

Hethersett Woodside Primary and Nursery School

DECEMBER 2024



WELCOME

Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks to all of you who joined us for parents evenings - either online or in person. We had a fantastic turn out, and teachers were pleased to be able to share information with you. If you have not yet had your appointment, please do make contact with the teacher or the office, so a time can be allocated.

We decided to gather parent and carer feedback through a questionnaire - your comments and suggestions have been invaluable, and we will be working on the 2 main areas which received less positive feedback. In summary:

- 97% Agreed 'My child is happy in school'
- 99% Agreed 'My child is well taught'
- 95% Agreed 'School sets good behaviour standards'
- 97% Agreed 'School is well led and managed'
- 95% Agreed 'Recommend the school to others'

(Areas to focus on are: Communication and Home Learning) A HUGE thank you to all who completed a questionnaire - if you had an online appointment you have had a questionnaire emailed to you - please return by email or there is an anonymous post box in the office.

This half term has been so busy already; with visits, visitors and engaging learning happening across every year group.

Mr Carter and myself have been monitoring teaching and learning across our school - visiting every class teacher to spend time watching teaching, looking at children's books and the learning environment and talking to the children. It has been a fabulous fortnight; with children fully engaged in learning, behaving exceptionally well and an excited buzz in every area of school - We are VERY proud of all the children and thank you to all staff for being so committed.

School is looking very festive and decorated ready to celebrate Christmas, and we look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas plays in school and also our Christmas Fair on Friday 6th December from 3.30pm.

On behalf of our staff and Governors, we wish you a restful and enjoyable Christmas time.

Mrs Louise Mainwaring - Headteacher



DIARY DATES

Date	Time	What	Who	Place
December				
2 Dec	2.00pm	Nursery Christmas stay and play session	Nursery	Nursery
2 Dec	3.30pm	Mixed Football	Years 5 & 6	Sportspark
3 Dec	9am	Nursery Christmas stay and play session	Nursery	Nursery
4 Dec	Lunch	Christmas Lunch - Festive jumpers for all	Years 3-6	
4 Dec	2pm	Nursery Christmas stay and play session	Nursery	Nursery
5 Dec	9am	Nursery Christmas stay and play session	Nursery	Nursery
6 Dec	3.30pm	FOWS Christmas Fayre	All	Main hall
9 Dec	6pm	Hethersett Community Carol Service - (Choir only - information to follow)	Choir	Church
9 Dec	PM	NARS Workshop	Year 6	
9 Dec	All day	Year 5 - Castle Museum Trip	Year 5	
10 Dec	9.30am	Christmas Performance*	Reception	Main hall
10 Dec	10am - 12pm	Christmas Carols at Hethersett Care Home	Year 3	
10 Dec	2pm	Christmas Performance*	Reception	Main hall
11 Dec	Lunch	Christmas Lunch - Festive jumpers for all	Nursery - Year 2	
12 Dec	9.30am	Christmas Performance*	Year 1	Main hall
12 Dec	2pm	Christmas Performance*	Year 1	Main hall
12 Dec	3.30pm	Mixed Football	Years 3 & 4	Sportspark
13 Dec	9.30am	Christmas Performance*	Year 2	Main hall
13 Dec	2pm	Christmas Performance*	Year 2	Main hall
16 Dec	Various	Winter Games	Years 1-6	Hethersett Academy
16 Dec	2.30pm	Year 3 Christmas songs to parents/carers	Year 3	Main hall
18 Dec	2pm	Rock Steady Performance (Band only)		Main hall
20 Dec		School breaks up for Christmas Holiday		

*Google form sent out re tickets

January 2025

6 Jan		INSET - No children in school		
7 Jan		Return to school		
14 Jan	2.30pm	Reading Café - Rec	Rowan Class	Main Hall
15 Jan	2.30pm	Reading Café - Rec	Sycamore Class	Main Hall
17 Jan	1.30pm	Cedar Local Library Trip	Cedar Class	
21 Jan	2.30pm	Reading Café - Chestnut	Chestnut Class	Main Hall
22 Jan	2.30pm	Reading Café - Holly	Holly Class	Main Hall

23 Jan	2.30pm	SEND Surgery - see info in Inclusion section		
24 Jan	1.30pm	Hawthorn Local Library Trip	Hawthorn Class	
28 Jan	2.30pm	Reading Café - Hazel	Hazel Class	Main Hall
30 Jan	2.30pm	Reading Café - Laurel	Laurel Class	Main Hall
February				
4 Feb		Year 3 Time & Tide Museum Trip	Year 3	Time & Tide Museum
5 Feb	2.30pm	Reading Café - Hawthorn	Hawthorn Class	Main Hall
6 Feb	2.30pm	Reading Café - Cedar	Cedar Class	Main Hall
11 Feb	1.45 - 2.45pm	Orchard Class Stay and Play	Orchard Class	
11 Feb	2.30pm	Reading café - Beech	Beech class	
12 Feb	2.30pm	Reading café - Lime	Lime class	
13 Feb	12.30pm	Dance Festival	Selected pupils	Sportspark
14 Feb		School breaks up for half term		
23 Feb	9.30am	Girls Football Competition	Years 3 & 4	Sportspark
24 Feb	1.30pm	Girls Football Competition	Years 5 & 6	Sportspark
25 Feb	2.30pm	Reading Café - Ash	Ash	Main Hall
27 Feb	2.30pm	Reading Café - Birch	Birch	Main hall

