



Friday, 9 December 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Our beautiful Christmas tree went up. This was donated to school two years ago now I believe by the PTFA. It shines out beautifully from one of our school windows. The children were delighted to come back to school on Tuesday and see that it was there, appearing as if by magic. Clearly Hartlip's very own elves had been at work. Our theme this year is 'stars', basically because our Nativity is called: Superstar. We believe that every person at Hartlip school is a superstar and that is the message that our performance shares: *'everybody here can be a superstar!'* Indeed they can and they are! Just like in the night sky, every single person shines, no matter how big or how small, everyone has their place in that sky and shines for all to see, creating a beautiful light. I look forward to seeing you at our performances and sharing our presentation of The Nativity with you.

This week

We enjoyed Messy Church on Saturday. Not as well attended as previously. Naturally this is a busy time of year and also as we are all too well aware, there is much illness circulating. Poor Reverend Amanda was still struggling and Sarah our coordinator was unable to attend due to illness.

However, lots of fun was had by all. Grateful thanks as ever to Jenny and Sam for all their hard work. Sam keeps everyone so well refreshed with preparation and serving of snacks and drinks and Jenny's crafting skills and plans were well received and enjoyed.



The PTFA have run a lovely Christmas Market for the children to undertake their very own Christmas shopping. We located this in the old library area. The space has been absolutely ideal and the atmosphere... just delightful. The children have really enjoyed this magical experience. Thank you for supporting us in this activity and thank you to the PTFA for running this wonderful event. I hope that you enjoy your presents as much as the children have enjoyed selecting and wrapping them. The true joy of Christmas: giving to others.

On Wednesday, we hosted our first community lunch. Sadly there were only two in attendance. However, their feedback was lovely, enjoying the food and company. I was thrilled with our school captains who provided such wonderful hospitality. A true credit to our school. Thank you Jess, Izzy and Elijah. I think that we need to advertise this better next year. So watch this space!



We have been busy putting our presentation of Superstar together. We love the sharing of The Nativity to be a whole school event and are looking forward to sharing it with you. Costumes should all be in school now. We have our dress rehearsal on Monday afternoon and then performances begin on Tuesday:

- **Tuesday 13th December @ 2pm**
- **Wednesday 14th December @ 2pm**
- **Thursday 15th December @ 6pm**

This year, we will **not** be allocating tickets. This is a sharing of the Christmas message and the Church doors will be open! Please do however be advised that seating is limited and that you may have to stand. Please just use your discretion in terms of attendance. You won't be turned away. If you have extended family wanting to attend and enjoy this special time, then please just stagger your attendance. We politely request that **there are no preschool children in attendance at the evening performance**. Please note that as children will be in church **before** the performance, there will be no entry until 10 minutes before we are due to start at **every** performance. So don't stand getting cold! We have organised the presentation so that the children move around the church and stand collectively so that all can be seen. Everyone will have a good view of their child! In addition, Lavinia is joining us on Monday for the dress rehearsal and thereafter capturing special photographs of your child in their costume performing. You will be able to purchase these as soon as they become available and on a number of different occasions. We will keep you posted!

It is an expectation that the children attend the evening performance on **Thursday 15th December**, returning to school at 5.30pm, **dressed in costume** which will be sent home after the Wednesday afternoon performance (children will come home wearing it!). Children can be collected from school **straight after each performance** on the Tuesday and Wednesday (approx. 3pm). Attendance at the evening performance affords them their attendance mark for the afternoon session on **Tuesday 20th December** - that day children can be collected from school after The Nativity Service in church at 11am (approx. 11.45am collection please).

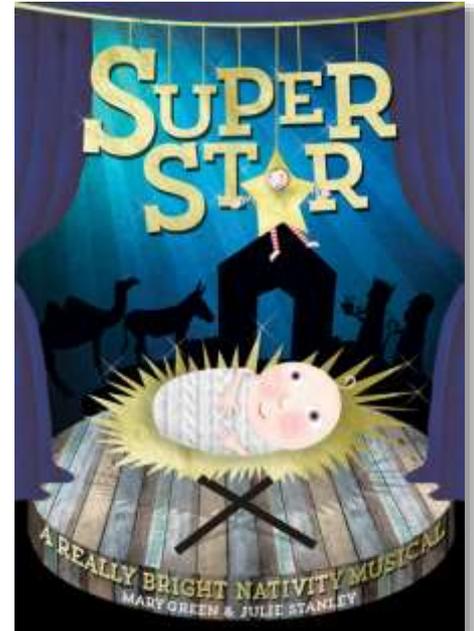
We have not had a Celebration Worship this week. There were no Birthdays and so we took the opportunity to have a full school Nativity Rehearsal.

