



# Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Diary Dates

### October

3<sup>rd</sup> Open Morning  
 4<sup>th</sup> Harvest Donations  
 6<sup>th</sup> MBNA Mini Marathon  
 14-25<sup>th</sup> Swimming Pool  
 21-24<sup>th</sup> Parents' evenings  
 26<sup>th</sup> Half-term break

### November

4<sup>th</sup> INSET (pupils not in)  
 5<sup>th</sup> School re-opens  
 10<sup>th</sup> Remembrance  
 11<sup>th</sup> Anti-Bullying week  
 15<sup>th</sup> Children in Need  
 19<sup>th</sup> Individual photos  
 25<sup>th</sup> Book Fair begins  
 30<sup>th</sup> Xmas Lights On

### December

10/11<sup>th</sup> YR Xmas Show-am  
 KS1 Xmas Show-pm  
 17<sup>th</sup> Y3/5 Xmas Carols-pm  
 18<sup>th</sup> Y4/6 Xmas Carols-pm  
 19<sup>th</sup> YN Xmas show (am)  
 Xmas Dinner/jumper day  
 21<sup>st</sup> Christmas break

### January

6<sup>th</sup> INSET (pupils not in)  
 7<sup>th</sup> School re-opens  
 29<sup>th</sup> Chinese New Year

### February

6<sup>th</sup> YR/Y6 class photos  
 10-13<sup>th</sup> Parents' evenings  
 11<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day  
 15<sup>th</sup> Half-term break  
 24<sup>th</sup> School re-opens  
 25<sup>th</sup> *Young Voices* (choir)  
 28<sup>th</sup> Ramadan begins

### March

3-14<sup>th</sup> Y6 Bikeability  
 6<sup>th</sup> World Book Day  
 21<sup>st</sup> Red Nose Day  
 26/7<sup>th</sup> *Mary Poppins* show

### April

2-4<sup>th</sup> Y4 residential  
 5<sup>th</sup> Easter break  
 23<sup>rd</sup> School re-opens  
 23-25<sup>th</sup> Y3 residential

### May

5<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday  
 12<sup>th</sup> Y6 SATs week  
 23<sup>rd</sup> INSET (pupils not in)  
 24<sup>th</sup> Half-term break

### June

2<sup>nd</sup> School re-opens  
 9<sup>th</sup> Y1 Phonics check wk  
 Y4 Times Tables wk  
 12<sup>th</sup> Class photos YN, 1-5  
 18<sup>th</sup> Nursery Sports (am)  
 18-20<sup>th</sup> Y6 residential  
 19<sup>th</sup> Infant Sports (am)  
 26<sup>th</sup> Junior Sports (am)

### July

1<sup>st</sup> Class swaps day  
 7-10<sup>th</sup> Parents' Evenings  
 16<sup>th</sup> Y6 Leavers' show  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Summer Break/INSET

## Ready, steady, go

The usual busy start to the school year has seen our new Reception classes settling in well, the remixed Y1/2 classes adapting to streaming and their new classmates quickly, our various clubs getting off to a great start (including casting for the Musical Theatre Club's production of *Mary Poppins*) and the selection of pupil representatives for our School, Sports and Eco Councils.

## Healthy Lifestyle



Our **sports provision** in and out of school during 2023-24 has again been recognised as being at the gold level for the School Games awards. With considerable expenditure on new equipment during the year gone by, and many opportunities for participation in inter-school competition available (from golf and hockey to netball and athletics), the children have continued to benefit from a wide range of sporting activity, which is set to continue this year (including the new connection with Liverpool FC Academy).

Between October 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> we will have a **temporary swimming pool on site**. This will be used to deliver curriculum swimming for our Year 3 children, providing them with an intensive training programme and saving on the time lost in travel to and from the Christleton pool. This option, provided by *Pools to Schools*, has proved popular in several other local schools, and will also enable us to offer additional sessions to some other year groups.

## Residential Visits

While we have always valued the experiences that our residential visits provide for junior children, their ever-rising cost has caused us to rethink our approach this year, mindful of the financial stress that families are facing. We have therefore moved away from our policy of offering a residential visit in every year group, and have reduced the duration of the Year 6 Conway Centre stay. The vast majority of primary schools using this centre do so for half a week, and with the full week visit this year set to cost parents more than £500, we have decided to opt for an activity-packed programme over a half week, but still packing in 5 out of the 7 activities previously enjoyed, at much reduced cost to families (less than £290).

