



# Hempsted Church of England Primary School

## December 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parents, Governors and Friends of the School,

Welcome to the December newsletter. The weather has become a bit colder and the days are now noticeably shorter. However, things are certainly warming up inside the school as the festive season draws nearer. It does feel like an extremely long term – I have been a teacher for 25 years and I don't ever recall schools being open on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December!!! I would imagine that by then, the mixture of excited children, coughs/colds, Christmas parties, nativities and teaching the curriculum, will see the staff and pupils all ready for a break!!!

### **Children in Need**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the annual Children in Need appeal through the school. We raised a very impressive £170.25. Thank you!

### **Parachute Club**

I'm always a bit wary when I let Mrs Jones and Mrs Wilkinson loose on running an after-school club and now I know why. Apparently, the picture below was taken at 'Parachute Club'. I can't see any evidence of a parachute in the picture below, but there does seem to be a snowball fight taking place inside the school!!! Honestly!!

It's a fantastic photo though which I just had to share with you.



## Staffing News

It is not very often that I have to do this but I need to make you aware that after almost 10 years, Mrs Lucie Hill (Y4 class teacher) will be leaving Hempsted after the February half-term. After much consideration, Lucie has accepted the offer of a position as Senior Children's Pastor at her local church in Cheltenham, which has around 200 children regularly attending, so this will be a busy job!! It also seems like a natural next step which she is very excited about. Lucie is saddened to leave the children mid-way through the academic year, but has requested that she comes back for their residential in March!!

This is the first time in over 5 years that we have had to recruit a teacher to the Hempsted team, so over the next few weeks we are undertaking a careful recruitment process to find a great teacher to teach Year 4.

Some good news to share though...Miss Rodway (Y2 teaching assistant) gave birth to a beautiful baby girl called Isabella. Both mum and baby are doing well!

I'd also like to welcome some new staff onto the team. Mrs Issy Jones joins us as a teaching assistant in Year 2, covering parts of Miss Rodway's maternity leave; Mrs Nicola Vaughan is also working as a teaching assistant in Reception class.

## School Charity

After much careful deliberation, the School Council have selected the school charity for this year. Having taken ideas from their classes, they have chosen 'Charlie's'. This is a local charity that was founded by the aunt of one of our pupils. It provides support for people who have been diagnosed with cancer, and this support includes children and young people. We look forward to helping them provide this fantastic service.



Charlie's

## Christmas

As I write, the sound of singing reverberates around the school as our infants start to learn the songs for their Christmas nativities.

The juniors will be holding two carol services on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December and parents should have received a letter about tickets already. Space is very limited in the church so it is important that you respond to that letter straight away.

Don't forget to book Christmas lunch on 19<sup>th</sup> December if needed!!

## Christmas Jumpers

It is a tradition now that the children wear a Christmas jumper on the last day of term. We would still like the children to wear school skirts/trousers and school shoes, but simply swap their school jumper for a Christmas jumper.

If your child would like to wear their Christmas jumper on the last day, please could we request a small donation of 50p or £1 to go towards the school's chosen charity which is 'Charlie's'.



## **Christmas Service**

Our Christmas Service for the pupils will be held at 9.30am on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. This is for children and staff only and will be led by Nikki and Rachel.

## **Christmas Parties on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

The children's class parties will be on the final day of term. We are extremely thankful to Cater Cater Ltd for once again providing all of the pupils with a party buffet. Therefore, you will not need to send your child with lunch as it will be provided. This is very generous of the company – thank you!!

## **Christmas Fair - Saturday 9 December 12noon to 4pm in the Lysons Hall**

I would like to make you aware of the Christmas Fair this weekend: *Local craft stalls include: Illuminations, handmade ceramics, wreath/table arrangements, decorations (pompom style), scarfs & gloves (knitwear), bric & brac, lucky dip, wrapped sweets, decorate a biscuit, name the teddy bear, guess the weight of the cake and how many sweets in the jar along with a raffle and refreshments tea/coffee/hot chocolate/winter punch/apple juice and not forgetting seasonal biscuits, mincepies and cake. For further information contact Debbie Hotchkins 0786 674 7844 / [debbie.hotchkins@btinternet.com](mailto:debbie.hotchkins@btinternet.com) - All welcome and funds raised will go towards church funds.*

## **Team Hempsted Sports**

### **Cross Country**

Team Hempsted had an amazing and very successful November in various sports. On 15<sup>th</sup> November we took an incredible 58 runners to take part in the District Cross Country Championships. This is the most amount of children that we have taken to this event. It was great to see that every child that has been attending the Cross Country Clubs took part in the event. It was exciting from start to finish as we were transported on a double decker bus. Some children had never been on a bus and some not on a double decker. They loved it.

