



HEMPSTED CHURCH of ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER



"Growing Together in God's Love"

Dear Parents, Governors and Friends of the School,

Welcome to the March newsletter. It's fair to say that this term has been jam-packed with activities and events, both in and out of school. There's been special trips, visitors, sponsored events, theme weeks, prayer days to name but a few. And there's still more to come before we break up for Easter. There's the Y4 residential, two weeks of swimming lessons, a mock trial, cycle training and the Easter service. Please ensure you read through the newsletter, including the dates at the end for the events that affect your child. As always, please check the darkest corner of your child's bag as there's very often a missing letter lurking in there!!

Young Voices

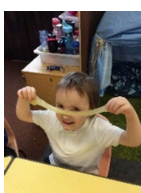
On Thursday 22nd February, our Young Voices Choir attended the Young Voices Concert at the Resorts World Arena. Our choir consisted of 44 children from Years 4, 5 and 6 and they combined with children from all over the region into a massed choir of just under 6000!!! They had been practising for many weeks and the concert is the culmination of a lot of hard work and dedication. I'm sure that the parents who attended in the audience will agree, it is actually hard to capture in words what an incredible experience this is for everyone who takes part. I'd like to thank Miss Hughes and Miss Price for organising this, and also Mrs Wilkinson and Mrs Yates who accompanied us on the trip. The children were outstanding, in terms of their effort and enthusiasm, as well as being a pleasure to be with for the whole day and evening!!



We got a photo with Urban Strides!

STEM Theme Week

We all had a fabulous STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) week last week! The week started with a vertical day, where the children were able to work in their houses with other children from Reception through to Y6 to launch our theme for the week: 1001 Inventions- The Golden Age of Islamic Inventors. All the children carried out some exciting activities: testing rocket balloons, paper aeroplane challenges, constructing constellations, learning about the stars and the art of calligraphy. During the rest of the week, the children were involved in lots of other exciting STEM activities within their classrooms to learn about the important discoveries of these early scientists and mathematicians, who influenced STEM as we know it today!



Reception learnt about the difference between solids and liquids. We had great fun making slime and learnt that it was neither a solid or a liquid and that it was called a non-newtonian fluid! The children all mixed their own slime, observing how the mixture changed consistency when adding different chemicals. Another highlight was building 3D structures using spaghetti and marshmallows.

In Year 1 and 2, the children learnt about a famous Islamic scientist, Ziryab who created an early toothpaste. We had great fun making and tasting our own toothpaste, although we didn't like it much! We read some of the 1001 Arabian Nights stories and we designed and made magic carpets. The challenge was to use magnets to make them fly. We also became tent designers and builders and tested materials to see which ones would make the best waterproof material for a tent. We also enjoyed STEM bridge building challenges inspired by the world's oldest bridge, which can be found in Iraq.



In Year 3, the children were scientists investigating the function of a stem in a plant. They put two carnations in jars containing water with food dye and then were amazed to see the flowers changing colour. They had a go creating Islamic geometric designs by creating shapes within circles. They also were set the challenge to turn a single sheet of paper into a bridge spanning 20cm which was able to hold weight.



STEM week in Year 4 was exciting! We explored that the first known toothpaste was invented in North Africa by the Ancient Egyptians as early as 5000 BC. We then created our own toothpaste recipe. We needed to decide which ingredients were abrasive to brush off the plaque and then added flavour and liquid to create a paste. We then compared it to other toothpaste brands to see which toothpaste could brush off a stain better. In



Year 4, we also made Aqueducts. These types of systems to move water were used in Ancient Persia, India and Egypt. We poured water onto our aqueducts to see if they transported water. Other STEM activities we did were: origami jumping frogs; discovering oxygen experiment and designing Islamic tiles.

In Y5 and Y6 we talked about wind power and used our own puff to create balloon rockets. The children had to work out how to move a balloon along a piece of string without touching it. They worked out they had to blow it up, attach it to a straw with tape, feed the string through the straw then let the balloon go!! Great fun was had by all.



Year 5 also had a great time completing an engineering challenge, a maths challenge and investigating Islamic patterns. We had a great time building windmills that could lift objects off the floor and building bridges from paper. Some of the bridges could hold over 7kgs!

Keep a look out on the Class pages for some more STEM week photos!

