

# Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School

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24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## Dates and events for Term 2

### Non-uniform day – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Children do not need to wear school uniform on this day. Instead we ask that donations are made for the tombola stall at this year's Christmas Fayre. Items can be taken to the table in the hall in the morning and these will be processed by members of the PTA.

### Christmas pantomime – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Children will receive a visit from Bristol Old Vic Theatre School during the afternoon. This will take place in the school hall and has been funded by the church.

### Nativity performances

These will take place on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1.30pm** and **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 9am**. Both services will take place in the school hall. This is not a ticketed event and wider family members are invited to come along and be a part of the audience. Children in Swallows and Hawks will watch the dress rehearsal earlier in the week.

### Christmas Fayre – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 11.30am – 1pm

This will take place in the village hall. There will be a range of activities and stalls on offer. Please come and support the work of the PTA and bring family and friends along with you.

### KS2 pantomime – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 1.30pm & 5.30pm

The children are preparing to share this year's performance of 'Super Stan' and this will take place in the school hall. This is not a ticketed event and there is no maximum number of family members this year. All children in Swallows & Hawks are needed at both performances.

### Christmas lunch – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Bookings for Christmas lunch can be made using our usual systems. If children would like to wear a Christmas top in place of their school jumper that day, they are very welcome to do so.

### Christingle service – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 9.30am

Please come along and join us at St Mary's Church in Hawkesbury for our annual Christingle service. Children will travel by coach. Please note the change of date due to a planned event in Hawkesbury on the Friday.

### Class parties – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

All classes will have their Christmas parties on the same day. Children can come to school wearing party clothes. Please ensure this includes sensible shoes.

### **Attendance**

Attendance for the year to date along with punctuality for the past two weeks is as follows:

Wrens	Robins	Swallows	Hawks	<b>Whole school total</b>
97.5%	97%	96.8%	95%	<b>95.6%</b>
4 lates	9 lates	3 lates	6 lates	<b>23 lates</b>

Please note: our attendance target is 96.5% and 0 lates.

Please ensure your child is in school and on time every day to help them to learn. If they miss out on school too frequently, even just for a few days, they are likely to quickly fall behind.

### **Anti-bullying week**

We hope you found the parent workshop with Unique Voice helpful. In case you missed it, the NSPCC has a range of information and advice available on the same theme:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

With the children we use the phrase Several Times On Purpose to describe what bullying is. If you are ever concerned about bullying please speak to a member of staff.

### **Christmas crackercraft evening**

Bookings are open for Hawkesbury School PTA's Crackercraft Evening, 2023.

The (rapidly becoming traditional) sparkly festive evening of gentle grown-up socialising is back for another year on Sunday 3rd December.

£20 per person includes warming mulls, yummy desserts & peaceful cracker-making. Tables of 8 - email [hello@hawkesburypta.co.uk](mailto:hello@hawkesburypta.co.uk) to register your group. (If you have a group smaller than 8, still message and I'll do my best to matchmake a full table.)

Presented in support of the PTA coffers to help fund both essential & exciting things for all our primary children. All welcome.

### **School uniform**

It is essential that all children wear full school uniform every day including a school jumper, fleece or cardigan and black shoes (not trainers). On PE days children (except in Wrens) should wear their school PE kit. We also expect hair that is longer than shoulder length to be tied back to avoid it getting in the way of their work and to reduce the risk of passing around head lice. A full list of our school uniform can be found on the school website:

<https://hawkesburyprimaryschool.co.uk/school-info/uniform/>

**Parent council feedback**

The following items were discussed at the recent parent council meeting:

Discussion item	Response
<p><u>School lunches</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The good work of the kitchen staff was recognised.</li> <li>• There are mixed reviews of the new menu; some feel there is a good range of options and some feel there is not.</li> <li>• Some are missing the baguette option.</li> <li>• Can packed lunches leave their rubbish in the bins at school?</li> </ul>	<p>The school recognises that there are some limitations to the new menu and that it can be carb heavy on certain days. Edwards &amp; Ward have confirmed a new menu is on its way in the New Year and they have taken our feedback into account.</p> <p>It is likely there will be a sandwich option available as part of the new menu and this will be confirmed as soon as possible.</p> <p>Kitchen staff are confident that the quality of ingredients are the same if not better than previously. We will continue to review the offer from our new provider over the coming months.</p> <p>School is unable to process rubbish from packed lunches for two reasons: we are unable to recycle the rubbish and we pay for our rubbish by weight.</p>
<p><u>Snacks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be helpful to know why Edwards &amp; Ward are unable to provide toast.</li> <li>• Can the school allow children to bring in an alternative snack to fruit as this is not always substantial enough for all children?</li> </ul>	<p>Kitchen staff no longer have the capacity to provide toast due to a change in the workload under the new provider.</p> <p>The school's preference is for children to bring in an additional piece of fruit but equally we recognise that this might not work for all children. We are keen to limit the amount of packaging created by children bringing snacks into school and we need to ensure a consistent approach if some flexibility is allowed.</p> <p><b>From next week, children may bring in another form of healthy snack. This will be monitored closely over the coming weeks.</b></p>
<p><u>Clubs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could club start dates be shared before the end of term?</li> <li>• Archery club was cancelled frequently and this was inconvenient.</li> <li>• Can all clubs finish at 4pm?</li> </ul>	<p>All club dates are currently shared when parents sign up for them. The clubs letter which is sent out reminds parents to make a note of the dates of clubs as they are often different depending on the club, particularly if an outside provider runs them.</p> <p>School has fed back to USports concerns raised about archery club. USports staff have apologised and recognise the inconvenience.</p> <p>School is reluctant to extend teacher led clubs to 4pm as this may impact negatively on teacher workload. When planning clubs, we will aim to avoid having clubs finishing at different times on the same days.</p>
<p><u>OFSTED</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School was congratulated on its recent OFSTED outcome.</li> <li>• Further clarification on the nature of the next steps given to the school was asked for.</li> </ul>	<p>The next steps given around curriculum development were specifically in relation to art. Over recent years, the school has developed individual areas of the curriculum in a sustainable and considered way. Art is an area that is a focus of our ongoing development plan for this academic year. Whilst it was in no way in poor shape, it was the next subject to sharpen up on in terms of sequencing. This was on the agenda at our INSET day in September and we pleased with the outcome of this work.</p>

