



Honiton Primary School

25th November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the first newsletter post the snow and Storm Bert!

I hope that you managed to stay safe and made the most of the experience of the snow if possible. Snowball fights and the like are a rare childhood memory to be treasured and building a snowman has something magical about it. Alas, as a school, we understand also, how disruptive the snow and the following rain and wind can be. We managed to stay open last Thursday, trying to give hard-working parents the ability to maintain their working week. Sadly, Friday proved too dangerous with the rain falling on the snow to produce sheeted ice across our site and down Clapper Lane. Always better safe than sorry!

To finish though, please do always assume that the school is OPEN unless directly communicated that it is not. I was communicating with partner Headteachers and Principal Brothwood from the Community College from 05:45 to make sure we were as aligned as possible. Our communications came out as soon as possible and with plenty of notice for parents. It is not useful for people to speculate and spread misinformation at these times. Please always await official word on the Weduc message system and on the website.

Thank you to all the parents who made the most of our online learning resources and for all the children who logged into their Doodle accounts to keep their streaks going and remain in the green zone.

Thinking ahead – This is only the second named storm of the year and we can most likely expect more with the weather only deteriorating and the temperatures falling. It might be wise to consider if your child has all the necessary clothing and items they need for the winter ahead and possibly for adults too for the commute to school. Again, the road has been severely congested at times recently – do consider walking or leaving your car on the high street to be a part of the solution.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Mr Tribble

Main Diary Dates

Please remember that you can see our term dates on our school website and app.

Date	Time	Event
w/c Mon 25 Nov		Christmas Jumper Donations
Thu 28 Nov		Non-uniform day for Honiton Food Bank donations
Fri 29 Nov	3:20 - 4:00pm	Christmas Jumper Sale and Year 4 PTFA Cake Sale
Fri 6 Dec	3:30 - 6:00pm	PTFA Winter Fayre
Mon 9 Dec	9:30 – 11:30am	Year 4, 5 & 6 Christmas Concert Rehearsal
Mon 9 Dec	2:00 – 3:00pm	Nursery Christmas Stay and Play
Thu 12 Dec	9:30 – 11:30am	Year 1, 2 & 3 Christmas Concert Rehearsal
Thu 12 Dec	2:00 – 3:00pm	Reception Christmas Stay and Play
Fri 13 Dec		Non-uniform day for Christmas Concert Raffle Prize Donations
Tue 17 Dec	2:00 and 6:00pm	Year 1, 2 & 3 Christmas Concert at St Pauls
Wed 18 Dec	1:45 and 6:00pm	Year 4, 5 & 6 Christmas Concert at St Pauls
Thu 19 Dec		Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Thu 19 Dec		Christmas Dinner
Fri 20 Dec	1:15pm	School Closes for Christmas Holidays
Mon 6 Jan		Non Pupil Day
Tue 7 Jan	8:50am	Spring Term Begins

Sports News

Year 5 & 6 Bee Netball Cluster Tournament 1 of 3:

All of the committed lunchtime practices were at last going to come to fruition at the first of the HLC netball tournaments ... or at least that was what the teams were hoping! **Emily, Amelia, Letty, Lois, Charlie** and **Laurie** brought the energy and enthusiasm to all of their games and were quickly reminded of how important good communication on court needed to be. Currently sitting in the table on 20 points, they have begun to show great promise - keep it up team black bibs! 😊

Once the adrenalin had settled for **Evie F, Evie P, Lauren, Eliska, Alf** and **Fred**, there were some great passing sequences where the ball was moved through the court effectively, leading to some accurate shooting too. Finishing the evening with 31 points, places our red bib team in 2nd on the table currently ... You've made a really strong start! 😊



Year 5 & 6 Sportshall Athletics Competition:

Taking a team of 12 athletes to the inter-school cluster sportshall athletics has always been one of our favourite events: the level of competition is always high and the children always bring their best efforts, attitudes, perseverance and resilience skills. While the boys focused on the field events: standing long jump, triple jump, medicine ball throw and speed bounce, the girls ran their socks off across four different track events before the groups switched over. The boys: **Fred, Alf, Laurie, Myles, Kian** and **Oakley** rallied around one another, supported and encouraged each other and this positive drive led them to a total of 74 points by the end of the morning - 2nd place on the table! Well done 😊 The girls: **Lauren, Evie P, Evie F, Summer B, Eliska** and **Kara** remained focused in every discipline and really pushed themselves hard. Their consistency paid off and, without dropping a single point, they finished with the top score of the day: 90 points - 1st place! Very well deserved! 😊

