

'Enabling everyone to flourish' Respect, Perseverance, Creativity

Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School

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25th November 2022

Dates and events for the term ahead

Christmas craft afternoon – 29th November

Children will work with others from across the school in their house groups to create a range of Christmas themed crafts. This will include a Christmas bauble which will be hung on the village Christmas tree from the beginning of December.

Celebration service – 2nd December, 2pm

Families are invited to join us for celebration service next week.

Nativity – 6th December, 1.15pm & 8th December, 9am

Both performances will take place in the school hall. All children in Wrens and Robins will be involved in both performances. School aged children will be able to see the dress rehearsal during school time.

Mrs Halstead farewell assembly – 7th December, 2pm

Please join us in the school hall as we gather to say goodbye and good luck to Mrs Halstead.

Whole school visit to Bristol Old Vic – 9th December

The children will be watching a performance of Belle and Sebastien. Thank you to PTA for funding transport.

Christmas fair – 10th December

This will take place in the Village Hall and will begin at 11.30am. All money raised will go to the PTA which supports the work of the school.

KS2 performance – 13th December, 1.15pm and 5.30pm

Families of children in Swallows and Hawks are invited to join us for their Christmas pantomime which will take place in the school hall. All KS2 children will be needed at both performances. School aged children will be able to see the dress rehearsal during school time. Tickets have been shared this week.

Christmas lunch – 14th December

Christingle service – 16th December

This will take place in the church at 9.30am. All families are welcome to attend. The purpose of a Christingle is to remind the children of the Christmas story.

Christmas parties – dates to be confirmed

Each class will have a Christmas party in the final week of term. They will be able to bring party clothes into school to change into.

Final day of Term 2 – 16th December

Reverse advent calendar

During our celebration service next week, we will share our reverse advent calendar which is displayed in the school hall. The idea is that, in the lead up to Christmas, we will ask the children to do something to help others or to give something back. The first door was opened earlier this week and it asked children to consider whether they could help school council which is currently looking to fill shoeboxes with toys to send to children in Ukraine.

Staffing update

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to one of our teaching assistants Olga Shulianska who has been working with us for 3 days per week over recent months. Olga is expecting her third child and we wish her and her family all the best. It has been great to have Olga with us at Hawkesbury – she has been a fantastic addition to the team and has helped to settle our Ukrainian children into school life here in the UK.

After School Club AGM

We will be holding the Hawkesbury After School Club AGM on Wednesday 14th December via Zoom at 8pm. All are welcome to attend. Here are the log in details:

Hawkesbury After School Club AGM Weds 14th December 8pm. Online via Zoom, all are welcome to attend.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5112222010?pwd=ifFVBNyov9dYRLligKP6cnbFWKOreB.1>

Meeting ID: 511 222 2010; Passcode: HASC2022

The school day is changing...

Please be reminded that our school day will finish at 3pm from January. We will continue to start at 8.30 each day. After School Club will share further information in the coming days about their arrangements.

School crossing patrol will run between 8.10 and 8.45 each morning then will change to 2.50 until 3.15 each afternoon.

A few other reminders from our school crossing patrol team which we will share with the children too:

- Always wait for your school crossing patrol to say it's now safe to cross before stepping out
- Dismount and walk bikes and scooters across
- Always walk in front of the school crossing patrol

Mental health webinar

South Gloucestershire Council is providing the following mental health awareness webinar for parents and carers:

Tuesday 6th December 19.30-21.00 – Sign up via the Eventbrite link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-awareness-webinar-for-south-glou-tickets-431683395657>

Anti-bullying week

This week the children had a visit from Unique Voice who shared some incredible age specific assemblies and workshops for each of our classes. Teachers say that the sessions were very helpful in enabling children to understand what bullying is (and what it isn't) as well how they can sort it out if it ever happens to them or those around them. We will share more in next week's celebration service.

Attendance information

Our current attendance information for each class is as follows:

Wrens Reception	Robins Y1/2	Swallows Y3/4	Hawks Y5/6	Whole school
97.3%	95.9%	95.6%	95.4%	95.8%

Our attendance target for the year ahead is 96.5%. Well done to Wren Class for having the highest attendance so far this year!

Please remember: **schools are unable to authorise term time holiday unless there are exceptional circumstances.** This is in place to stop your child from falling behind in their learning.

Recent fundraising

Thank you to all those who have been able to support the recent fundraising activities:

- Poppies for The Royal British Legion. As a school we raised a total of £104.55 which makes a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community.
- Children in Need donations – this amounted to £40.
- Tombola prizes – these have been stored safely until the Christmas fair and will form part of the tombola stall on the 10th December.

Interfaith day

Children from across the school joined together with thousands of others from across the South West to celebrate national interfaith week last Tuesday. Each class heard a story from a specific faith or world view:

Wrens heard from Iris Segall who shared a Jewish story.

Robins heard from Abdul Malik who shared a Muslim story.

Swallows heard from Shweta and Aditya who shared a Hindu story.

Hawks heard from Matt Evans who shared a Humanist story.

Merry Christmas from the PTA!

We're looking forward to the next few weeks of Christmas activities and hope you are too!

Crackercraft – this hugely popular evening on Sunday 4th December has **SOLD OUT!** We hope you all enjoy the evening which is gaining in popularity each year, thanks to Anna, Kristy and team for making this happen.

