



Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

February 19th, 2023

Diary Dates

Changes in red

February

27th School re-opens
28th NEU Strike day

March

2nd World Book Day
6th Fairtrade week
District Cross Country
17th Red Nose Day
20-22nd Y3 Birch residential
22-24th Y3 Hazel residential
30th Silent disco

April

1st Spring break
17th INSET (pupils not in)
18th School re-opens
World Science week
21st *Wind in the Willows*
24-26th Y5 residential

May

1st May Bank Holiday
8th Bank Holiday for King's
Coronation (sch closed)
9-12th Y6 SATs
27th Half-term break

June

5th School re-opens
Y6 residential
12th Y1 Phonics check wk
Y4 Times Tables wk
20th Class photos (YN, 1-5)
22nd Infant Sports (am)
28-30th Y4 residential

July

4th YR New starters eve
5th *The Lion King* show
6th Junior Sports (am)
The Lion King show
11-13th Parents' Evenings
19th Y6 Leavers' show
20th Pupils' last day
21st INSET (pupils not in)

September

4th INSET (pupils not in)
5th School re-opens

Another busy half term has quickly passed, packed with events in the arts, sport, pupil council activity and much more: read on for a summary of these, and details of some exciting upcoming initiatives.

World Book Day

World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday, March 2nd. With a bedtime story theme, pupils are invited to come to school in pyjamas on that day, and will listen to stories from various members of staff. There will also be a text focus for the day, using stories which raise awareness of environmental and eco issues.

Free Audiobooks

The World Book Day organisers are also sharing free audiobooks as part of the celebration, via the Yoto app. These are a great way to get children interested in listening to stories – to find out more, click [HERE](#).

Local Libraries

If not already a member, half term would be a great time for your child to join the local public library. It's free to join, and CWAC Libraries are putting on special events over the holiday, which you can see at [Library events](#) (over half term is Toys and Games week at Storyhouse, for example). After half term, the libraries will be offering swaps of the World Book Day vouchers for the £1 books (from Saturday 4th March). Click [HERE](#) for more information.



Mental Health Initiatives

Following on from various activities in school during Children's Mental Health Week, we are delighted to announce that from next half term we will be introducing myHappyMind, a programme backed by the NHS and designed for schools to support the mental and emotional well-being of children. All pupils will receive regular, interactive sessions in class which aim to help them understand how their brain works and support them in developing positive skills and habits to be their very best selves.



Resources for parents

To further embed this learning, and ensure that you are able to engage in these topics with your child, myHappyMind has developed a set of resources for parents. These can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The resources allow children to practise some of the habits taught at school, such as happy breathing, for you to support them in their learning. Also included are activities for you to do together at home, to complement the lessons in school.



To access these materials just click [HERE](#) and enter:

your name, email, and our authentication code (sent to parents 19.02.23).

If you have any technical questions about accessing the resources, please contact hello@myHappyMind.org

We really encourage you to make use of this free content so that you can support your child. If you have any questions about myHappyMind, please contact our SENDCo, Mrs. Kirkness, via sendco@huntington.cheshire.sch.uk.

Behaviour Awards

The winners of the KS2 individual behaviour prizes for the last half term were as below, all receiving vouchers. Well done to all the other children who have demonstrated excellent behaviour during this period.

Y3 Birch: Louis Jeffs	Y3 Hazel: Simon High
Y4 Hawthorn: Gabrielle Morris	Y4 Lime: Ben Tong
Y5 Larch: Alessia Poddana	Y5 Rowan: Ruby Gibson
Y6 Alder: George Xiong	Y6 Sycamore: Charlie Maggs

Golden Table

Congratulations to the children who received Golden Tickets for their behaviour at lunchtime over the past half-term, and were rewarded with a seat at the Golden Table on the last day of the half term (some shown below).



Sport

Our Year 6 netball team reached the final of the Chester area SSP tournament, held recently at Blacon High. Their super teamwork and determination were praised by the organisers, and they performed well against an experienced Queen's School team in the final – well done to them all, and to their coach Miss Avery.

The squad were: Josh Banister, Harriet Buckley, Evie Holgate-Stedmans, Millie Jeffs, Charlie Maggs, Tom Pritchard and Bailey Renshaw.

Four pupils from Year 4 (Olivia Evans, Maisie Gamble, Emilia Hughes and Annie Knights) also took part in a netball festival at the same venue, supported by Mrs Knights and Mrs Arnott, and enjoyed further developing their skills alongside pupils from other schools.

A very special thank you to Mrs Knights, who has provided complete sets of netball kit for the school, adorned with the school logo – the children felt very proud wearing it!



Netball team – Chester runners-up!

Both our boys and girls football teams have played cup matches since Christmas, with the girls through to the third round of their competition. The girls also began their postponed league campaign with two wins, and the boys drew 0-0 away against the league leaders in their group.

Huntington also competed in the district Sportshall Athletics competition in January, finishing a very creditable 5th out of the 21 schools that took part across the four sessions – congratulations to the whole squad.

Diary changes: Junior Sports and Y4 Residential

Following cancellation of the Y4 residential visit to Lakeside by the provider, we have managed to arrange an alternative visit for the Y4 children, to a PGL centre in Shropshire. However, at this late notice there was no choice of date, and this clashes with the previously publicised date for the Junior Sports morning. This has therefore been moved to July 6th, so that Y4 pupils can still take part, with the Y4 residential taking place June 28-30th (see red text in *Diary Dates* section on the first page). Dates have also been added for the Musical Theatre Club's performances of *The Lion King* (July 5/6th).