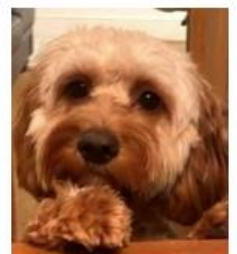
We have also decided that the Burwardsley Centre visit no longer offers the best value, and will therefore be taking our Year 3 classes to the very impressive RobinWood Centre near Wrexham, which we have used for the past couple of years. Year 5 children, who have already enjoyed a fantastic visit to Patterdale Hall last year, will have the Conway Centre visit to look forward to in Year 6, and we will endeavour to provide them with a good range of non-residential visits throughout the year.

Our residential visits in 2024-25, and their principal curriculum focuses, will therefore be as below (all these visits are for three days, 2 nights):

- Year 3: RobinWood Centre, Wrexham (PE – Outdoor & Adventurous Activities)
- Year 4: Patterdale, Lake District (Geography – UK contrasting locality)
- Year 6: Conway Centre, Anglesey (PE – Outdoor & Adventurous Activities)

## Posh Dogs Lunch (October 3<sup>rd</sup>)

To celebrate his first year on the staff team, our wonderful school dog Rodney has provided the theme for a wagtastic lunch menu on October 3<sup>rd</sup> - Posh Dogs! Make sure you book your child a lunch on this day to join in the hot dog fun! Click the link [HERE](#) to see the choices.



## A sample of recent school activities



KS1 self portait



Using force meters in Y5



Emperor Claudius in a Y4  
Conscience Alley



Y6 evacuees seeking safety deep  
within Stockport Air Raid Shelters



Mad Science assembly

## Changes in attendance expectations (DfE)

For the 2024/2025 academic year, the Department for Education (DfE) has made changes to the attendance codes and guidance, as outlined below.

- The code for authorised holidays has been removed and can no longer be used on school registers – hence, **no term-time holidays can be authorised by the school**
- The threshold at which an attendance penalty notice must be considered is set at **10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period**. This may include absences recorded as a result of arriving late after the register closes at 9:30am (thereby receiving a 'U' code in the register). The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- **Penalty notices** issued by CWAC for attendance offences will be charged at a **new rate of £160 per parent per child** (this can be paid at £80 if within 21 days).
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days (with no option for a discounted rate).
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period: at the third offence another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).

**Example 1** If a parent/carer takes a pupil out of school without authorised leave of absence in term time for 5 days or more, then a family with two parents would receive a penalty of £320 per child. This would be halved if paid within 21 days for the first instance.

**Example 2** If a child arrives at school after 9:30am ten times within a 10-week period, the guidance would be a statutory fine of £160 per parent (halved if paid within 21 days for the first instance).

We appreciate that these guidelines are significantly more stringent than in the past, but also that regular school attendance is a crucial factor in pupil attainment, and in providing children with the best possible start.



## Irene Owen

Some of our families may remember Irene Owen, our Nursery Teaching Assistant for many years – some parents will no doubt have benefited from her care when you yourselves were children at Huntington Primary. Irene retired from the school in 2012, after many years of dedicated service, and sadly passed away recently. Her funeral today was attended by staff members past and present, all of whom remember her as part of the bedrock of the school, professional and caring, supportive of pupils and staff alike. She will always be part of our Huntington history.



## Health, Safety and Wellbeing

### Nut free school

A reminder to all that Huntington is a nut-free school - this is to safeguard those pupils who could experience anaphylactic shock from contact with nuts or nut-based products (e.g. Nutella bars and most Kinder products). **Please do not allow your child to bring any such products into school**, in their packed lunch or as a breaktime snack.

Quite a few products aimed at and popular with children contain **hazelnut paste** - this is not always obvious until you look at the ingredients, but the paste is just as dangerous as nuts themselves, so products containing this should also not be brought into school.

Many thanks for your help with this.

*Kind regards,  
Mr Rose*

## Open Morning

October 3rd  
09:00 - 12:00

Please contact the school for an appointment



**Ofsted**  
Good rating  
June 2023

