



Hatherop Church of England Primary School

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'Caring, Believing, Achieving'

Newsletter: December 2023

As we start December, we are all getting excited for the festivities of the weeks ahead. Keep an eye on Parentmail, as there is a lot going on. We are looking forward to the PTA Christmas in the playground next week -thank you for all your generous donations today. Skylark class have been rehearsing their songs for their Nativity and the older children are starting to learn the carols for their concert too.

During this exciting, busy and often stressful time, it is important to remember that not all families have the means to celebrate Christmas in the same way. Therefore, we want to say thank you for all your contributions for the Salvation Army. We collected 'Christmas Goodies', which eventually filled two large plastic boxes! A visitor from the Salvation Army came into school to talk to the children about the work that they do as well as collect the goodies which will be given to families in need over the Christmas period.



We are fortunate to have a student, Millie Thomas, from Gloucestershire University with us. She is based in Skylark class and will be with us until February. We welcome her to Hatherop and hope that she gains a lot during her time with us.

RE in Action Silver Award



Last month, we were awarded with the Silver RE In Action Award for ensuring that Religious Education is a valued academic subject. Our provision gives pupils opportunities to confidently explore and discover what people of all faiths and worldviews believe and what difference this makes to the way they live.

Pastor David Crunhorn came in to enjoy worship with us, and then present the certificate to the worship committee. Thank you to Mrs Dugdale for all her hard work which contributed to receiving this award.

Punctuality

Please ensure that your child is on time for school. We have increasing numbers of children arriving late each day, which is both disruptive for the office as well as the children. The school gates open at 8:30 and close at 8:35. Anyone arriving after this will need to **come up to the office and sign in.**

We start work in class and interventions at 8:35, so it is important that your child is there promptly for the start of the day.

PTA News – Rags2Riches

Many thanks for all your donations. Collectively, we brought in a record 218kg, which raised £109 for our school. Thank you to the PTA for arranging this.

We look forward to the next event, 'Christmas in the Playground'.

We are very grateful for the PTA contribution towards the coach to the Pantomime. This has helped us to keep the cost down.

Anti-bullying week

On Monday 13th to Friday 17th November, Anti-Bullying Week took place.

At 11am, we watched a BBC live lesson about banter. We learnt about banter (which is jokily teasing each other) as well as bullying (which is on purpose like insulting them or punching repeatedly). On Monday we wore odd socks to show everyone is unique and not to bully people because of their differences "Its our differences that make us beautiful" said one of the presenters.

We also wrote on coloured card microphones to put on display and Mrs Prichard did a Anti-Bullying assembly.

The display can be seen in the hall to remind us all to 'Make a Noise about Bullying' **By Wilfred**

Sports Hall Athletics

On the 14th of November, Hatherop year five and six travelled to Cirencester college to take part in the small schools sports hall athletics.

In total there were three schools taking part in the field and track events. It was great fun and every-body got at least one chance to run in a track event, no matter whether it was for the points or just for fun!

When the results came out, we were all very happy to hear that we had come first and had got more points than our sporting rivals Rodmarton.

It was so much fun and I'm glad that we could take part. **By Noah T Y6**



Pets as Therapy

At Hatherop, we are very fortunate to have Sue and Murphy visit us every week. They spend time with the children, helping them with transition, talking about friendships, practicing their reading and mainly just bringing a smile to their faces! The children get a chance to chat to Sue while brushing Murphy.

We are very grateful to have access to Pets As Therapy (PAT) which is a national charity that enhances the health and wellbeing of thousands of people in communities across the UK. They strive to ensure that everyone, no matter their circumstances, has access to the companionship of an animal.

Look out for Sue and Murphy at some of our assemblies!

Mindfulness

At the start of this term, Joanna Coecup, a Mindfulness Teacher for Children and Adolescents, started working with our older classes. The course explores how we can train attention to focus on our own inner lives, our physical and mental well-being and our interactions with others. During the sessions, the children engage through games, discussions and exercises. The children are really enjoying the sessions so far and are beginning to notice the impact of using some of the strategies on their own.



Road Safety

A member of the parish council came into school and joined a Road Safety Assembly. After the assembly the children were asked to write about ways in which we can all keep safe.

This is from **Alex in Year 5:**

We are worried that coming in for school and going out is going to cause an accident, here are some things you can do to help:

- 1. When dropping off your children, please do not drop and go. Drop and go is when you stop the car but the engine is still on then you let your child open the door and run off to school. Instead, you should stop the car, park and drop your children off.*
- 2. When you are dropping your child off at school, please make sure that when your child opens the door of the car there are no vehicles coming past.*
- 3. When driving make sure you don't go over the speed limit (30mph). This can be really dangerous if there are other cars passing by or children crossing the road.*

The Cotswolds Winter HAF is coming!

We at World Jungle and Cotswold District Council have been busy getting out the tinsel and readying ourselves for the Holiday Activity and Food Programme Winter 2024 activities. We have so much on offer from Pantomime and cinema tickets, to ice skating to family engineering to Christmas parties. We are excited to share these great experiences with you beginning on 16th December in Cirencester with a party to 6th January in Moreton in Marsh with a film show.

You can access the booking system now to register if you haven't already here: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/register-for-our-childrens-activities-booking-system/>

You can browse activities from **27th November 12pm** here, just go to the Cotswold HAF page: <https://gloucestershirehaf.com/cotswold-district-haf>

You can book activities from **4th December 12pm** – and if any families need support with booking or transport please put them in touch with our Community Connectors here:

Bloodhound Education- 📞 0208 150 3767 ✉ accounts@bloodhoundeducation.com

Dates for the Diary:

4 th December	Year 5 Bikeability
7 th December	Christingles with Mr Brignall
8 th December	Year 5/6 School Beat Officer Visit
12 th December	Skylark Nativity
13 th December	Carol Concert
18 th December	Christmas Dinner Christmas Jumper Day
19 th December	Treasure Island at The Barn Theatre
21 st December	Celebration Worship 1:30pm End of Term 2pm
22 nd December	INSET Day
8 January 2024	First Day of Term