



Hempsted Church of England Primary School October 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parents, Governors and Friends of the School,

Welcome to the October newsletter. The summer seems to be lingering for a few more days and providing plenty of opportunity to get out into our lovely school grounds. There's been loads happening across the school including the first meeting of the School Council, The Friends and the school governors. As always, please do read through everything carefully and make a note of any important dates.



The School Council

We recently held our School Council elections. The School Council consists of a boy and a girl representative from Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6. The Council meets with the head teacher at least once every half-term and is a platform for pupil voice. We discuss issues within school and how we can make things better. Councillors also lead meetings in their classes, where they share the minutes of their meetings and ask their peers for any suggestions they want to take to the school leadership team. The Council also decides on our fundraising activities for the year.



The School Council elections always give us a great opportunity to discuss British values and I enjoyed talking to the children about how laws and decisions are made, and the benefits of living in a democracy.

The children were reminded that the key skills that they should be looking for in their class representatives were speaking and listening skills, so that the class could be confident that their voice would be heard. They were advised not to fall for gimmicks that the candidates might fail to deliver!!

So, amid great excitement, the votes were cast and counted. The results of the election are as follows:

Y3 – Ella and Arthur

Y4 – Jessica and Harlow

Y5 – Laila and George

Y6 – Emelia and Szymon

Well done to the successful candidates!



Class 5 Ukulele Lessons

Class 5 are learning to play the ukulele. We are fortunate to have Mr F-P come into school to teach the whole class every week. He is a very engaging teacher and the children seem to be enjoying this unusual opportunity!!



Harvest Festival

This year's school harvest service is on Monday 23rd October. Unfortunately the church will be closed but Nikki will be coming across to the school to lead the service. As usual, we ask for donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries. These should be brought at the morning drop-off – there will be a collection point on the school drive.

This year we will split the collection between our Hempsted Community Pantry and the Gloucester Foodbank. The rise in people needing foodbanks is startling – between April 2022 and March 2023 there was a 56% increase, and since April this year, demand has gone up by a further 40%.

I thank you in advance for your support with this.

Black History Month

October is traditionally celebrated as Black History Month. We will be using the resources available to research a number of themes that explore the lives of black people in the past and the present. We will consider how we should learn from the past to improve the future for absolutely everyone.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

These will be held after half-term. Please look out for a link on School Money that will take you to the appointment booking page. It is parental choice whether your child attends the meeting with you, but I must stress that they must be supervised by you at all times and not running round the school grounds or building!! Thank you.

Financial Contributions for trips, visitors and other experiences

We are very aware that there has been quite a few requests for money already this school year, and I thought it best to set out what we mean by '**voluntary contribution**'. As a local authority maintained school, the school and the curriculum are provided free of charge to you and your child – we are not allowed to insist on payments to cover the cost of a trip. The only exception to this is extra-curricular clubs, residential trips and other trips (such as the Young Voices trip) that occur outside of the school day.

Therefore we can only request 'voluntary contributions' for school day trips, and opportunities such as the Year 3 and 4 tag rugby programme. We have a wide range of opportunities that enrich our curriculum and give our pupils a better experience of school, but as you will be aware, the cost of these trips is rising.

We are very aware that some of our parents are being impacted by the increasing cost of living and are unable to make these contributions – please be assured that no child will be refused a trip etc because of financial issues – just let us know!

However, the school, like many schools, has serious pressures in its budget too, and we can no longer divert cash to support shortfalls when paying for extra trips, experiences etc. When a proposed trip is not financially viable, we will have to cancel. Therefore, please can I make a request? If you are in a position to pay for a proposed trip, please do so as quickly as possible. If you have an issue with paying, please let us know.

I acknowledge that we can help as well by giving you more notice of things that will cost money and we will try to improve in this area! Teachers have been asked to plan in trips as early as they can, and consider payment plans for the more expensive trips.

Collection Arrangements

If the list of people who are allowed to collect your child from school has changed, please ask the office for a new form. If no form is requested, we will assume that things haven't changed.

Naming Things!

The lost property pile is already growing. Please check that everything is named – if it is and it gets lost, it will find its way back to your child.