As this event requires a combined team score, we were very reliant on the times and scores from the other schools too. With a grand total of 164 points, HPS claimed a very pleasing 1st place overall. You are all superstars and you made Mr Watson and me very proud - terrific ambassadors for living our whole school vision circle! Congratulations! ☆



Year 3 & 4 Boys and Year 5 & 6 Girls East Devon Schools Cross Country Finals:

Our year 3/4 boys and our year 5/6 girls did HPS proud once again after qualifying for the East Devon Finals Cross Country back in October. **Leo, Thomas, London, Lakelan, Samuel** and **Harrison** showed what perseverance truly looks like as they embarked on a challenging course across the fields at Bicton College with a hugely competitive group of runners. And there was no difference to the demands that **Lauren, Evie P, Evie F, Letty, Kara** and **Eliska** put upon themselves as they faced the longer distance that is set for the older year groups. They showed real team spirit and had a level of determination to match! They gave it their all and crossed the finish line exhausted, but with their heads held high; we are so very proud of them! Well done team HPS! 😊

Thank you extends to Mr Hasler, Mrs Squire and Mrs Bendrey for all of the help and support at this event too! 😊



Children in Need 'on the spot' Dance-a-thon:

As always, here at HPS, we are committed to supporting the national charity event 'Children in Need' and, after the last couple of years, we have proven that we always try to think of interesting and exciting ways to challenge ourselves (some would say with mad, crazy and somewhat 'hare-brained' ideas!!) and this year proved to be no different ... the launch of our 'on the spot' dance-a-thon was born! 😊

After a few weeks of training, the year 5 vice captains and the year 6 house captains had all the moves and music engrained within them and it was merely a matter of sharing all of this across the day with every child of HPS, from nursery to year 6! There were smiles from ear to ear, there was laughter across the runway all day and there was energy and enthusiasm in abundance from both children and staff .. all the classic tunes and recognisable dance tracks were so popular that we're not feeling fed up with the 'hokey cokey' at all!! 😊

A huge, huge THANK YOU to everyone that supported our event this year. What a great way to raise money for a great cause! Thank you ✨





House Captains and Vice Captains:

With the departure of our outgoing year 6 house captains, it was time to hand over the reins so that last year's year 5 vice captains became duly up-graded! We have every confidence that these children will continue to be worthy of wearing their new house captain badges with pride for the coming year - good luck!

- GREEN** team: House Captains - **Emily S + Wyatt**
- BLUE** team: House Captains **Evie P + Fred**
- YELLOW** team: House Captains - **Amelia + Alf**
- RED** team: House Captains - **Lauren C + Jensen W**



This, of course, meant that there was a need to open up the vice captain role and, using one of our school vision circle values - democracy - it was the year 5 children that were going to be presented with the opportunity to apply for the role of vice-captain, should they have wanted to. The house captains were looking for children who embody the school's vision and values; for children who would be able to discuss and decide on things that matter to all pupils of HPS; for children who could be a positive role model for other young people; and for children who were polite, well-mannered, friendly, caring, honest and with good sense of humours! A total of 23 children from year 5 spent time prepping and preparing speeches that showcased all of their amazing qualities. They all were brave enough to sit and chat with Mrs Ayres, Mr Watson and the newly promoted house captains - not an easy thing to do! Despite the initial nerves, many presented themselves confidently, with great examples of why they should be considered for such a role and it took a lot of deliberating amongst the house captains before any final decisions were made ... our closest run contest yet!

After very careful consideration, the decisions were made and this year's new house team vice captains are:

- GREEN** team: Vice Captains - **Erin N + Oakley**
- BLUE** team: Vice Captains - **Kara + Mo**
- YELLOW** team: Vice Captains - **Violet + Henry**
- RED** team: Vice Captains - **Lois + Kian**



You'll spot them easily thanks to their badges adorning their ties! And you will easily recognise them at whole school events and sports days where they have additional t-shirts, emblazoned with their titles! They are looking forward to working alongside you all - congratulations! 😊