Robins and Blackbirds enjoyed a visit to the mobile library on Thursday. It is lovely to have this service visit us with frequency and convenience, affording us the opportunity to enjoy and expand our reading experience.

Our chickens have gone on a holiday. We risk assess absolutely everything that we do in school with the children. The presence of animals in school is no exception. You may well have heard in the news on Wednesday the Government's advice regarding poultry.

The Chief Veterinary Officer has declared a Prevention Zone to help protect poultry from a strain of Avian Flu in Europe.

The Government Chief Vet has [declared a Prevention Zone](#) introducing enhanced biosecurity requirements for poultry and captive birds, helping protect them from a strain of avian flu circulating in mainland Europe.



The zone covers England and will remain in place for 30 days. Declarations have also been made by the Scottish Government and Welsh Government.

Keepers of poultry and other captive birds are now required to keep their birds indoors, or take appropriate steps to keep them separate from wild birds.

Outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N8) have been confirmed in poultry and wild birds in several countries across Europe. No cases of H5N8 have been found in the UK and this order is a precautionary measure to help prevent potential infection from wild birds.

Public Health England (PHE) advises that the threat to human health remains very low.

Defra is continuing to monitor the situation closely and has increased its surveillance activity, while keepers are being urged to reinforce biosecurity measures on their premises.

Chief Veterinary Officer Nigel Gibbens said:

While no cases of H5N8 avian flu have been found in the UK, and PHE advises the public health threat is low, we are closely monitoring the situation across Europe and have scaled up surveillance in response to the heightened risk.

As a precaution, and to allow time for poultry and captive bird keepers to put in place appropriate biosecurity measures, we have declared a 30-day Prevention Zone to reduce the risk of infection from wild birds.

Even when birds are housed a risk of infection remains so this must be coupled with good biosecurity - for example disinfecting clothing and equipment, reducing poultry movement and minimising contact between poultry and wild birds.

In the light of this, I have taken the decision to remove our chickens from the school environment for the thirty days as stipulated and beyond should this be enforced. You may know that my family have our own chickens. The Hartlip Girls have joined the Jerome flock and adhering to the prevention zone hope to keep them all well and healthy to return to Hartlip at a later stage. Some of the children are upset about this. We have tried to explain it as best as we can according to their relevant age and understanding. Your support in this is appreciated. Thank you. I will keep you updated on the wellbeing of the Hartlip Girls!

This week

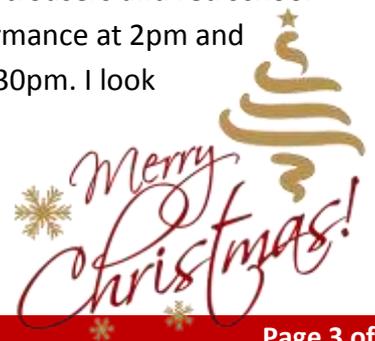


Tomorrow, representatives from our school choir will be singing to greet folk to Hartlip Christmas Fayre. Come and enjoy their performance and the Fayre too.

Choir attending, please meet Mrs White and I at 1.30pm at school. We will all walk up to the village hall from here.

Please remember to wear: black trousers and red school fleeces. Red school beanie hats will also look great. Come and enjoy the performance at 2pm and then all that the Fayre has to offer. The children will finish singing at approx. 2.30pm. I look forward to seeing you then.

I have already explained about the Christmas Performances and look forward to seeing you all there.





On Thursday afternoon, Miss McCabe and I with teaching assistants will be facilitating a Christmas film afternoon to provide the children with rest and relaxation before returning to the Christmas performance. The children will be able to choose the Christmas film that they would like to watch and sit in the appropriate room. We will also provide festive treats.

On Friday, we look forward to a very special Christmas Celebration day.

We encourage the children to wear a Christmas jumper to school. They can wear non-school uniform to accompany this! Warm and comfortable for a day of celebration! Please bring a donation to the PTFA Christmas Fayre in return to make this a success. Thank you.



The children will spend Friday morning preparing for their Christmas Dinner, decorating their classroom, making party hats etc. The children

will enjoy their Christmas Dinner in their classroom with their class team, enjoying festive games and activities. In the afternoon, the celebrations will continue with a special treat, but we are playing that one close to our chest for the moment!

Monday 19th December. Look out for a letter on Monday which will be attached to DoJo and Parentmail, simply because we want to avoid clever reading eyes and try to keep this as magical as we can. Bear in mind that you will need to be dropping your children to Squirrel Lodge in Huckling and picking them up from there too. Look out for that letter on Monday.



Other bits...