Absence

If your child is absent, please ensure that you phone the office on the first morning of your child's absence and on every subsequent day of their absence.

As you should know, I am unable to authorise holiday requests, and absence should only be authorised for exceptional circumstances. If you do need to request an absence in term time, please collect a form from the office, or download the form from the 'Policies and documents' section of the school website.

Is your child entitled to Free School Meals?

Check to see if your child is eligible using the confidential portal available on the County Council website at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

If there is a chance that they might be, please do check EVEN if your child is in the infants and receiving free school dinners. Children who are eligible for free school meals qualify for the Pupil Premium. This gives the school extra funding which can be used to help with uniform costs and school trips. This additional funding continues for 6 more years after their free school eligibility stops. There is much more about this on the back page of this newsletter.

Extra-curricular Opportunities

As you will see below, there are lots of opportunities for the children to participate in being active or just to enjoy.

Name of Club	When	Terms	Year Groups
Young Voices Choir	Friday lunchtimes	Terms 1 ,2 and 3	4 ,5 and 6
Y2 & Y3 Cross Country	Monday before school	Terms 1 & 2	2 and 3
Y4, Y5 & Y6 Cross Country	Friday before school	Terms 1 & 2	4, 5 and 6
Cycle Stars*	Monday after school	All year	2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
Boys Football	Friday after school	Terms 1,2 3 & 4	5 and 6
Fitness & Wellbeing	Tuesday before school	All year	1 and 2
Worship Club	Monday lunchtime	All year	3, 4, 5 and 6
Atlas Multi Sports*	Thursday after school	All year	2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
Gymnastics*	Wednesday after school	All year	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
Fun Science*	Wednesday after school	Term 2	3, 4, 5 and 6
Lego	Monday lunchtime	Terms 2 & 3	5 and 6
Parachute Club	Monday after school	Terms 2 & 3	1 and 2
Country Dancing	Monday after school	Terms 4 & 5	3, 4, 5 and 6
Gardening	Tuesday lunchtime	Terms 4 & 5	3 and 4
Maypole Dancing	Thursday after school	Terms 4 & 5	3 and 4
Secret Garden	Thursday lunchtime	Term 5	3 and 4
Girls Cricket	To be confirmed	Terms 5 & 6	5 and 6
Boys Cricket	To be confirmed	Terms 5 & 6	5 and 6
Quad Kids	To be confirmed	TBC	1, 2, 3 and 4
Sports Hall Athletics	To be confirmed	TBC	1, 2, 5 and 6
Kapla (modelling)	To be confirmed	TBC	3 and 4
WWT Nature Quiz team	To be confirmed	TBC	6

* These clubs incur a charge as they are an outside provider.

All other clubs are free, and I would like to particularly express my thanks to all of the staff who volunteer their time free of charge in order to run clubs across the school.

Hempsted School Cycling Club

*Cycle Stars are pleased to announce they are hosting another term of cycling on **Mondays 3.15 to 4.15pm***

Cycling is available for years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Cycle Stars is a cycle race club, and the school is part of the BSCA league, giving children the opportunity to represent their school in cycle race events.

Joining Cycle Stars, your child will improve bike skills and confidence which will benefit them even if not participating in racing.

No special bikes are required but they need to be in good working order. All activities are on grass, so riders need to be of a reasonable standard and require a correctly fitting helmet.

Term fee £36 – 6 week term. If interested, please email info@cyclestars.co.uk

Team Hempsted

Girls Football

Team Hempsted have been inspired by the amazing success of the Ladies England Football Team and this term we started a Year 2 Girls Football Club. After three Thursday lunchtime training sessions, Team Hempsted took the Class 2 girls to a fun football festival at St Peter's High School. Once there, the Sports Leaders taught the girls new skills and refereed their games. The priority for the morning was to encourage more girls into playing football and most importantly to have fun. The children returned to school with big smiles and participation medals. Thank you to the parents who helped with transport, we really appreciate it.



Gloucester Rugby v Barbarians

Some of you may be aware that the world-famous Barbarians played at Kingsholm on Saturday September 30th as part of their 150th year celebrations.