The children were amazing throughout the day and ran their socks off!

Notable performances were:

Year 2 boys: Aari (4<sup>th</sup>) & Jacob (6<sup>th</sup>)

Year 2 girls: Rose (4<sup>th</sup>)

Year 3 boys: Arthur (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Year 3 girls: Emilia (1<sup>st</sup>)

Year 4 girls: Emilia (5<sup>th</sup>) - Emilia from Year 3 only ran in this race as they were short of a team member!!



Year 5 girls: Violet (10<sup>th</sup>)

Year 6 girls: Emelia (1<sup>st</sup>)

Year 6 boys: Huzzy (2<sup>nd</sup>); also qualified Reggie and Olly!

All of the Year 4, 5 and 6 children who placed in their races qualify for the county trials. Well done them.



Also our thanks go to the Year 6 children for buddying up with the Year 2's, encouraging them to do their best!!

Also a big 'thank you' to Mrs Knight, Mrs Yates, Mrs Shephard, Mr Rudland and Mrs Rudland-Beck, Mrs Brannigan, Mrs Young and Mr Ballinger, it wouldn't have ran as smoothly without you!

I'd also like to thank Mrs Brannigan, Mrs Young, Mrs Shepherd and Mr Rudland for helping me with the Cross Country Clubs on Monday and Fridays, giving up their own time and even running with the children. Thank you so much from Team Hempsted.

### Panathlon Swimming

The Panathlon Swimming squad had an amazing week starting with the District Inter School Swimming gala. Once again they did Team Hempsted proud and came home with the gold medals coming 1<sup>st</sup> overall. These children, having won the District gala the previous year were asked to represent Gloucestershire at the National Panathlon Swimming Gala swimming at the Olympic Aquatics Centre in London. This was a very early start leaving Hempsted at 6:45am on the Thursday morning. The facilities at the National Aquatics Centre are amazing and we got to see the Team GB diving squad practice. The team performed amazingly in both the individual races and the team races. The children came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. **This made them 3<sup>rd</sup> in England, what an achievement!** Well done Team Hempsted.



After the gala the children walked over to the ArcelorMittal Orbit Olympic Slide where they ate their lunch at the view point on the top of the slide. Then they had the opportunity to go down the slide. This is the world's longest tunnel slide. 178m long with 12 twists and turns and an exciting corkscrew section. It was great to see some of the children overcome their fears and once they had gone down once went down a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. We finally arrived home late in the evening but it had been such an enjoyable day for everyone. Thank you to the parents for allowing your child to experience this.

Douglas in Class 6 said:

*I found the national kids' swimming gala and the other two galas I competed in beforehand undoubtedly fun, exciting and satisfying to take part in. I may never have come across the Panathlon Swim Challenge if my school hadn't*



*invited me to a swimming gala in the Spring of 2022. I couldn't have enjoyed it more. Everyone got participation medals, but some schools competing got bronze, silver or gold medals. The school I go to came first, which came as a shock to me since I'm not the quickest of young swimmers, but I suppose teamwork played a part in it. The various races included a relay, 25m freestyle and 10m with a float. There was something for everyone, from kids who could barely swim 10m unaided to those like me, who consider 25m a simple task. That led me to going to a second swim gala, and the next day the national primary schools swimming competition/gala. We represented all of Gloucestershire (and came third out of all the primary schools in England)!*



*Overall, I really enjoyed the whole experience; the train journeys to and from London, the actual swimming, the games, the races, all of it.*

### **Gymnastics**

Today, we have our very first gymnastics competition taking part at St Peter's School. The Year 3 and 4 children have been practicing so hard with coach Joe Willis. Good luck to Imogen, Josh, Arthur, Jaycey, Emilia and Jemima. Thank you to Mr O'Neil for transporting the children and to Mrs Yates supervising the children. And not forgetting a big thank you to Joe Willis who coaches our children in school and in his after school club.

