



# Hindon Primary School

'Where happy children learn'



## Newsletter No 3 November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed a great start to Term 2, featuring several significant visitors that have recognised our achievements and provided clear direction for our ongoing improvement.

The term started with a very positive visit from a team of school improvement advisers from the Local Authority. They saw evidence of pupils making good progress in their learning this academic year and recognised the 'renewed sense of purpose' in the school.

The advisers also agreed that as a next step we should focus on presentation and handwriting. This will help ensure our pupils develop the strong foundational skills and we'll keep you updated on how you can support your child at home with this.

We were also honoured to host Martin Nye, the High Sheriff of Wiltshire, along with his wife Victoria Nye, who is Deputy Lieutenant. The theme Martin has chosen for his year as High Sheriff is 'food', encompassing all aspects of food from farm to fork.

Martin had heard about our school focus on providing healthy meals for the children, with as much locally sourced food as possible. They had a tour of the school and chatted to children about their knowledge of food and farming. He was impressed by the children's knowledge of where their food comes from – they did us proud!



It was also lovely to welcome so many of you into school for Parents' Evening. We had some great conversations and received lovely feedback about your children's progress. A big thank you to the Friends of Hindon School for providing parents and staff with hot drinks and home-baked cakes and cookies – they were much appreciated.

Inevitably, as we head into December, our attention will turn to Christmas and all the wonderful events we have planned. I hope to see you at the Nativity in East Knoyle on **Tuesday 16th December**. More details about ticket booking and other Christmas events will follow soon.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Simon Watkins – Interim Head Teacher

**Interim Head Teacher: Mr S.Watkins**

**Chair of Governors: Mr R Bryson**

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## Robins Class

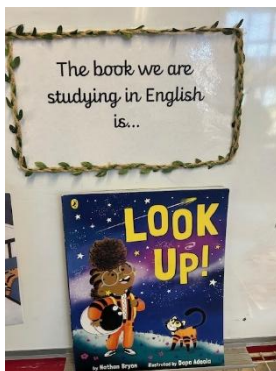
Our Robins have loved getting stuck back into Drawing Club, their daily English adventure. Each morning they are bursting with excitement to “open the portal” and discover the learning quest waiting for them.

This term we have been exploring the magical world of The Nutcracker, and the children’s imaginations have taken us on some truly spectacular adventures. One of our highlights was dreaming up ways to stop a chocolate volcano from erupting in The Land of Sweets, an especially popular idea was creating a giant chocolate foot to stamp it down! The children will be doing a nutcracker performance in assembly. This is a pupil only performance rather than for parents.



It’s been a joy to see the Robins diving into storytelling with such enthusiasm, creativity and confidence.

## Owls Class



In the classroom, Year 2 and 3 have been enjoying their ICT topic by creating PowerPoints about something special to them. They also used photographs from home to inspire their English writing on the same theme.

We have been exploring the book *Look Up!* and discovering the wonders of meteor showers, which has sparked lots of excitement and curiosity.

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## Woodpeckers Class

This term we have started our Design Technology project, linked to Ancient Egypt - making a shaduf! The children have been learning about how the machine works, sketching their own designs and making a prototype to test them. On a bright day we headed out to the playground to work in groups problem solving the mechanisms ahead of building our final machines.



In English, the children have been writing their own retelling of the oldest written version of the Cinderella story - Cinderella of The Nile, set in both Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece.

## Forest School



As the weather has turned colder, we've been enjoying the fire at Forest School. The children have been making beeswax dipped leaves and firelighters made with natural materials such as hogweed stems, pinecones and dried orange peel.

Some hard frosts overnight have allowed us to experiment with ice decorations, and Robins made some beautiful pieces last week. As ever, the children have been following their own interests and the Owls class in particular have enjoyed constructing a zip-wire/pulley system for moving materials from the hut down to one of their dens - some lovely physics in practice.



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## **PE**

A group of Year 5 and 6s braved the freezing weather to take part in a football festival at Gillingham School, showing fantastic enthusiasm and big smiles throughout the day. They took part in a carousel of skills-based activities, then played some mini games!



## **RE**



We had a wonderful visitor in school last week. Iris, who works at the Bristol Progressive Synagogue, came to talk to the whole school about Judaism- the perfect link to all the brilliant learning happening across our classes.

The children were fascinated as we explored her special Torah scroll and looked at a range of Jewish artefacts such as the kippah. Our Year 1–3 children especially loved talking about Shabbat, which they've been learning about in class. And a definite highlight... tasting Iris's homemade Challah bread, it was SO delicious!

Iris also spoke to us about Passover, which our Woodpecker class has been studying, making the session even more meaningful. We've even had families sending in photos of learning at home- one child proudly made their own challah bread! It's been amazing to see the excitement from Iris's visit continuing beyond the school day. Thank you so much, Iris, for such an inspiring and engaging visit!