Prayer Day

On February 9th 2024 we held a Prayer Day at school. It involved all of the classes and many volunteers from our local community. There were 14 stations, including: 'Community' – ideas for helping to write a Hempsted School Prayer; 'Thankyou' – making something we are thankful for with Playdo; 'Big Questions' - writing one question they would ask God; 'Forgiveness' – putting a fizzy tablet in a bowl of water and watching the hurt fizz away; 'Social Justice' – Fairtrade, using Tony's chocolate; 'Friendship' – looking at fruits of the spirit and relating them to a friend; 'Awe and Wonder' – plasma balls and many others. The Year 6 children had their special time and then supported the Reception children and the same with Year 4 supporting the Year 1 children. The day had a lovely sense of calm and togetherness, with children looking out for, and supporting, each other. There was a 'buzz' of activity where everyone was engaged in the tasks.

At the end of the day children invited parents in to share the experience. We had an amazing response to this, the largest set of parents the organiser had ever seen! A big thankyou to Mrs Hill and Mrs Gill Heron for organising the day; the volunteers who gave up their time to help and to the children, staff and parents who came to share the experience.



Primary Admission

The Local Authority will inform parents about primary school allocation on Tuesday 16th April. Please note we have no part to play in this process.

Swimming Lessons

If you've been up on school site, you will have noticed that the swimming pool has now arrived. Swimming is a compulsory part of the school curriculum, but more importantly, is a crucial life skill. Hempsted is close to several waterways and it is important that the children become confident in the water. Unfortunately, many of the local pools no longer offer school swimming lessons so we are lucky in that we have secured the services of Elite Swimming and their pool. As you know, this does come at a cost to the school, so I am grateful that the vast majority of parents support us with this. If you haven't yet paid for your child's lessons, please can I ask that you do so by Monday 11th March. Thank you!!

Medical Updates

If your child is ever diagnosed with a longer term medical condition, such as asthma, it is important that you let the school office know. We can then update our records with this information.

School Uniform

The School Council have asked me to send out a reminder about school uniform. They believe it is important that everyone wears the proper items. Our uniform is as follows:

- Grey/black trousers, shorts, skirt or grey pinafore; white shirt/blouse or polo shirt. In the summer term, a blue & white striped or checked dress may be worn.
- School jumpers (round or v-neck) or cardigan with school logo.
- Plain white, grey or black socks or tights.
- Sensible school shoes (preferably black) which can have polish applied - **no trainers please.**
- White T-shirts, white or black shorts and daps for P.E.
- Draw string bag for P.E. clothes.
- Book bag with school logo.

Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)

Gloucestershire County Council is again providing families in receipt of Free School Meals, the opportunity to apply for a £15 food voucher per child for Easter, and a further £15 voucher for May half-term. For further information, and to apply, visit: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/> Please note that you must have registered for Free School Meals before you can claim the holiday meal vouchers. This can be done on the same link.

And finally...

Don't forget that, for the first time ever, there is a holiday club at Hempsted during Easter. We hope that if you need holiday childcare, you choose to use Kiki's Kidz which will be based in the school. If this is a success, then the plan is for this to be available every half-term, 4 weeks of the summer holidays and at Easter. Visit <https://www.kikiskidz.co.uk/> for more information and to book.

Thank you for your continued support!

Yours sincerely



Mr Waller

Head Teacher

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH			
Monday 11 th			Easter Hamper donations
Monday – Friday	11 th to 15 th		Swimming Lessons (Key Stage 2)
Wednesday & Friday	13 th & 15 th		Year 5 Bike Servicing (details to follow)
Monday – Friday	18 th to 22 nd		Swimming Lessons (Reception & Key Stage 1)
Monday	18 th	10am	Year 4 depart for Wilderness residential Year 5 Bikeability course begins
Wednesday	20 th	2.30pm 3.15pm	Year 4 return from residential Easter Hamper raffle
Thursday	21 st	am	Year 6 'Mock Trials' at Skillzone
Friday	22 nd	9.30am 2pm	Easter Service at St Swithun's Church (pupils/staff only) End of Term 4
APRIL			
Monday	8 th	9am	Start of Term 5
Tuesday	9 th	10am	School Council visiting 'Charlies'
Tuesday	16 th		Reception 2024 allocation day
Monday	22 nd		Reception and Year 6 height/weight checks
Friday	26 th	9.10am	Year 4 class assembly Year 5 trip to Skillzone (details to follow)