



Hempsted Church of England Primary School



November 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers and Governors,

Welcome to the November newsletter. The school is a very busy place to be right now, with lots going on, exciting events and lots of learning as well. The first half-term seemed to be a very long one and now we're already planning events to celebrate Christmas. There's quite a lot to catch up on in this newsletter and please make sure you check the calendar of events. We'll start this newsletter with an autumnal story!

Class 4 Making Use Of The Leaves!

Class 4 had fun collecting the fallen autumn leaves to make leaf mould. Each group had a black bag to fill with as many leaves as possible in 10 minutes. The children were amazed how heavy their bags were.

The collected leaves will be stored in the black bag, with some holes and kept moist. The leaves will naturally break down over 12-18 months to reveal a dark brown light compost/mulch, which we can then use in our school garden.



Harvest Service

We had the pleasure of Nikki and Rachel visiting us for this year's Harvest Service. This is because the church is currently closed for some renovation work. I would like to give a big 'thank you' to everyone who donated to our harvest collection. This has been used to stock up the Hempsted Community Pantry, which will help many of our neighbours through the difficult winter months. Please also remember that you can donate at any time to the foodbank.

Charity Fundraising

Last year, the School Council chose to support 'The James Hopkins Trust' and 'Pets as Therapy.' We have recently sent each of these charities cheques for £52.

The School Council are currently talking to their class mates about potential charities to support this year and will be selecting one very soon.

The Poppy Appeal

Still on the theme of charities, this week the School Council has been selling items to help raise funds for the Royal British Legion. Their 'pop up' shop has been extremely popular and we know that we have raised lots of money for the RBL.

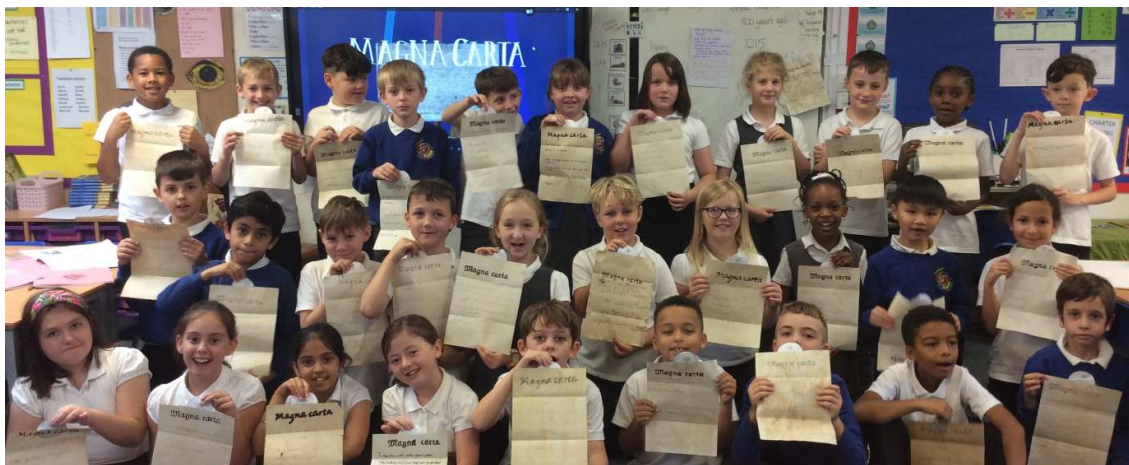


Riotous Royalty

Class 4 are learning about different monarchs who have had an impact on British History.

So far we have studied William the Conqueror and King John. We enjoyed making our own Magna Carta (The Great Charter) that is still part of our English Law today. We had an area of the classroom set up as Runnymede (area near London) to sign and seal each handmade Magna Carta, just like King John did on 12th June 1215.