**Parent council feedback continued**

<p><u>Homework</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It would be helpful to have some clarity on whether homework is strongly encouraged or compulsory.</li><li>• It was felt that KS2 homework is much improved although some miss the creative element of the previous approach.</li></ul>	<p>School is happy with the new approach and appreciates the helpful feedback from parents. It appears to be working well and adding value. Homework is strongly encouraged and we do want to see all children completing it where possible. For older children this will also ease transition into secondary school. If a child is unable to complete it, teachers will be looking for a reason for this.</p>
<p><u>Class information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Could PE days and some other key information be shared before the term starts?</li></ul>	<p>School will aim to share any changes to PE days at the end of the previous term in the main school newsletter along with other essential information which is needed before the start of term.</p>
<p><u>Reception 2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some prospective parents are concerned there may not be enough spaces in next year's cohort due to anticipated numbers being expected.</li></ul>	<p>School plans to liaise with the Local Authority admissions department to confirm its intention to breach numbers next year if required. This should allow all families in the village to have a space at our school.</p>
<p><u>Gateway payment system</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some parents are finding the new system harder to use and there is sometimes a discrepancy with the information school has when compared with that which parents have.</li></ul>	<p>School has bought into this system as part of a two year package. The office staff are aware of the issues and are providing individual feedback to parents who have raised issues. We will continue to refine our approach as we get used to the new system.</p>
<p><u>Residential</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some parents feel it is expensive.</li><li>• Can school avoid sending children home early if they arrive back before the end of the school day?</li></ul>	<p>A lot of research goes into selecting the venue for our residential each year. The cost of Morfa Bay is in line with other similar centres and the school feels it is good value for the provision available to the children. School will avoid sending children home early.</p>
<p><u>After school club</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the impact on numbers since the reduction in cost?</li><li>• It was felt the 4pm pick up time works well.</li><li>• A request was made for the school to offer a different price structure for a 5pm pick up.</li></ul>	<p>Numbers are looking healthy at the moment and the club is now breaking even which allows it to remain financially viable. The main risk is around staffing as this can be a difficult position to fill; the school is still looking for a second member of staff to join the team. The school will continue to monitor uptake before making any decision to change the pricing structure further and this will be kept under review.</p>
<p><u>Uniform</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It was noted that some children sometimes come to school without the correct uniform on and this is a particular issue on PE days and in the summer months.</li></ul>	<p>School will continue to remind children and parents of the uniform requirements. This will also be dealt with on an individual basis where necessary.</p>

Thank you to the members of parent council who support the school in this role.

**Celebration service awards last week**

Flourish awards

Wrens – Noelle for independence as a writer; Bertie for confidence as a reader.

Robins – Alice for great knowledge as a historian; Daniel for independence as a writer.

Swallows – Natalie for using skills of paraphrasing and punctuation; Emily for her skills as an artist.

Hawks – Eloise for contributions in class and Vera for tremendous gymnastics.

**Term 2 calendar**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Information</b>
Swallow Class trip to the Jenner Museum	28.11.23	
Individual and sibling photographs	29.11.23	
Wren Class parent workshop	30.11.23, 2.15pm	
Non-uniform day for PTA Christmas fayre	01.12.23	Donations can be made for the tombola.
Nativity performances	05.12.23, 1.30pm 06.12.23, 9.00am	In the school hall.
Bristol Old Vic Theatre School performance	07.12.23	Children will watch The Elves and the Shoemaker in the hall. Paid for by the church.
Wren & Robin visit to Beaufort House	08.12.23	
Christmas fayre	09.12.23 11.30am – 1.00pm	In the village hall.
Key Stage 2 pantomime	12.12.23 1.30pm and 5.30pm	In the school hall.
Christmas lunch	13.12.23	
Christingle service	14.12.23 9.30am	This service will take place at church. Families are invited.
Final day of term 2	15.12.23, 3pm	
Carol service, St Mary's Church	17.12.23, 5pm	This is a church service and all families are welcome to attend.
Nativity service, St Mary's Church	24.12.23, 4pm	This is a church service and all families are welcome to attend.
First day of term 3	03.01.24, 8.30am	Please note: this is a Wednesday.

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