## **Wellbeing Focus**

We are delighted to say that Mrs Johnson is now a fully qualified ELSA practitioner having completed the last of her six days of training and assessment. She is working with our new SENCO Mrs Ellerby, to prioritise children for ELSA interventions which will begin in January. She will be in touch with the parents of those initial children during December. There will be further

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communication for all parents about the role of an ELSA, what they can do and can't do and details about the referral process for ELSA sessions.

## **SEN Focus**



Our new SENCO Mrs Laura Ellerby started this week and spent a day in school meeting the staff and some of the children. Laura said *'I am really looking forward to getting to know the school community over the coming weeks and meeting parents in the future, my working day at Hindon will usually be a Tuesday. If any parents need to contact me, please e-mail me via the school office on [admin@hindonce.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hindonce.wilts.sch.uk)'*

## **Christmas Box Appeal – Thank you!**

A huge thank you to those families who were able to make up and send in Christmas boxes for our appeal. The charity collected them this week and were delighted with our contribution, once sorted and checked they will be heading out to Bulgaria in December and will be given to children and families in orphanages, Roma communities, refugee centres, women's refuges, schools and nurseries in poor rural communities.

Giving is one of the strands of our 'Five ways to wellbeing' philosophy, and there is lots of evidence to show that giving to others improves our own wellbeing, so giving our children the opportunity to consider others who may not be as lucky as we are on a local, national and international level is really important and they were very interested in hearing about the important work of this charity in a recent assembly.



## **Christmas Cards**

Our Christmas tree will be going up next week in the hall; thank you to the Cooper family for kindly donating a tree to our school. As is the tradition, our Reception children will help to decorate it next week. Our Christmas post box will be in place in the school hall from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December so that children can bring in any Christmas cards that they would like to send to friends or staff. Cards will be distributed on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December, so please ensure that any cards are brought into school no later than that morning.

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## **Nativity Day arrangements**

The Nativity is on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at East Knoyle Village Hall. Children will not come to school on that day but instead will need to be dropped off at East Knoyle Village Hall between 8.30am and 8.45am, please bring your child/ren to the main door of the village hall where staff will be waiting to receive them.

**Parents need to provide consent as we are in a different location for the day, please look at Scopay to give consent.** There will be no one in school on this day, so if you need to notify school about any absences or to contact us during the day for any reason please send a Class Dojo message or e-mail [admin@hindonce.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hindonce.wilts.sch.uk).

Children can come on the day wearing Christmas jumpers/home clothes and need to bring their nativity costumes in a named carrier bag. They will also need a water bottle, packed lunch, and a coat as we will be going to the park at lunchtime for some fresh air and exercise, so sturdy shoes suitable for going outside should be worn. Normal toast and healthy fruit snacks will be provided, book bags are not required on this day.

There will two performances on the day, at 1.30pm & 4.30pm. The hall has a maximum seated capacity for safety reasons, so as in previous years, tickets will be allocated in both performances, with a maximum of two per family. To reserve tickets, parents can call in at the school office from the morning of Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December onwards. If after the initial round of ticket allocation there are any spare tickets, we will notify parents in case any families need an extra ticket.

After the first performance which takes place at 1.30pm, those parents present for the performance can take their children home, and all other parents need to collect their children by 3.00pm so that they can go home for a rest and something to eat. Children should then be brought back to the hall at East Knoyle at 4.00pm with their costumes so that they can prepare for the second performance at 4.30pm. All children then need to be collected after that performance at 5.15pm.

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## **The final week of term**

Our focus will move to Christmas fun in the last week of term and it will be a busy week with lots going on. Below is a table outlining what is planned each day of that week along with details about what children can wear to school on each day and any additional notes. Up until this last week of term, normal smart uniform should be worn. We hope that this is helpful during what will no doubt be a busy week for you all as preparations for Christmas start to build.

Date	Planned activities	What to wear	Notes
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Craft day	Christmas jumpers/home clothes	Please send in a named carrier bag today to bring home crafts.
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Nativity Day at East Knoyle	Christmas jumpers/home clothes & bring costumes	See separate information in this newsletter for full details about the day including timings.
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	No swimming, Welly walk & Christmas lunch	Christmas jumpers/warm home clothes, long socks, layers.	Please send in spare trousers/leggings and socks to change into afterwards in case wet/muddy.
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Whole school Forest School session and a special visitor! Last day to bring in Christmas cards.	Christmas jumpers/home clothes, warm and practical for outdoors.	Please send in a named carrier bag on this day so that we can send home wellies and waterproofs for you to check fit and condition over the holiday.
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Disco & party food	Disco/party clothes	

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## Dates for your diary

### December

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Teacher Tuesday 3-3.30pm

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Y 4 & 5 to the Larmer Tree Winter Pageant – please ensure that you have given permission on Scopay

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Whole school Pantomime in Salisbury – Jack & The Beanstalk – payments and permissions on scopay by 8<sup>th</sup> Dec latest – smart uniform on this day please

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas craft day

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Nativity day

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Welly Walk and Christmas lunch

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Whole school Forest School & a special visitor!

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of term, disco & party food

### January

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – TD Day for staff (children not in school)

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – First day of term

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Swimming at Riversmeet starts again

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January – School photographer

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