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Class	Attendance w/c 4/11	Attendance w/c 11/11	Attendance w/c 18/11	Attendance w/c 25/11
Rowan	92%	94%	94%	95%
Sycamore	90%	95%	98%	86%
Chestnut	98%	93%	96%	94%
Holly	98%	95%	98%	96%
Hazel	94%	98%	97%	98%
Laurel	99%	97%	97%	97%
Beech	100%	99%	90%	91%
Lime	99%	98%	95%	94%
Cedar	96%	100%	97%	99%
Hawthorn	99%	98%	99%	97%
Ash	96%	100%	98%	95%
Birch	97%	99%	98%	95%
Elm	97%	97%	97%	97%
Maple	99%	99%	98%	100%

Our school target is to be above 96%, so well done to all classes who are consistently above this!

CURRICULUM

Learning in Reception!

The Reception children have been playing with clay both inside and outside. They have explored this natural material, moulding, shaping and modelling with it. Many have just enjoyed the feeling of it in their hands, especially when water is added! Next we will add different tools to imprint marks and create textures. Such fun!

Having learned about Diwali, the Hindu celebration of light, the children made diva lamps with clay, first moulding the clay with their thumbs and then decorating them with colour and sparkles.



Sycamore enjoyed listening to one of their parents tell a story that Hindus celebrate, of Rama and his victory over the bad demon king Ravanna. Of course, good always wins over bad!

Learning in Year 3!

Year 3 have had a hands-on and productive start to the Autumn half term, practicing a variety of important skills. In science, they've been exploring measurement techniques using tape measures, while also focusing on ensuring their tests are fair and accurate. Over in sewing, the children have been learning to thread needles, tie secure knots, and perfect their running stitches. These skills are all in preparation for creating their very own Christmas stockings. Throughout these activities, the children have demonstrated fantastic resilience and enthusiasm, embracing every challenge with determination and enjoyment!



We also had a visit from Dr Mandy Hartley who wrote the DNA Detective series of books. The children took on the role of archaeologists and scientists working on ancient DNA.

We 'excavated' an 'ancient grave' and using artefacts, their skeleton and DNA worked out whether the person found was a Neanderthal or Homo Sapien, how they died, what their job might have been, what status they were likely to have had and whether they were male or female.

We used DNA sequences to find out what the person would have looked like including their skin, hair and eye colour. We found out about the Cheddar Man where this was done in real life!

Dr Hartley was very impressed with the children's knowledge about the Stone Age and enthusiasm for investigating who the person was!

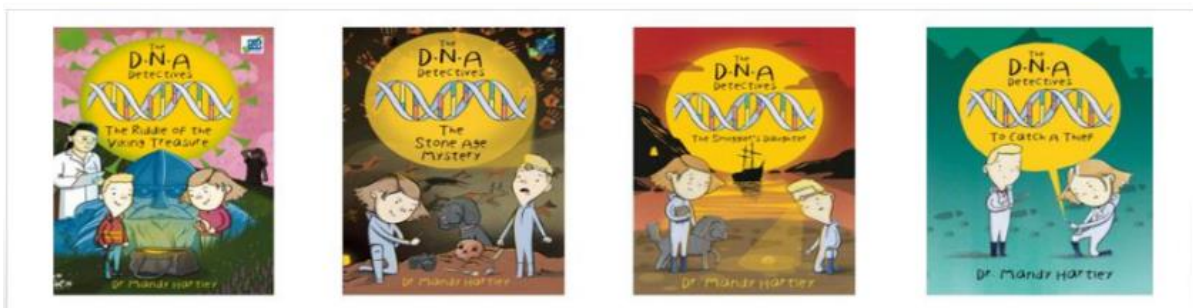
AUTHOR & SCIENTIST EVENT

At the start of November, Years 1-6 were able to enjoy a visit from the scientist and author Dr Mandy Hartley; she talked to the children about the significance of everyone's DNA structure and how this has helped her to identify multiple criminals and make a difference in the world. Here is a recount written by two of our students following the visit:



A couple of days ago, a scientist - called Dr Mandy Hartly - came to our school. She explained to us the opportunities of her job and how it inspired her to become an author; her dreams came true. Book after book was published, and now she has written her fourth book. Her books are based on her experience with science and daily life. Her children have had a big impact on her story writing career as they are both main characters in her books. She has convinced many of our peers to become either an author, a scientist or even both! It has had a great impact on our lives. We were influenced by her explanations and brilliant ideas. Overall, her trip to Woodside was very successful and we hope that she has inspired many people.

Netta & Jessica



INCLUSION

Here is a lovely resource which maps out SEND friendly events across Norfolk.