## Santa Run

This Friday is National Schools Santa Run day and Team Hempsted have 53 children from the Cross Country clubs taking part. The children can wear a Christmas hat, Christmas jumper or Christmas fancy dress. It's going to be amazing to watch, so parents, please come along and support your child. It all starts at 8:20am.

### **And finally...**

The Christmas post box will be available to the children from Monday. If your child would like to send a Christmas card to someone in the school, they may post it in the special Christmas postbox in the school!! Please make sure that they write the name and year group on the envelope.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'R. Waller'.

Mr R. Waller

Head Teacher

### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b><u>DECEMBER</u></b>			
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup>	8.20am	Cross Country Club 'Santa Fun Run' Friends' Christmas Disco
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Reception Nativity
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Y1/2 Nativity
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Y1/2 Nativity
Friday	15 <sup>th</sup>	am	Whole School trip to the Roses Pantomime
Tuesday	19 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Lunch – please order on School Money
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am & 6pm	KS2 Carol Services
Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am  <b>2pm</b>	School Christmas Service at St Swithuns Church (staff & pupils only) Christmas Parties End of Term 2
<b><u>JANUARY</u></b> <b><u>2024</u></b>			
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup>	9am	Start of Term 3

***Don't forget that school finishes at 2pm on the last day. We return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.***

COME AND JOIN US FOR SOME FESTIVE TREATS

# CHRISTMAS FAIR

Lysons Hall Hempsted GL2 5LH  
Saturday 9th December  
12noon to 4pm



Local craft stalls inc. Elluminations, handmade ceramics, flower arrangements, cakes & local produce, and more. Lucky dip, wrapped sweets, decorate a biscuit, name the teddy bear, guess the weight of the cake and guess how many sweets along with a Raffle. Refreshments tea / coffee / hot chocolate / winter punch / apple juice and not forgetting mince-pies and seasonal biscuits

For further information contact  
Debbie Hotchkins: 0786 674 7844 / [debbie.hotchkins@btinternet.com](mailto:debbie.hotchkins@btinternet.com)

All money raised for our historic churches St. Swithun's Parish of Hempsted with St Mary de Lode & St Mary de Crypt

There's still a few spaces at the  
KS2 Fun Science club. You can  
book these via  
<https://tinyurl.com/2ndhempks2>

**HEMPSTED C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS**  
**2024/25**



SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER							
Mon		9	16	23	30	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	4	11	18	25		
Tues		10	17	24		Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues	5	12	19	26	
Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thur	5	12	19	26		Thur	3	10	17	24	31	Thur	7	14	21	28	
Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18		Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat	7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	3	10	17	24	
DECEMBER					JANUARY					FEBRUARY							
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24		
Tues	3	10	17	24	31	Tues	7	14	21	28	Tues	4	11	18	25		
Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thur	5	12	19	26		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur	6	13	20	27	
Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	
MARCH					APRIL					MAY							
Mon	3	10	17	24	31	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	5	12	19	26		
Tues	4	11	18	25		Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues	6	13	20	27	
Wed	5	12	19	26		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	7	14	21	28	
Thur	6	13	20	27		Thur	3	10	17	24		Thur	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	7	14	21	28		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	4	11	18	25	
JUNE					JULY					AUGUST							
Mon		9	16	23	30	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	4	11	18	25		
Tues	3	10	17	24		Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues	5	12	19	26	
Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thur	5	12	19	26		Thur	3	10	17	24	31	Thur	7	14	21	28	
Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	3	10	17	24	31

Term Time	Holidays
Bank Holiday	INSET
Term 1: Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept – Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2024	40 days
Term 2: Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2024	35 days
Term 3: Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025	30 days
Term 4: Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2025	35 days
Term 5: Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	19 days
Term 6: Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> June – Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	36 days
<b>Total</b>	<b>195 days*</b>

  

Christmas Bank Holidays	25 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
	26 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
New Year Bank Holiday	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025
Good Friday	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Easter Monday	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025
Early May Bank Holiday	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Spring Bank Holiday	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Summer Bank Holiday	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2025

\*195 days are defined as "School days". In the school year 2024/25 pupils must attend for 190 days. Schools may decide individually or collectively which 5 days in the year are INSET or non-contact days (days pupils do not need to attend).