

Hartford Infant and Preschool & Hartford Junior Newsletter 13 9.12.2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello/Hallo

I hope this newsletter finds you well and cosy, it has been quite cold of late. Luckily all the children have remembered to wear their coats outside. I believe it may get colder next week, please ensure all hats, scarves and gloves are named. In the event of school closure due to heavy snowfall we will let you all know via the usual communication channels.

Inside the infant school it's been very Christmassy with the **Year 1** children practising their nativity play. We look forward to seeing two members of each child's family in school on **Tuesday 16th December** from 9.15 am. We aim to start as soon as possible. Please ensure all babies are entertained so that we can hear the children's voices. We also unfortunately cannot accommodate any buggies in the school building.

Both choirs in the infant and junior school have been practising for the Christingle service, as explained earlier this week this service will only be for those families with children in the choir, we apologise that due to health and safety reasons we cannot open the event two more of the community. However everyone is invited to create a Christingle in the Infant School on **Monday 19th December** from 3.15pm, all you need to do is bring in an orange, everything else will be provided. Reverend Geoff of All Saints Church Hartford is popping into the Junior School on Tuesday morning to lead a short Christingle service and the Key Stage 1 children will be able to find out more about the Christingle in a special assembly later on that day too.

How lovely is the tree donated to us by **Idverde Landscapes**, and planted by Robert and Corey Hall at the front of the school, we are extremely grateful that this living tree will grow on our grounds and each year will get bigger and bigger, I hope that Mrs Rudd has got lots of lights for future years to come.

Best wishes/Besten Wünsche Rae Lee [Headteacher]

Please remember that Christmas colouring competitions and quizzes need to be back in school by **Friday 16th December** and we will announce the winners in our last assemblies

Dates for the Diary

Elfridges Opens	All schools	From Monday 12th December	Children can purchase a gift for a family member for £1.00 from our designated Elfridges shops across the schools.
Y1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal	Year 1 Infant School	Monday 12th December	All Year 1 children will need their costume
Y1 Nativity Performance for Parents	Year 1 Infant School	Tuesday 13th December	2 parents can attend for each child [no filming allowed]
Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day	All Schools	Wednesday 14th December	Children and Staff can wear Christmas jumpers, wear their school made Christmas hat, eat a School Festive Lunch and pull a PATHS Cracker
Christmas Fete	All Schools	Thursday 15th December	All children will access Christmas style activities in the School Halls, they will receive a goodie bag and chocolate treat with a possible visit to see the Santa Elf
Christingle Service	All schools	Monday 19th December time to be confirmed	All children are invited to make a Christingle after school and then choir children only attend the service at Hartford All Saints Church – numbers are limited
Christmas Parties	All Schools	Last week of Term	Children can wear their party clothes on designated party days - more information to follow
End of Term	All Schools	Wednesday 21st December	[Back to school on Thursday 5th January 2023 at 8.45am]

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Preschool

This week, **Preschool** children have been festive. We were excited to see a Christmas tree and have enjoyed using our physical skills to decorate it, working our fine motor skills by hanging baubles by their string. We also threaded pasta to make long decorations. We practised our turn taking, listening and matching skills by playing our 'Santa Sleigh' game. We explored our loose parts tree outline, finding ways to place objects on it in different ways and noticing patterns, some children used their scissor skills to cut and place small parts on! **Next week**, we are looking forward to joining in with the Christmas lunch day and wearing our Christmas jumpers.

Reception

This week in **Class 1 and 2**, the children have been busy singing festive songs and using a range of percussion instruments to tap out a rhythm. We have been thinking about playing fast and slow and have learned the word 'tempo'. In maths we have been subitising numbers 1-5 and thinking about 'more', 'fewer' and 'equal' when comparing numbers 0-5. We have been using our phonic arm to help us to segment CVC words to write simple labels and captions. **Next week** in R.E we will be thinking about religious festivals and learning all about the Christmas story and how Christians celebrate this special time!

Year 1

This week, in **Class 3 and 4**, the children have been evaluating their hand puppets and are excited to bring them home soon. In maths we continued to use shapes to make and describe repeating patterns – well done to those who did this for their homework too! Despite the chilly weather the children have been busy at Forest School making leaf bunting and playing seasonal music. We have also concluded our materials investigation. **Next week** we will be performing our nativity play 'Born in a Barn' (if your child has lines to say please practice them!) and getting into the Christmas spirit by making cards and decorations.

Year 2

This week in **Class 5 and 6**, we learnt how to edit and improve our writing with a 'purple polishing pen' and then we role-played the characters from the story 'The Way Back Home'. In maths we learnt that you can sometimes answer division questions by grouping objects or sharing objects. We made a decoration for the school Christmas tree which was great fun! **Next week**, in English we will focus on handwriting and in maths we will look at addition and subtraction fact families within 20. We will of course be enjoying lots of Christmas arts and crafts too!

Year 3

This week in **Beech and Chestnut Class**, we have finished our setting descriptions of the Beavers' home and have all edited and improved our work, how reflective! Next we will find out about the importance of the prophecies of Narnia. In science, children have been busy making their own 'fossils' to support their understanding of how they are formed. In computing we have been exploring networks and how devices connect to others within the network and next week we will go on a device hunt around the school to spot all the different devices in our own school network.

Year 4

This week in **Pine and Sycamore Classes**, we've been busy learning how to subtract using the column method including exchanging. It has been tricky, but we have persevered. In English, we have been retelling our story, 'Stark Street', using pictures and words. In history, we have been building on our knowledge of Ancient Romans by learning about the Roman army, and the importance of some key leaders. **Next week**, we will continue learning about different states of matter focusing on gas and its properties, including how to inflate a balloon without using our mouths!

Year 5

This week in **Oak and Ash Class**, we investigated shadows created by the rotation of the earth, which causes day and night to occur. We set the experiment up at 9am and collected results across a six hour period. We drew line graphs and completed our first experiment write up of the year – they were all fantastic! In English we wrote our own endings to 'The Nowhere Emporium' – we are confident we have some future authors! In R.E we looked at Mary and Joseph escaping from King Herod and in Maths the children are now masters of squaring and cubing numbers. **Next week**, we look forward to seeing what kindness challenges the kindness elves have in store for us and to finally finishing reading the real ending of 'The Nowhere Emporium'.

Year 6

This week in **Willow and Holly Classes**, we had a visit from a secondary science teacher, he did a lesson on evolution explaining about DNA. The children enjoyed this and had plenty of good questions to ask. **Next week**, we will be creating a double page spread on Charles Darwin – we have been learning about his theory and the Galapagos Islands. We have also finished reading 'The Secret Garden' and next week we will be doing a piece of writing on the story. We have been working really hard this week on our practice SATs, so far we have completed three maths papers and a reading paper. We will finish with a grammar and spelling paper, the children have really impressed us with their conduct and effort during these – well done Year 6!

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