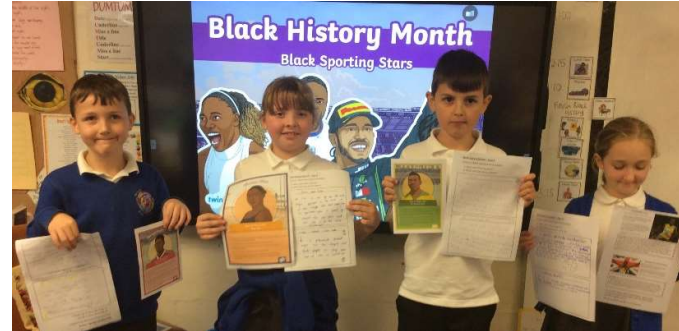
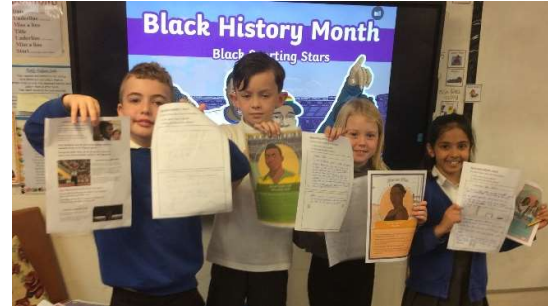
Learning about Henry VIII was a hit, especially singing the Horrible Histories Rap about Henry and his 6 wives. Next is Queen Anne, Queen Victoria and of course our longest reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II.



Black History Month

Before half-term, each class learned about Black History Month. We have designed our curriculum so that children learn about a different aspect of this as they progress through the school.

Class 4 explored the greatness of some Black Sport Personalities over the last two centuries and what they also achieved to help others. This included: Jesse Owens, Mohammed Ali, Pelé, Raheem Sterling MBE, Marcus Rashford MBE, Simone Biles, Sir Mo Farah, Dame Kelly Holmes, Usain Bolt and Sir Lewis Hamilton.



Class 1 learned about the life of Mary Seacole.



To see what other classes learned, please check out the class pages on the school website.

Woolly Mammoths!

Thank you very much for the milk bottles you kindly sent in for Class Three. We have been bringing the woolly mammoth back from extinction!



This fun art project was linked to our history topic on 'Pre-historic Britain'. We are learning about Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age!



Jewellery in School

A reminder that pupils are only permitted to wear a watch and a single pair of small-sized stud earrings. NO HOOPS!! Other jewellery items should not be worn. Earrings must be removed for PE and games lessons. If your child is unable to remove their own earrings, please provide **micropore tape** so that they can be covered for these lessons.

Attendance

School attendance continues to be good. As we enter the winter months, we will see an increase in the normal winter illnesses causing children to be off school. This is unavoidable. However, this is a reminder that holidays must not be booked during term time. It is often a cause of upset to parents when they see 'unauthorised absence' on their child's record so please remember that term time leave can only be authorised in 'exceptional circumstances'. The government defines persistent absence as that of 90% and below which is the

equivalent of a day absent per fortnight. Our school attendance target is 95%+. We will continue to send you your child's attendance record every term.

Illness: Clearly, there are times when children (and staff) are ill and need to stay at home. Please remember to notify the office by 9am on each day of absence. Children need to be **symptom free for 48 hours following sickness and/or diarrhoea. If your child has had a temperature, they should be free of temperature for 24 hours before returning to school.**

School Photographer

The school photographer has already been into school. After the photoshoot, your child was given a QR code to take home. This will allow parents to register online on the photographer's website. You will then receive a notification email when the photos are ready to view. If you don't receive a QR code, let the school office know.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

Thank you to all of you who attended the meetings. It is an ideal opportunity for both teachers and you to share successes, concerns and targets regarding your child's progress. We want to remove any barriers which may prevent individual children from reaching their full potential – an effective dialogue with parents and support at home are always vital.

My School Fund – Please, please, please sign up to this!!

There is still a poor sign up to this fundraising scheme.

It is the easiest way that you can help raise much needed cash for the school. Every time you spend money on your credit/debit card in Sainsburys or Argos, you receive a 2% cashback in the form of an e-voucher that can be redeemed in these stores. The school also receives 1% cashback as well.



Sadly, only 28 parents and staff have registered on this scheme but they, and the staff who have registered, have so far raised £487.80 for the school and received a total of £975.61 back to themselves!! And that is just in the last 10 months. So please, with Sainsburys and Argos so close by, let's really make the most of this opportunity. Register yourself at www.myschoolfund.org and make sure you choose us as your school!!! It's a win-win!!!

Winters on its way – be prepared!

As weather more typical of the season takes hold, please remember to always send your child to school with a coat and, if necessary, a pair of wellies, hat, gloves and a scarf so that they are comfortable at morning and lunchtime plays. This will also help with those more unplanned moments of the school day such as an autumn walk or exploring the first frosts of the season.

This newsletter is always a good opportunity to remind you of our procedures for closure due to adverse weather conditions, which are overleaf.

