



Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

December 8th, 2020

Diary Dates

December
 16th Christmas jumper day & Christmas dinner
 19th Christmas break

January
 4th INSET (pupils not in)
 5th School re-opens
 20th School photos

February
 8-12th Y3 residential
 9th Safer Internet Day
 12th Chinese New Year
 13th Half-term break
 22nd School re-opens

March
 2nd Keystings Music
 4th World Book Day
 19th Comic Relief

April
 1st INSET (pupils not in)
 2nd Good Friday
 3rd Spring break
 12th Ramadan starts
 19th School re-opens

May
 3rd Bank Holiday
 10th Y6 SATs week
 19th-21st Y4 residential
 24th Young Voices
 29th Half-term break

June
 7th School re-opens
 Y1 phonics week
 9th Class photos
 14-18th Y6 residential
 15th Y5 Maya expert

July
 21st INSET (pupils not in)
 22nd Summer break

Light at the end of the tunnel

There is a way to go yet until school life returns to normal, but the beginning of the vaccine rollout in the UK today is incredibly heartening news. The Christmas lights this year hold an extra promise, of happier times to come.

However, it is crucial that we do not let our guard down. While a Christmas relaxation of rules has been allowed by the government, the country's senior medical advisers have been clear about the need to act sensibly to protect those at most risk - the elderly and those with health conditions – and to consider the wider impact of our actions. All the school's precautions will remain in place until guidance changes, and this is highly unlikely before Easter at the earliest. Until they do, we ask that you continue to follow the measures requested on site, and regarding self-isolation as necessary.

Christmas in school

Christmas is a special time and celebrated in school through a range of class-based activities, which will continue as usual (e.g. class advent calendars, making Christmas cards). However, the large-scale productions which we put on each year are not possible at this time, with limitations on singing (including rehearsals), gathering in large numbers, year group bubbles and audience attendance (recent government guidance regarding the latter was released far too late to be acted upon, and flies in the face of all the precautions we have been asked to implement).

While this is a source of some sadness, children at Huntington have the chance to celebrate Christmas onstage in four different years (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) – so while they will miss one year of such shows, we feel keeping everyone safe to enjoy the other three years is far more important. Instead, all classes will be contributing to an online Christmas presentation of poems, songs and other performance, which will be made available to view for the festive period.

In addition, all classes will be enjoying some festive entertainment this week, funded by our wonderful PTA, as follows:

- Nursery & Reception:** party with online magician and special visitor, Dec 16th
- Y1 & Y2:** treats and online panto *Peter Duncan's 'Jack and the Beanstalk'*, Dec 9th
- Y3-Y6:** treats and online panto *Peter Duncan's 'Jack and the Beanstalk'*, Dec 16th

December 16th is also Christmas Jumper Day, and the day of the school's Christmas Dinner. A link for donations to *Save the Children*, in connection with Christmas Jumper day, will be sent nearer the time.

Many children from Huntington have made decorations for Chester Cathedral's Christmas Tree Festival. The decorations appear on the City of Chester Charter Trustees tree, as pictured at right, and can be seen in the cathedral over the Christmas period, from now until January 3rd: book a timeslot to visit by clicking the following link: <https://chestercathedral.com/event/christmas-tree-festival-2020/all/> The Lord Mayor has written to the school to thank the children for their participation – well done to all of them.



Christmas Cards

Last year we requested that, rather than bring Christmas cards into school for all their classmates, children could write one for the whole class to bring in, as an eco-measure. With Covid-19 transmission and quarantine now an additional complication, we would ask that this is followed again this year.

Safe gifts for staff

Several parents have asked about how they may safely show their appreciation to the teachers at Christmas. If parents wish, gifts may still be brought into the classroom, where they will be placed in quarantine in a similar manner to the reading books at present (to go home for Christmas they would need to be in school by the end of Tuesday, December 15th).

Santa's Visits to Chester

Chester Round Table are again assisting Santa in his local visits this year, with a tracker available on the night so you can see where he is at any moment. He will be in the area as follows:

- Huntington/Saighton Camp: Saturday, 12th December, 5-9pm
- Boughton: Thursday, 17th December, 6-9pm

Click [HERE](#) for safety and other information about the visits, including how to donate to raise money for local causes.

'Visits' and visitors

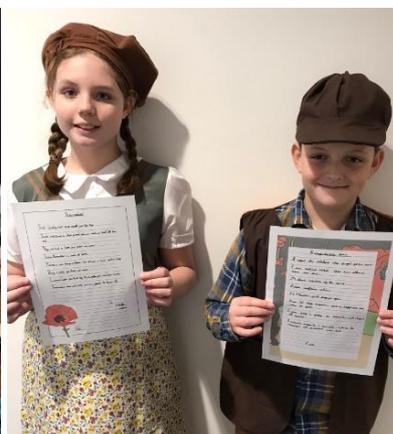
Staff have done their best to find alternatives for the kind of curriculum enrichment activities that we would provide in more normal times. Y4 have enjoyed their guitar lessons this term, and demonstrated their skills in two class concerts, filmed and placed online for parents to enjoy (see them by clicking [Hawthorn](#) or [Lime](#)). With educational visits curtailed at the moment, Y6 children enjoyed an evacuee experience in school, rather than at Stockport Air Raid Shelters, and this week have been adding to their learning about animal classification via Chester Zoo's live lessons, as well as learning how to ride a bicycle safely on the open road.



Y4 Lime Guitar Concert



Chester Zoo live lesson



WW2 Evacuee Day



Bikeability

Changes to Statutory Testing

In recognition of the extraordinary times, the DfE recently announced changes to the statutory testing for Y2 and Y6 pupils that usually takes place each year. For the coming year (2021) these changes comprise:

- Year 2: no end of KS1 testing (Y1 phonics screening will still take place)
- Year 6: no Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation test (Reading & Maths tests will still take place)

Special Needs Support

Our SENDCo Mrs Kirkness has now begun her maternity leave, and we wish her all the best for the coming months. Standing in for her over the next two terms will be Mrs Edwards, an experienced teacher and holder of the NASENCO qualification who is already supporting special needs provision in another local school. Our [website SEND page](#) hosts a range of useful information, including her contact details.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Covid reminders

- If any member of a household (and their support bubble) shows Covid-19 symptoms, the whole household needs to self-isolate for 14 days or until a negative test result is received. Please do NOT send your child into school if someone else in the house has symptoms.
- When a test result is received, please inform the school immediately – if at the weekend, use the head@ email address.
- Only one parent per family should accompany children onsite for drop-off/pick-up.
- Please maintain 2m social distancing onsite - adults should not be closer than 2m together, and any close face-to-face conversations, whether wearing a mask or not, raise the risk of transmission and will make you a contact in the event of a positive case.

- Children should not be gathering outside school in contravention of the rule of 6, including at local parks, especially if unsupervised.

Details about informing us of positive tests after the end of term, and our role in contact tracing over the Christmas period, will be sent out next week.

Best wishes for the run up to Christmas

Mr Rose