Christmas Fayre – Please join us on Saturday 10th December 11.30am – 1.30pm for our Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall. Santa's Grotto, Soup Competition, Crafts, Stalls, Refreshments, Secret Gift Shop and More!

Christmas Jumper Exchange – We'd love to add a few more jumpers to the pile before getting them ready for sale at the Christmas Fayre – if you are having a pre-Christmas sort out, please pop any donations into the School Office before 10th December.

Badminton Horse Trials – 100 Square Draw - Please let us know if you would like to purchase a square (or two!) They're £2.50 each and the winner will receive a season pass for two adults (children under 12 are free) and parking for the entire event! The board will be on show at the Christmas Fayre and outside school (dates TBC).

We're thrilled to have been able to support 100% of school trip transport costs this term and the purchase of new equipment/learning materials for every class via the class grants system.

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Parent council feedback

Parent council meets around 4 times per year. This is an opportunity for class reps to share information and ask questions on behalf of those in their child's year group. The following parents are currently involved:

Year 1 – Jo Duke

Year 3 – Kristy Dunk

Year 4 – Charlie Hodder

Year 5 – Catherine Harvey & Anna Knight

We have vacancies in Reception, Year 2 and Year 6. If you would like to represent any of these year groups please let the school office know.

A summary of the main areas discussed is as follows:

Question / comment	School response
Good to see more school trips taking place.	Teachers are ensuring these take place in line with the curriculum. More are due to take place over coming months. We will continue to keep costs in mind.
Homework	School will be reviewing its current approach later in the year. Reading is always highest priority; spelling and times tables are also of high importance. If there are any issues around completion these need to be raised with class teacher.
Clubs	We offer a lot of clubs for the size of school; we are fortunate to have parent led and supported clubs too. Systems changed in the last couple of years to stop some children being signed up to multiple clubs and others to no clubs at all. Not enough children to make cheerleading viable – this was disappointing. It is hoped this will take place once tag rugby club has finished. There is a taster session coming up. Cross country club was oversubscribed. It would be helpful to have parent volunteers if there are any willing volunteers to increase capacity.
Sporting events	More opportunities are becoming available once again through secondary schools and local clusters of schools. We think it is important to get involved and are getting dates in the diary to enable children to get involved. Sometimes these don't always work out due to clashes with dates / transport issues / teacher workload. Mr Bryant is currently working alongside parents to get a new kit in place.
Y5/6 residential	This is an incredibly valuable event for children to get involved in. It may appear expensive but costs are in line with other similar venues. Each year school has to keep asking for final information from providers to confirm costs; as soon as this information is received it is shared with families.
Whole school culture	House groups will meet together for various activities over the course of the year to promote the importance of the whole school coming together. This was something we couldn't do during the pandemic and is an important aspect of school life at Hawkesbury.

Types of communication

As you will be aware the school uses a system called Teachers 2 Parents which enables us to send texts and emails. In response to recent feedback, here is some clarification around how these are used:

Texts: can be a maximum of 160 characters so are used for short messages or reminders, e.g. reiterating something from the newsletter about a date or event / informing of a change to school lunch menu.

Emails: used to include more detailed information as well as attachments such as newsletters and flyers for forthcoming events.

We are always happy to talk as well. Please speak to a member of staff if you ever need to discuss a school matter.

Friday celebration assembly

Over the last two weeks, the following children were celebrated for their achievements:

Wrens – Emma was celebrated for modelling our 3 school values, **Ruby** was celebrated for her kindness to others, **Daniel's** writing was celebrated and **Gracie** was celebrated for her nativity practice.

Robins – Lucy was celebrated for her perseverance in maths, and **Thea's** great focus was celebrated. **Josie's** great explanations were celebrated, and **George** was celebrated for his work as an author.

Swallows – Holly was celebrated for her fab audition, **Albie** was celebrated for raising his standards in maths, and **Ursula** and **Martha** were celebrated for their teamwork, creativity and application of knowledge during the challenge.

Hawks – Maisie Mae was celebrated for her perseverance in maths, and **Vinnie** was celebrated for the support he gave others during IT. **Joe** was celebrated for a fantastic week, and **Ailsa** was celebrated for her leadership of the school council.

Please note – our next celebration assembly which parents are invited to attend will take place on **Friday 2nd December at 2pm**. Hawk Class will be taking a break from swimming so will be present this time.

Term 2 calendar

Event	Date and time	Information
Christmas craft afternoon	29 th November	Children will work in house groups across the school.
Celebration assembly	2 nd December 2pm	Families are invited to attend.
Wrens & Robins Nativity services	6 th December, 1.15 8 th December, 9am	See above
Old Vic Theatre visit	9 th December	
Christmas fair	10 th December, 11.30	This will take place in the Village Hall.
Swallows & Hawks performance	13 th December, 1.15 & 5.30	See above
Christmas lunch	14 th December	
After School Club AGM	14 th December, 8pm	See above
Last day of Term 2	Friday 16 th December 2.30pm	
Christingle service	Friday 16 th December 9.30am	Families are invited to join us at church for this event.
First day of Term 3	Wednesday 4 th January 8.30am	

Dates can also be found on our school website: <https://hawkesburyprimaryschool.co.uk/category/news/>