Christmas Shopping ideas: Following the success and enthusiasm of children in Peacocks Class learning the ukulele, Mrs White has advised us of a company: Tiger who are selling ukuleles for £20. The quality is of a very high standard (meaning that they hold their tuning well) and design and colour can be selected. If Father Christmas is wanting to deliver one for your child, please approach Mrs White via DoJo to place an order. Thank you.

Looking Further Ahead...

I am pleased to attach the diary for your convenience. This includes all our Forest learning for the year as well as our Christmas activities. I hope that this is helpful. Also today you will receive the termly plan of learning for your child.

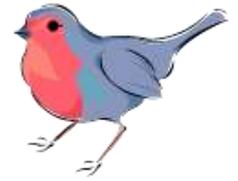
Please note a menu change on the first day back, Wednesday 4 January 2017. The menu will be Butchers Burger in a Bun or Neapolitan Pasta, Oven baked potato wedges, Garden Peas, Rainbow Coleslaw, and Marble Cookies. There will not be a roast dinner that week.

Yours sincerely
Mrs. T. Jerome
Headteacher

Robins

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week in the Robins we have been embedding the children's knowledge and understanding of The Nativity Story. Thank you to the children and parents who have offered Joseph, Mary and their donkey a home for the night! The children have been very busy practising for the Superstar nativity play and I'm sure the children will be real Superstars at the performances.



In phonics we have been making CVC words and are developing the children's segmenting and blending skills.

In maths the children have been sorting, weighing, counting and adding groups of real chocolates from a large box. I am very impressed that the children have not eaten any of the maths lesson!

Hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

The Robins Team

Blackbirds



Dear Parents/Carers,

Our Literacy focus this week has moved to another book by Janet and Allan Ahlberg ...

The Jolly Postman! We took a great deal of time in the first half of the week looking in close detail at the letters and pictures from the story. We particularly liked the shopping leaflet to the witch and we checked Goldilocks' spelling! On Wednesday we read the apology letter from Goldilocks to the Three Bears and we worked in pairs to write a response. We also looked at features of postcards and drafted some possible sentences.

We've completed our learning about money for this term by playing practical shopping games and answering word problems involving adding coins and giving change. This is something we will return to later in the year! Keep allowing your child to handle money and pay for items over the Christmas break, perhaps they'll have some Christmas money of their own to spend?! We've concluded our addition and subtraction calculations unit by working out word problems. We used the mnemonic RUCSAC to help us solve them (**R**ead, **U**nderstand, **C**hoose, **S**olve, **A**nswer, **C**heck). We will be having fun cracking Christmas cracker codes today.

We have also begun preparing for Christmas by finding out about St Nicholas and the traditional story behind his beginning, as well as, busy making decorations, visiting the PTFA Christmas Market stalls and a special Christmas colouring activity! We also thought about our Wishes for the World (new display in the hall) and write these on stars. We look forward to seeing the finished product. Thank you for the few photos that we have received so far (a photo of your child doing something active). We hope to display these in class and it would be lovely if every child had one.

Homework ideas:

- Find out how to say 'Merry Christmas' in different languages and try to learn them.
- Practise writing your address for the Jolly Postman or make up an address for a character in a story ... what would be their house name or number, what road would they live on, whereabouts would they live?
- Addition and subtraction stories – come up with your own story. For example, Father Christmas brought 3 presents and I had 4 under the tree. I had 7 presents altogether.
- Write a postcard from your favourite place (can be real or imaginative).

*In addition, please read with your child **every** evening and record in the reading record book accordingly. Remember that reading can extend beyond asking your child to read the book that they have chosen within the appropriate band for their current level. You may like to read to them first and of course reading can be from home books of your choice. It is important that there is a balance between your child reading to you and they hearing you and of course other members of the family reading to them. Remember to ask questions, opinions, preferences etc...*

Mrs Byatt, Mrs Ridge, Mrs Harley & Mrs Walsh

Peacocks

Dear Parents/Carers,

In English this week, we have been studying Haiku poems. These are short poems, which consist of only three lines, with the first line having five syllables, the second having seven syllables and the third having five syllables again. First, we practised finding out how many syllables were in our names by clapping them e.g. Rosie-May. We then created a word wall of vocabulary linked to our Christmas theme... stars. We then used the word bank to form our own Haiku poems. Mrs Harris then challenged us to create a Haiku about a nativity character... these have helped create a new display in the hall. Come and see!



In Maths, we have completed our work on time. We played different online games which demonstrated our understanding of telling the time using analogue and digital. We had a practical maths lesson where we timed how many physical activities we could do in one minute... that was a lot of fun! We have finished our week by telling later and earlier times. Some of us used clocks to help us. What a lot of learning!

Please can we bring in any out-standing costumes ready for our performances next week? Homework this week is to practise our new times tables sheets. These will be tested when we return in January.