Hempsted C of E Primary School

Adverse Weather Conditions

On rare occasions in winter, conditions may be hazardous with snow and ice. A decision will be made by the Senior Leadership Team, based on local conditions and whether it is safe to open the school. This will take into account conditions within school grounds **and** the local area. Consideration also must be given to the safety of staff travelling from further distances.



If in doubt:

- Check your phone for a text from us
- Consult the council website - <https://closures.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>
- Listen to local radio bulletins
- Consider possibilities for child care

As a very last resort, ring school, but please delay your call until after 8am.

We will open as long as it is safe to do so **and** we are confident that sufficient staff will be in school. We appreciate a sudden school closure is extremely disruptive for working parents. However, always make sure that you have a contingency plan for child care should a class or the school close.

If we are not opening this will be posted on the school and council website, a text will be sent to the priority mobile that we have for you and the closure will be stated on local radio bulletins.

If the weather deteriorates during the day

- School **will** be kept open until the last child has left the premises.
- Only in extreme circumstances would school close and a pupil **would never** be sent home without a parent/carer.
- If the weather is severe parents may contact the school if they feel that they would like to collect their child early for safety reasons (i.e. travelling/walking long distances or collecting children from other closed schools). Children will not be let out during the final 15 minutes of the day.

School Money

Bookings can now be made for **School Lunches** and **Breakfast and After School Club** up until Friday 2nd February - early booking is appreciated. Any problems please contact the Office.

CaterCater will be serving the **Christmas lunch** on **Tuesday 19th December** at a cost of **£2.60**, (no charge for Reception, Class 1, Class 2 or FSM pupils). Packed lunches will still be available on this day (normal charge).

Friday 15th December – no hot meals available but packed lunches can be ordered.

WHO'S WHO 2023/24

Chair of Governors

Mr B Nash

Head Teacher

Mr R Waller - Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Deputy Head Teacher

Mr J Davis - Deputy DSL

Performance Management; Year 5 Class Teacher; Maths

Assistant Head

Mrs A Middleton (0.6) –Performance Management (LSWs)
SENDCo; Deputy DSL; Pastoral Care

TEACHING STAFF WITH RESPONSIBILITIES

Reception

Miss P Quick – EYFS Coordinator

Year One

Mrs N Bickerton – Science

Year Two

Miss N Hughes (0.4) – Music; Mrs N Chater (0.6) – Reading Lead

Year Three

Mrs S Price – Geography, Design & Technology

Year Four

Mrs S Knight (0.4) – History; Mrs L Hill (0.6) - RE

Year Five

Mr J Davis – Deputy Head, KS2 Leader, Maths

Year Six

Mrs J Boulton – Art, Writing Lead, KS2/3 Transition

PPA Cover

Miss D Price - Computing, Modern Foreign Languages and Music support
Mrs Cowley

SUPPORT STAFF

Administration

Mrs D Beddall – School Administrator

Mrs H Bircher – Finance Officer

Pastoral Lead

Mrs K Subryan (Deputy DSL; HLTA)

Clerk to Governors

Ms J Crandon

Learning Support

Key Stage One - Miss J Brooks, Mrs J Shephard, Mrs F Moosajee, Mrs M Woodridge,
Miss M Rodway (maternity leave), Mrs S Jones, Mrs N Vaughan, Mrs I
Jones, Mrs P Joshi

Key Stage Two - Mrs J Dickson, Mrs J Wilkinson, Mrs J Bassett (Sport Co-ord; HLTA)
Mrs H Stephens, Mrs J King, Mrs R Thompson, Mrs S Gardner, Mrs A
Mooney

IT Technician

Gloucestershire County Council

Catering – Cater Cater Ltd

Lunchtime Supervision

– Miss K Farmer, Miss H Muggleton, Mrs M Rigby, Mrs M Yates,
Mrs E Murphy, Mrs P Joshi, Mrs I Jones

Caretaker – Mr G Read

Cleaners - Minster Cleaning

Breakfast & After School Club –

Miss J Brooks, Mrs S Gardner, Mrs M Yates, Miss L Falwasser

Additional Sports Coaches – Atlas Sports

Chair of the Friends – Mrs R O'Neil

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER			
Wednesday	15 th	am	Cross Country Championship
DECEMBER			
Friday	8 th		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
Tuesday	19 th		Christmas Lunch – please order on School Money
Thursday	21 st	9.30am & 6pm	KS2 Carol Service (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
JANUARY 2024			
Monday	8 th	9am	Start of Term 3


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**
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