphrey will be working in Hazel class, Wednesday to Friday. Beech class have enjoyed working with Miss Kelly: our Brighton trainee teacher. Her placement has now finished but she will be back in the summer term. We have welcomed Miss Vinson, based in Hazel class and Miss Lavender, based in Elm class. They are also Brighton trainee teachers and will be working with us until the end of February.

School crossing: Our wonderful crossing patrol have just asked for a gentle reminder for parents and carers to use the crossing with their children. As we all know the road is always busy, but with the winter days and darker mornings, this is even more important to keep everyone safe.

The crossing patrol is a volunteer role, which the Local Authority provide training for. If you, or anyone you know has any capacity at the end of the school day, we would hugely appreciate your support. One of the requirements is obviously to gain a DBS, which is arranged through the local authority ensuring the volunteer is suitable to work with children. It has been wonderful making stronger links with the local police, who are continuing to try and calm the traffic outside the school, with regular speed watch. Steve O'Connell and Bob Kenward organised and presented the school with new high visibility jackets for the use of the children at school. Thank you for this kind and thoughtful donation.



Heathfield Lights: Huge thanks are extended to the children, staff, and parents who joined us in Heathfield on Friday 22nd November for the annual turning on of the Christmas lights. The afternoon started with a presentation to the children who entered the colouring competition. Well done to Sam who was a runner up for his fantastic colouring! The children then all sang a collection of our school favourite songs, which they did with great confidence.



Decoration morning: Wow! This hosted the most amount of adults supporting the children in their Christmas crafts across the school. It was lovely to see the folding, cutting, sticking alongside the copious amounts of colour and glitter! The staff have very quickly redesigned the school hall display boards to celebrate the wonderful work produced.





The Christmas tree looks amazing! Thank you to Sussex Christmas Trees, at Five Ashes, for donating this to our school, it certainly completes our festive feel in the school hall.

Today has seen another busy opening for our school festive shop; 'Elfridges'! Thank you to Friends for their hard work in providing this wonderful service and we hope you enjoy the little treats that the children chose and purchased.



Elm: One Voice! Wow! This was such a fantastic experience for the year 5 and 6 pupils who travelled to the Del La Warr Pavilion on Tuesday, this week, to come together with other primary schools forming the One Vice concert. The children had all worked hard in school learning a variety of new songs. During the afternoon rehearsal they worked hard to sing as a huge choir of 9 schools under the careful supervision of a conductor and live orchestra. There were also performances from a Glyndebourne Opera singer, the Elite string orchestra and a marching band, this really was a sensational experience. Thank you to the children, staff, and parents who worked hard to make the event happen.

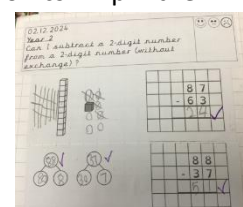


Oak: Federation Carols Once again - this was a very successful Federation event where the children came together to create a spectacular evening performance. The year 3 and 4 children have been learning a catalogue of Christmas songs that were thoroughly enjoyed by a packed audience in the State Hall, Heathfield. The children wowed the audience with their singing and glockenspiel playing of Jingle Bells. Thank you to all of the children, staff, and parents for a lovely traditional celebration of song.

Hazel: Hazel Class have been demonstrating the epitome of our learning power honey bee this week, starting to piece together our Christmas nativity. We have been developing our listening and problem solving skills, taking turns and sharing ideas, reading scripts, singing and improving our acting skills. We cannot wait to share all of our hard work with our friends and families!



We have meet some new characters during phonics – April the angel, Squashy the wasp, Sky the spy and Cody the jellyfish. Their adventures have supported our writing where we have been writing letters, describing ourselves and





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others. We are getting better at choosing the correct sounds for the words we are trying to write now so that we can read it back to ourselves.

In Maths Year 1's have been busy adding, subtracting and comparing numbers and year 2 have had an introduction into using the column method and are starting to think about how we can partition and combine 10s and 1s when we add and subtract.



The children have been having a brilliant time this term learning about the Lyme Regis fossil-hunter, Mary Anning. We have shared the story 'Stone Girl, Bone Girl', written a fact file about Mary Anning's life and discoveries, and enjoyed handling and drawing some real fossils this week. In Art the children have been busy using their collage and painting skills to create dinosaurs for a whole-class dinosaur display.

In Science we have been learning about the basic needs for survival and how different animals and humans meet these needs in different ways. We have been classifying animals using our own criteria, which has been really interesting.



Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas craft morning. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying themselves making their snowmen, gingerbread men, Father Christmas', Rudolph hats and Christmas stockings! Our shepherds have been added to the nativity display boards in the hall and are looking lovely too.