The Peacocks Team

Eagles

Dear Parents/Carers,

Next week is very busy and Eagles will be concentrating on our recent assessment results – some of these may come home for you to look through with your child. We will be revising the spellings for this term and applying them into our writing, it might be wise to look at them this weekend!



There are no spellings to learn until after Christmas. Homework will also be Christmas based as the children have had lines coming home to learn for the nativity.

Next week, we will be making gingerbread and chocolate products, the children can bring a cooking apron into school if they wish for these activities.

Don't forget to take your wellies home next Friday before Forest Schools on Monday.

Mrs Hunt and Mrs Burrows

Hartlip Endowed Church of England School
Term Dates for Academic Year 2016-2017
Staff Development Days – 5 allocated as shown

	Term Starts for children	Term Ends for children
Term 2	Monday 31 October 2016	Tuesday 20 December 2016 Children dismissed at lunchtime.
Saturday 10th December	Hartlip Christmas Fair: Choir meeting at 1.30pm	
WEEK SEVEN		
Monday 12th December	2pm: Dress Rehearsal	
Tuesday 13th December	2pm: afternoon Performance	
Wednesday 14th December	2pm: afternoon Performance	
Thursday 15th December	Film afternoon 6pm: evening Performance 3.15pm-4.15pm: KINGSQUAD	
Friday 16th December	Christmas Fun Day Christmas jumper day 3pm: PTFA outdoor Christmas market	
Sunday 19th December	Hartlip Nine Lessons and Carols: Choir meeting in church at 5.30pm	
WEEK EIGHT		
Monday 19th December	Christmas Outdoor learning at Squirrel Wood	
Tuesday 20th December	Active Christmas 11am: Nativity Service 12md: Children to be collected	
Christmas Break	Wednesday 21 December 2016	Tuesday 3 January 2017
Term 3 Staff Development Day Tuesday 3 January 2017 School closed to pupils	Wednesday 4 January 2017	Friday 10 February 2017
Wednesday 4 January	No roast today – Butchers Beef Burger menu	
Wednesday 11th January	7pm: Full Governing Body Meeting	
Week commencing 16th January	Maths week	
Saturday 28th January	Messy Church	
Sunday 5th February	Merry Sherry Hymns	
Monday 6th February	Robins and Blackbirds at Squirrel Wood outdoor learning	
Tuesday 7th February	Peacocks at Squirrel Wood outdoor learning	
Wednesday 8th February	School Photographer	
Thursday 9th February	Eagles at Squirrel Wood outdoor learning	
Sunday 12th February	Family Worship: 10.30am	
Mid Term Break	Monday 13 February 2017	Friday 17 February 2017
Term 4	Monday 20 February 2017	Friday 31 March 2017
Friday 24th February	Family Trust leading church worship	
Week commencing 13th March	British Science week	
Saturday 25th March	Messy Church 2pm	
Monday 27th March	Robins at squirrel wood outdoor learning	
Tuesday 28th March	Blackbirds at squirrel wood outdoor learning	
Wednesday 29th March	Peacocks at squirrel wood outdoor learning	
Thursday 30th March	Eagles at squirrel wood outdoor learning	

Friday 31st March	Active Easter	
Easter Break	Monday 3 April 2017	Monday 17 April 2017
Term 5 NB: Bank Holiday Mon 1 May School closed	Tuesday 18 April 2017	Friday 26 May 2017
Friday 21st April	Family Trust leading Church Worship	
Saturday 29th April	Messy Church 2pm	
Monday 8th May	SATS week	
Monday 22nd May	Robins at squirrel wood outdoor learning	
Tuesday 23rd May	Blackbirds at squirrel wood outdoor learning	
Wednesday 24th May	Peacocks at squirrel wood outdoor learning	
Thursday 25th May	Eagles at squirrel wood outdoor learning	
Mid Term Break	Monday 29 May 2017	Friday 2 June 2017
Term 6 Staff Development Days Thurs & Fri 20 & 21 July 2017 School closed to pupils	Monday 5 June 2017	Wednesday 19 July 2017
10th June	Messy Church 2pm	
Week commencing 19th June	Sports week	
Monday 10th July	Robins at squirrel wood outdoor learning	
Tuesday 11th July	Blackbirds at squirrel wood outdoor learning	
Wednesday 12th July	Peacocks at squirrel wood outdoor learning	
11th July	Dress rehearsal	
12th July	Afternoon Performance	
13th July	Evening Performance	
Saturday 15th July	Messy Church 2pm	
17th July	Leavers Party Day at squirrel wood outdoor learning	
18th July	Leavers Service: 7pm	
19th July	Leavers Banquet	