Staffing

Mrs Morgan, one of our longest-serving members of staff, has been successful in gaining a post at Christleton High School as a teaching assistant – where she will no doubt see many familiar faces! Gifts were presented and farewells said in our assembly on Friday – we wish her the very best in her new role.

Pupil Councils

School Council members have been working hard of late. They have delivered assemblies to the whole school to explain revamped dinner hall rules and the need for table manners, and have made posters to reinforce the messages which have been placed around the hall. They are also arranging a fundraiser for school: a silent disco to be held on Thursday, March 30th (following last year's enjoyable event).

Digital Leaders

Our Digital Leaders have met regularly with Mrs Jones and Mrs Osholaja, and have begun assisting infant pupils with their digital skills during weekly sessions. They have also organised an online safety competition in connection with Internet Safety Day, with the winners to be announced after the half-term break.

Eco Council

Eco Councillors have met with Miss Groves to make arrangements for Fairtrade week (commencing March 6th). In addition to activities within school, the pupils will be running a Fairtrade stall after school on Thurs/Fri March 9/10th, in connection with the Chester Fairtrade shop (Wesley Church Centre) – a proportion of the sales will go to school funds.



Musical Experiences

Members of the Musical Theatre Club enjoyed an unforgettable evening when they saw a performance of *The Lion King* at the Palace Theatre in Manchester recently. The visit, organised by club lead Miss Bunning, included meeting members of the cast (Simba, Banzai and Timon) in a special after-show session – all fantastic preparation for the club's own presentation of the production in the summer term.



Another amazing arts experience awaited members of the school choir, who took part in the mammoth musical festival that is Young Voices, at the AO Arena in Manchester. Prepared for the event by Mrs Caldecott, the children enjoyed singing a range of popular songs with thousands of other school children and a professional band, including famous vocalist Heather Small. Videos from the show are available on our Twitter feed (Feb 1st).



CWAC School Year Consultation (Sep 2024 onwards)

Cheshire West and Chester Council are consulting to vary the Standardised School Year. The Consultation period runs from 15 February 2023 until 3 May 2023. All feedback received during the consultation period will be considered and used to formalise any variations to the standardised school year. If the variations are adopted, the proposed implementation date will be Academic Year September 2024 and onwards.

Details of this consultation can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

Three explanatory documents have also been uploaded to the school website, on the page *Parents, Term & Holiday Dates, CWAC dates* (these comprise a covering letter, the consultation document itself, and some FAQs). Please make your views known via this public consultation.

School uniform update

The school's uniform policy has been formalised and updated, in line with the latest DfE guidance (including gender and cost advice), and is available online [HERE](#) (website: *Information, Policies*).

Bearing in mind DfE cost guidance and the current economic climate, we have removed the requirement for any uniform to be branded (badged), although we would prefer the sweatshirt/cardigan to feature the school badge. There is no change in the uniform colours specified – please follow this guidance, and note that the school PE dress code should be followed (including that club strips are not acceptable).

The previously specified requirement regarding footwear should be observed, please - sensible, plain black shoes, not trainers or boots (except on PE days). There will be a grace period until after the Spring break before this will be monitored and any transgressions brought to parents/carers' attention.

The only immediate change we would like everyone to follow is that, while we will continue to let children come to school on PE days in their PE kit (including trainers), **we would like all pupils to wear their red sweatshirt/cardigan over the top of their PE T-shirt during the school day** (tracksuit tops can still be brought to school on PE days to wear for outdoor sessions, either worn over the red top for removal in class, or in a bag).

Request for civil communication

While we recognise that parents/carers may of course have concerns at times, we would ask that all communication with the school, whether verbal or in print, recognises the need for civil communication, without threats, intimidation or antagonistic language. While the vast majority of parents recognise this, there have been instances of emails received (especially ones sent late at night) which would have benefited from a less confrontational tone. Our staff work very hard to support your children, and are always happy to speak to you to discuss issues that may arise from time to time: a face to face meeting or phone call is generally a better forum to address concerns amicably, rather than trying to tackle emotive issues via written messages. Your assistance in this is much appreciated.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Parking/Drop-off

While the drop-off system is generally working well at present, several cars have been observed stopping (or actually parking) on the roundabout near the internal gates. This is very dangerous, both for the children in the vehicle and other road users: please use the drop-off zone instead, as is intended.

We have also received communication from a local resident, concerned at the congestion and double-parking near the Co-op, and also damage to the grass verges near the layby. Please park with consideration for the local community.

In addition to the parent that I telephoned personally, I would also like to thank all those who assisted the injured cyclist outside the school last week, and everyone for managing any potential distress for their own children by shielding the scene from view and taking alternative routes. Many thanks to you all.

Road Safety Developments

The accident on the roundabout immediately outside school has reinforced the need for improved safety measures in the vicinity, the need for which we have already stressed to CWAC, alongside the Parish Council's ongoing efforts. You will have noticed the recent activation, finally, of the flashing school warning signs, and the introduction of a 40mph speed limit between the current 30mph zone and Old Hall – we will continue to push for the extension of the 30mph limit itself. A further, major development that we have requested since the school's opening is scheduled for the summer break, when the A55 bridge parapets will be raised, improving the safety of this route for pedestrians.

Kind regards, Mr Rose