Team Hempsted were given the opportunity to attend a camp on the afternoon of Wednesday September 27th. The Class 5 and Class 6 children ate their lunch in the stands and afterwards received coaching on the iconic Kingsholm pitch for 40 minutes with a Community Coach and the Barbarian players. They had photo opportunities and then got autographs of the Barbarian players.



Team Hempsted have a long history of being involved with the Gloucester Rugby Community Team and it is so nice rebuilding these connections. Class 3 and Class 4 have been having training sessions every Monday morning with the Community Team and it is great to see so many children playing.

Max said: I really enjoyed it, especially getting to play on the rugby pitch at Kingsholm!

Jack said: I loved it and thought it was nice meeting famous people too!

Violet said: Going onto the pitch was amazing and getting the players signatures was great. The stadium was amazing and I loved playing stuck in the mud, even though the pitch wasn't muddy!

Jesse said: I absolutely loved it!

Fitness Club and Well Being

Fitness Club and Well Being has started up again on a Tuesday morning, It is great to see so many Class 1 and Class 2 children taking part in this before school club. If your child would like to start then please ask at the school Office for a form.

Cross Country

We have over 50 children taking part in the Cross Country Clubs on a Monday and a Friday. Monday's club is for Classes 2 and 3 where they run 1280m. Classes 4, 5 and 6 run on a Friday. Class 4 run 1920m and Classes 5 and 6 run 2560m. This is preparing them for the Cross Country Championships on Wednesday November 15th. Again, if you would like your child to take join this club, please ask at the school Office for a letter.

Admission September 2024

Paper work for primary / infant admission will be posted out by mid November 2023. If you have not received a pack by December you will need to contact Admissions and Transfer Team at Shire Hall Tel: 01452 425407

And finally...

Over the page, there are some dates for the rest of terms 1 & 2, and these include the planned dates for Christmas nativities etc. We will send more details closer to the time.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Waller

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<u>OCTOBER</u>			
Tuesday	17 th		Year 6 trip to WW2 Evacuation Experience at Winchcombe Railway
Monday	23 rd	2.15pm	Harvest Service (in school)
Thursday	26 th	3.15pm	Friends' Non-uniform day (details to follow) End of Term 1
Friday	27 th		INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
<u>NOVEMBER</u>			
Monday	6 th	9am	Start of Term 2 Flu immunisation
Tuesday	7 th		School photographer in school Parent/Teacher Consultations
Wednesday	8 th		Parent/Teacher Consultations
Wednesday	15 th	am	Cross Country Championship
<u>DECEMBER</u>			
Friday	8 th	pm	Friends' Christmas Disco (details to follow)
Tuesday	12 th	9.30am	Reception Nativity (details to follow)
Wednesday	13 th	9.30am	Y1/2 Nativity (details to follow)
Thursday	14 th	9.30am	Y1/2 Nativity (details to follow)
Friday	15 th	am	Whole School trip to the Roses Pantomime
Thursday	21 st	9.30am & 6pm	KS2 Carol Concert (details to follow)
Friday	22 nd	9.30am 2pm	School Christmas Service at St Swithuns Church (staff & pupils only) Christmas Parties End of Term 2


Nancy Bhandal
THE BROW QUEEN
 Permanent Makeup & Beauty

Permanent Hair Stroke Brows
Ombre Brows
PMU Eye Liner
PMU Lip Blush
HD Brows, HD Sculpt Brows
LVL Lash Lift & Tint
Face Threading Treatments
HD Express Brows






Get in touch **07828 185434**
info@nancythebrowqueen.com








The Pupil Premium

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

At Hempsted School, we get an extra £1,455 for the 2023/2024 financial year for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions

Is my child eligible for free school meals and the pupil premium?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Your child might also be eligible if you're in a household with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), subject to a maximum income threshold. This is for children of:

- British National (Overseas) passport holders
- Spousal visa, work visa, or student visa holders
- Those with no immigration status
- Families with a right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights
- Families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- Certain failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

How do I register?

To register, please go Gloucestershire County Website:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>