Attendance: Good attendance really helps the pupils in their social, emotional, and academic learning. Please prioritise attendance at school and talk to us if you or your child has any concerns. We ask Nursery parents to inform the school of any absence in line with school policy, to ensure the school attendance records are accurate. Our target as a school is 96%.

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	School overall
Week 4	94	91	97	95	98	94	94	93	96.3
Week 5	93.6	91	99	94.7	100	95	96.3	85.7	96.2



Achievements out of school:

Please send in any achievements that your child has achieved out of school, so we can celebrate their success.

Well done to Sam, who was a runner up in the Heathfield Lights colouring competition.

Stars of the week:

Each week the adults and children reflect on the week and choose a member of the class to receive the 'Star of the week' certificate. These are presented in our celebration assembly every Monday and shared in the fortnightly newsletter.

Week 4 & 5:

Elm: Charlotte Oak: Erin Hazel: Gabe Beech: Christopher Little Punnetts: Effie

Elm: Aphra Oak: Ava Hazel: Bradley Beech: Lenny Little Punnetts: Clementine

Well done everyone! Thank you to everyone for being the best you can be!

C. Kinsella



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All dates are subject to change – more details will follow regarding specifics. Yellow highlight will show new additions from the previous newsletter.

Term & Week	Date	Event
T2 W6	Wednesday 11 th December	Nursery & Reception Christmas performance
	Thursday 12 th December	Save the Children – Christmas Jumper Day
	Friday 13 th December	Y1/2 Wellie walk
	Friday 13 th December	Friends Christmas Fun afternoon followed by Christmas Fair
T2 W7	Tuesday 17 th & Wednesday 18 th December	Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas performance
	Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas lunch day
	Thursday 19 th December	Class Christmas parties – details to follow
	Friday 20 th December	Last day of term
Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January – Christmas holidays		
T3 W1	Monday 6 th January	First day of term 3
	Thursday 9 th January	Whole school pantomime at school - afternoon
T3 W2	Friday 17 th January	Year 2 to visit Young at Heart – details to follow
T3 W3	Wednesday 22 nd January	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics at HCC – details to follow
T3 W4	Tuesday 28 th January	Nursery & Reception wellie walk – details to follow
T3 W5	Wednesday 5 th February	Y5/6 Netball at HCC – details to follow
T3 W6	Thursday 13 th February	Last day of term 3
	Friday 14 th February	INSET – school closed for children
Monday 17th – Friday 21st February – Half term		
T4 W1	Monday 24 th February	INSET – school closed for children
	Tuesday 25 th February	First day of term 4
	Friday 28 th February	Year 1 to visit Young at Heart – details to follow
T4 W2	Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day – details to follow
T4 W3	Wednesday 12 th March	Y5/6 Big Dance at HCC – details to follow
T4 W4	Tuesday 18 th March	CLASS+ Coffee morning at school – details to follow
	Thursday 20 th March	Y2 Little Sing – details to follow
T4 W4/5	Friday 21 st March – Wednesday 26 th March	Book Fair – details to follow
T4 W5	Tuesday 25 th March	Reception to visit Young at Heart – details to follow
	Wednesday 26 th March	Y5/6 Tag Rugby at Heathfield Rugby club – details to follow
	Thursday 27 th March	Cross Country final – runners parents notified
T4 W6	W/C Monday 31 st March	Reports sent to parents in Y1 – Y6
T4	Friday 4 th April	Last day of term 4
Monday 7th - Monday 21st April – Easter holiday		
T5	Tuesday 22 nd April	First day of term 5
T5 W3	Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday – School closed
	Wednesday 7 th May	Y3/4 Tennis at Cross in Hand Tennis club – details to follow
	Thursday 8 th May	VE Day 80 th Anniversary celebrations – details to follow
T5 W4	Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th May	KS2 SATs week



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T5 W5	Tuesday 20 th May	Class photographs
T5	Friday 23 rd May	Last day of term 5
Monday 26th – Friday 30th May – Half term		
T6	Monday 2 nd June	First day of term 6
T6 W3	Friday 20 th June	Sports Day (Reserve date 27.6.24)
T6 W5	W/C Monday 30 th June	Reports sent to parents in Nursery & Reception
T6 W6	Thursday 10 th July	Y5/6 Production
T6 W7	Thursday 17 th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly
T6	Tuesday 22 nd July	Last day of term 6
Wednesday 23 rd July – Thursday 4 th September – Summer holidays		
T1	Thursday 4 th September	First day of term 1