

Hemingford Grey Newsletter



19th December 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you very much for your generosity and your support of the school and children over the last term. Fundraising has enabled us to have enough now to purchase a brand new piano and we will be ordering this early in the spring term. This will benefit all children at the school. In addition, we have been able to pay the costs of the very successful visiting Pantomime Company and crackers for every child at Christmas lunch. The partnership that we build between us is vital in helping the children to move forward in their learning academically, socially and emotionally and we value the relationships we have with you and we are looking forward to continuing our work together in the New Year. Below is a brief update of developments this term in our key priority areas for the year. I'd like to wish you all a very happy, safe and peaceful Christmas. We will see you all in the New Year on the first day of term

THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY.



Photography Competition

Well done to Jack, Kate and Izzy whose winning photographs won them extra points for their Houses. The title of the December/January photography competition is: Animals and Birds. Printed copies of entries must reach Mr Churchill by Wednesday 31st January with the child's name and year on the back.



Key priorities update - MATHS

The Maths Parent Workshop at the end of September was very successful, providing lots of useful strategies for parents to use with their children at home. It was completely booked up and the feedback was extremely positive. The session is being repeated on the 8th Feb and you can book on line.

Daily Maths Meetings across the school are going well and are successfully impacting on the children's recall and understanding of core maths concepts. In these sessions, key concepts are practised to support children in retaining information.

Miss Symons and Mrs Robertson will continue to provide additional support in year 6 in addition to the daily maths lesson, the daily maths meeting, the 3 a day maths and the weekly meeting to follow up homework. Thank you to all the Year 6's who are completing their extra maths homework tasks and handing in their home/school books each week.

Well done to the children who are working hard to secure their knowledge of the times-tables. Please remember to practise times tables and their associated division facts at home.

Throughout the school we will continue to focus on problem solving and reasoning. A recent audit from a Hertfordshire maths consultant was very positive about how in KS2, "teachers understand pupils very well and are adept at stepping in and dealing with misconceptions and errors at the point of learning...in all aspects observed in the learning walk and work scrutiny pupils could be seen to be making progress and pitch is being reached within the areas covered so far". Her next visit will focus on KS1 and Reception.

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Mince Pie Competition

Well done to all of the children who sent in their amazing mince pie recipes. The House Captains judged the recipes and Mrs Lew then baked the mince pies from the winning recipes. These were judged by a panel. Well done to Kate, Sammy, Ava and George for getting down to the final 4 and a HUGE well done to George whose winning recipe resulted in 40 house points for Downing. The runners up each won 20 points for their houses.

House points update:

Downing: 755

Pembroke: 850

St Edmunds: 880

Wolfson: 660

BUT THERE'S STILL A LONG
WAY TO GO. IT'S NOT OVER
UNTIL IT'S OVER!



Thank you for your party food donations.
Any food left over
has been taken to
the local food bank.



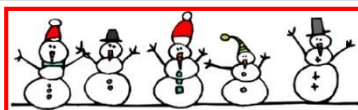
Key priorities update -SCIENCE

In science, we are focussing on developing children's scientific vocabulary, providing rich and varied learning opportunities which enable children to demonstrate and develop their skills in science and deepening our children's understanding.

At the INSET day in October, the teachers joined teachers from two other schools at the University Primary School in Cambridge where we listened to a lecturer from the university talking about the creativity behind how science and technology can be combined to develop innovative design. The day provided lots of practical support for teaching hands-on, engaging Science.

Well done to the children who have worked extremely hard to develop the Wildflower mound, the Memorial Garden and the Wild Area in their weekly Outdoor Learning sessions. This not only provides the children with practical experience of Biology, but also provides fantastic resources for Science for the rest of the school. We are so pleased with the continuing partnership between the school and the local gardening society.

In a recent book scrutiny of Science books from across the school, it was clear that the children are being exposed to high level scientific vocabulary taught in a practical manner. It was very pleasing to see a clear increase in the number of discrete scientific skills being taught alongside the Science topic. In the KS1 Learning Zone science is a daily aspect of continuous provision allowing children to develop their thinking about science in practical, hands on contexts.



**Please remember to drive safely and park considerately. Please do not use the school car parks unless you have prior permission.
Working together to keep the community safe.**



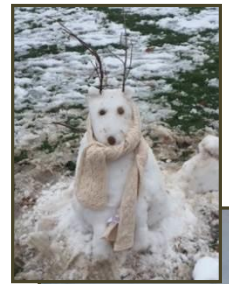
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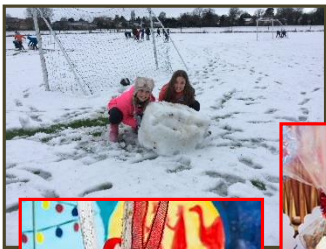
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CHRISTMAS

(See more on See-Saw/Edmodo)



We can't work out which animal these large, spaced out paw prints belong to, so the reception class has written to David Attenborough to see if he can help!



We used produce from the allotments to supplement our delicious Christmas dinner.



Continued....





Key priorities update- Spelling

Spelling has been an important school improvement focus this term, particularly in ensuring that children spell key tricky words accurately and that they apply taught spelling rules in their independent writing. Spelling sessions and weekly tests have been rigorous this term. Testing spelling rules weekly instead of fortnightly has made children much more self-reliant in remembering their books and learning spelling rules at home. It has been fantastic to see lots of children practising spellings at home regularly over the week so that they not only are successful in tests, but embed the spelling rules in their writing. Spelling training has taken place across the school. Teachers in KS2 have made use of a new spelling scheme recommended by the Local Authority, which has given them some good ideas for meaningful teaching of rules. They also had training on different word games and activities, which can make spelling and language more exciting and inspiring for children. Teaching Assistants were taught about techniques that can help children to remember spellings (other than Look, Cover, Write, Check) so that every child, regardless of their learning style, is well supported. Additionally, 20 parents and carers, from across the school, attended a spelling and grammar workshop, and reflected on similar strategies for supporting spelling at home.

November's inter-House Spelling Bee was a great success! A significant number of children entered the first round in the aim of representing their House. On the day, the four Houses competed well in a number of challenges before St. Edmunds were crowned victorious.

Scrutinising children's writing over the term has demonstrated some excellent improvements in spelling, some strong self-editing and children being equipped with a range of strategies to correct any errors. We are looking forward to further developing those skills next term.



Well done to all of you who are sharing your achievements with us. We have heard about the skills of our children in tennis, passing examinations in music and dance, swimming, judo, taking part in competitions and football tournaments and events, as well as raising money for charity. We post these achievements on our House Boards in the hall to celebrate with the rest of the school. If your child has an achievement to share please encourage them to let their class teacher know so we can post it on our House team boards.



HAVE A VERY HAPPY, SAFE AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

