



Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

December 21st, 2018

Diary Dates

December

22nd Christmas break

January

7th INSET (pupils not in)

8th School re-opens

9th YR/Y6 class photos

February

6th Internet Safety Day

6-8th Y3 Hazel residential

11th Book Fair week

Young Voices

13-15th Y3 Birch residential

16th Half-term break

25th School re-opens

26th *Key Strings* show

March

4th Book Week

5/6th Parents' Evenings

7th World Book Day

15th Comic Relief

30th Spring Break

April

15th School re-opens

19th School closed: BH

22nd School closed: BH

25th *Pinocchio* show

May

1-3rd Y4 residential

6th School closed: BH

13th Y6 SATs week

25th Half-term break

June

3rd School re-opens

10th Y1 phonics week

13th Class photos (N, 1-5)

17-21st Y5/6 residential

27th Infant Sports morning

28th Junior Sports morning

July

2nd Class swaps day

Home Sweet Home at Aldford Road

And so the new school is a reality at last, and a well-received one at that. The staff worked very hard over the half-term break to make the classrooms ready and welcoming for the children, and special thanks also to the parents who helped move the Computer Room equipment and all the new junior tables and chairs up to the first floor. We were rewarded with lots of happy faces on opening day, and a remarkably rapid adaptation to the new environment, even by the youngest children. Now it almost seems as if we have always been here.

Many visitors have been shown around the school since the start of November, including the press and Councillor Nicole Meardon (see below), four groups of current parents and three groups of prospective parents – all have been impressed, as have the pupils, who have left comments in the *Happy Box* such as: *The school is amazing; This school is great; I love the new school.*

New £7m Chester primary school open for learning

High tech school features solar panels, interactive screens and a smart ventilation system

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COMMENTS

By [David Holmes](#) Chief Reporter
08:04, 9 NOV 2018 | UPDATED 08:46, 9 NOV 2018



Cllr Nicole Meardon, cabinet member for children and young people, was given a tour around the all new Huntington Community Primary School by headteacher Duncan Rose.

With a busy Christmas period also negotiated successfully (eight school performances, two magic shows, an Early Years party, a Christmas dinner and a partridge in a etc...) we are well on the way to making the new building a home.



Stars are Born – in the KS1 production

Christmas Fair

Many thanks to the PTA and all who supported our first big event here, the Christmas Fair, either through donations, attendance or participation in the organisation of the event. The performance by the pupils in the dance troupe, appearances by both Father

and Mother Christmas and the wide range of stalls and games on offer made for a very festive afternoon of fundraising, with lots of delicious food and drink on offer (many thanks to Becky the cook).



Clubs

The following clubs will run after the Christmas break – we are happy to welcome back the *Lights, Camera, Action* film-making club, and particularly pleased to offer a new *Musical Theatre and Drama* club, run by Miss Bunning (Y3 Birch). After the February half-term there will also be a brand new before-school club for KS2 children called *Digital Wizards* – more about this after Christmas.

Monday	Football (Y4-6, 3:15-4:15) KS1 Multi-Skills (Y1/2, 3:15-4:00)
Tuesday	Outdoor Games (Y3/4, 3:15-4:15) Musical Theatre & Drama (Y3-6, 3:15 – 4:00) – begins Jan 15 th Netball (Y2-4, 3:15-4:10)
Wednesday	Lights, Camera, Action (Y3-6, 3:15-4:15)
Thursday	Indoor Athletics (Y5/6, 3:15-4:30) Choir (Y3-6, 3:15-4:00) Code Club (Y4/5, 3:15-4:15)
Friday	Street Dance (Y1/2, 3:15-4:00) – begins Jan 18 th Outdoor Games (Y3/4, 3:15-4:15) Mad Science (last sessions: KS2 Jan 11 th , KS1 Jan 18 th ; 3:15 – 4:15)

Music

Together with most of our partner schools in the Chester East network, our Year 4 pupils benefit from a full year of instrumental tuition within the normal school curriculum. This term the children have enjoyed learning to play the guitar, with *Music for Life* tutors guiding them to perform in successful concerts for parents within school. The piano students of tutor Will Hay have also played for an audience of parents and the junior children, impressing with their skill and commitment.



Sport

Membership of the Chester Schools Sports Partnership gives our pupils access to inter-school competition in a range of sports: this term our Year 4 and Year 6 pupils have taken part in Tag Rugby and Football Tournaments, and we were one of only five Chester schools to take advantage of a Year 4 Badminton event at the Northgate Arena. Our Year 5 pupils have also been trained as Playground Leaders and are now involving the infant children in focused physical activity at lunchtimes.