<https://www.sendfriendly.org/>

Working memory

Research shows that we can increase the capacity of working memory up until the age of 14! There are lots of things you can do to support your child's working memory at home.

- Playing memory games e.g. naming the objects hidden under a blanket
- Matching games
- Play card games e.g. Uno or go fish! Children will have to remember the rules as they play
- Give 2 part instructions when drawing or colouring, gradually increasing them. E.g. colour the house blue and the windows pink.

Parent Workshops

Norfolk and Suffolk NHS have developed a range of online workshops covering a range of topics as part of the '*Parent Workshop Programme and Childhood Neurodiversity Parent Workshop Programme*'. These cover a range of topics from 'Supporting People with Low Mood' to 'Supporting Children with Big Emotions' to 'Understanding and Supporting with Sleep Difficulties'. Please click [here](#) to see all the workshops that are available.



Have a SEND concern or query
you'd like to discuss?
Book an appointment to chat to
our SENDCo!

Our next half termly SEND Surgery will be on Thursday 23rd January 2.30 - 4.30pm. If you would like to attend one of these appointments with Mrs Jefferson to discuss any SEND concern or query you may have please fill out the link on this form:

<https://forms.gle/k9TYPq7P39494rz18>

FRIENDS OF HETHERSETT WOODSIDE

The Christmas Fayre is approaching on Friday 6th December, and we're just sorting the finishing touches on what is looking to be a wonderful event to kick off the festive season. With stalls planned to include the tombola lucky dip, face-painting, cake stall, games and more, it's going to be a great afternoon for all the family.

Please ask the office if you would like more raffle tickets. Top prizes include a Lenovo tablet (donated by our sponsors Prospect Handling Ltd), a luxury Christmas hamper (donated by Hethersett Co-op), Gold, Silver and Bronze hampers, and some vouchers donated by some very generous businesses and attractions in the area.

We're also still looking for volunteers for the fayre. If you can help with any aspect from setting up, to manning a stall, tidying up or donating cakes or biscuits, we'd like to hear from you. Please email

fows@hethersettwoodside.org.uk if you can volunteer, feel free to bring your children with you!

We look forward to seeing you on Friday 6th December!



HETHERSETT HUNDRED



We are so pleased to announce that our Bake Sale raised £666 for our charities! This means that we are now able to make a donation of £100 to 6 more charities! We would like to send a big thank you to every single family who supported the event by joining in the non-uniform day, donating cakes for the sale and also bringing in money to purchase them too! Our thanks also extends to our wonderful children volunteers - led by this year's Star Baker Mrs Parker- who helped run and prepare the event in school! Here are the next six charities we are able to help:



OTHER NEWS

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you for all your support with the Book Fair. We raised a fantastic £481 towards new books for our school library. Our FOWS did a great job looking after this book sale - thank you to them.

Payment for Visits linked to our curriculum offer

School visits enhance our curriculum and the learning in the classroom; bringing the learning to life for the children. Our pupils very much enjoy our visits which support their understanding of subjects and improve personal and social skills as well as academic achievement. In order for these visits to go ahead, please could Parents/Carers be prompt when making payment via Pupil Asset. Sadly, if we do not receive sufficient contributions, the visits will be unable to go ahead, as school is not able to supplement huge short falls.

Consideration when parking/driving

Please can we ask families to be considerate and mindful when parking and driving near the school to ensure everybody's safety in our residential area. The school car park is only accessible if you have been issued with a parking permit.

Christmas Lunches

All children in school are welcome to wear a festive jumper on both Christmas lunch days.

Lunch at school

If your child has a home packed lunch, please ensure you send a drink into school for them. This should ideally be water, fizzy drinks are not permitted. Please also ensure sweets or items containing nuts are not in lunch boxes. Thank you

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT
Hethersett & District Aid in Sickness Fund?



DO YOU LIVE IN
Hethersett
Ketteringham
or Little Melton?



ARE YOU
or is someone you know, in need of financial help because of illness or disability?

Examples of help available

- Car adaptations
- Wheelchair or other mobility items
- Support during a medical crisis
- Nebulisers and other equipment
- Pre-payment certificates for prescriptions

**Infirm
Convalescing
Sick
Unwell
Disability**

For further information or to apply for a grant please email or telephone one of the trustees listed below. If you have a need for something which is not mentioned above please apply and we will try to help.

 hadaisfcharity@gmail.com

Alex	07805 242326
Mary	01603 811330
Christopher	01603 811010
Debby	01603 812221
Adele	01603 811945
Rachel	01603 812596



All applications are treated in the strictest confidence
Registered Charity Number 211284



Are you interested in

Volunteering?

Are you passionate about infant feeding?
Would you like to support families on their feeding journey?
Do you want to be part of a new volunteer initiative across the Norfolk community?

Our infant feeding peer support volunteers will provide valuable emotional and practical infant feeding support to parents.

This is a rewarding role where you can volunteer for a cause you feel passionately about, give back to your community and learn new skills along the way!

For more details and to apply - see <https://btrr.im/0dlzo>
Questions? Contact ccs.volunteers@nhs.net



 To apply, scan the QR Code