Our Girls' football team have had another impressive start to the season, with a brace of good results in their first league fixtures (a 5-0 victory and a draw against strong opposition) and began their cup campaign with a 3-0 victory over St Werburgh's.

The mixed school team also scored a notable 1-0 win in their first round cup match against Hoole, who had won 5-0 in the previous round: we next play Waverton in January. All our fixtures are currently being played away – hopefully we will still be in the cup competitions when our grass has grown enough to be played on!



Girls' football team at Christleton High

Health & Safety Notes – please read

Journey to School

We are extremely grateful that the overwhelming majority of parents are following the guidance regarding vehicle access and the journey to school. Several parents have justifiably, however, contacted the headteacher to express concern about the very small minority who continue to park in the Drop-off Zone in the morning, which reduces the usability and safety of the zone for everyone who wishes to access it correctly. Parking here in the morning is both selfish and dangerous – please do not do it. The identities of repeat offenders are being recorded, and continued violation of this safety-driven directive will result in legal steps.

Reducing the amount of vehicle traffic on-site, especially when there are many pedestrians present, has obvious safety benefits, and we are therefore also committed to ensuring that parking in the Drop-off Zone does not take place at school pick-up time (hence the purchase of 'No Parking' cones). Parents are also reminded that parking in the Staff Car Park is not permitted, for various reasons including potential damage to staff vehicles from children opening car doors and also, of paramount importance, the danger to children when walking across the car park (or, worse still, the main access road) to access their parents' vehicles.

We fully appreciate the difficulties of limited vehicle access to the new site, but the rules regarding vehicle usage/parking have been established for reasons of pupil safety, and flouting them will not be tolerated now that a bedding-in period has passed.

We have also been contacted by a resident of the new estate, asking that parking there is done more sensibly so that the near-misses observed do not become actual accidents.

A55 Bridge

Some reports have been received of children leaning over the bridge across the A55 to wave at drivers. Please discourage your children from doing this - what may seem harmless and friendly to them has the potential, in distracting drivers, to result in a major traffic incident.

Winter Weather

Updated guidance in case of extreme weather is available on the school website (*Parents* page). The map below indicates the very considerable length of path that may need to be gritted if conditions are icy – if this is the case, please stay on the marked paths only.



KS2 Behaviour Awards

The winners of the KS2 prize for the second half of the autumn term are as below – and very well done to the other children whose behaviour has been exemplary.

Y6 – Michael Hughes
Y5 – Kaylan Thompson
Y4 Lime – Helena Ball
Y4 Hawthorn – Sam Blunt
Y3 Hazel – Imogen Pugh
Y3 Birch – Liberty Munslow

Staffing

Mr Lilley, our longstanding caretaker, left the school just before Christmas to take up a position closer to home – we wish him well in his new job. A new interim caretaker with lots of school-based experience, Mr McCleary, joins us in January.

We have also been joined by several new teaching assistants during the term – Mrs James now works alongside Miss Hooks for part of the week in Reception Willow, and Mrs Wilkinson-White and Mrs Leonard are supporting elsewhere in Early Years/KS1.

Local matters

Great Boughton Parish Council are actively seeking to gather the views of local residents on the future use of the parish council land to the south of Caldy Valley Church and Neighbourhood Centre. The land, positioned between the A55 and Caldy Valley Road, is currently grassed with trees and planting and contains a boules court and small community garden.

In May 2018, the council was approached by a developer who expressed an interest in purchasing the site on behalf of a fast food franchise.

The council now wishes to consult with local residents on whether the site should be sold, using the income to improve local facilities or keep the site, in which case, what would local people want to happen to it?

You are invited to give your views via their website, at: <http://www.greatboughtonparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Kind gestures

Many thanks to the PTA for presenting two lovely barrel planters to the school, and especially to Walkers Plant Nursery for gifting the plants and committing to keep the planters replenished – lovely gestures for which we are very grateful.

We also gratefully received several books of photographs and very old school scrapbooks prior to and during the *Farewell to Butterbache Road* event, held just before half-term; this was a lovely afternoon to renew old friendships and bid the old school site goodbye.

School Admissions

Please note that applications for the Reception Classes for next September must be submitted to CWAC online by 15th January 2019.



*A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from all the staff and pupils at Huntington Primary*

