



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 11 December 2020

Making learning a lifelong adventure

Our school value for this half-term is **EMPATHY**

Dear Parents/Carers

All the children and staff enjoyed a very festive Christmas jumper day on Wednesday, which raised almost £340 for Luton and Dunstable Hospital. This includes a sum via JustGiving and £25 from the sale of *pre*-loved Christmas Jumpers. Thank you to everyone who donated or gave and bought jumpers. We also enjoyed a really high quality and tasty Christmas lunch – with all the trimmings, of course! Thank you to our school cook, Kelly and her team who worked their own Christmas miracle producing well over 400 meals in about 90 minutes!

This week we have received a lovely letter of thanks from Rotary in Harpenden for the 129 filled shoeboxes which are, as I write, winging their way to their likely East European destination. I note from the letter that surplus monies from the £2 transport cost donation are being used to support a water and sanitation project benefitting several rural schools in Malawi.

We have had confirmation this week from the Harpenden Trust that our bid for £10,000 towards the cost of our outdoor developments project has been successful. I would like to send my heartfelt thanks to the Trust for supporting another High Beeches project. This means that, together with the money received from our all-weather track JustGiving page, FOHBS and a corporate donation, we have raised £30,000 towards the estimated £60,000 cost of the project. Amazing!

Next week, we are looking forward to Pantomime Dance workshops which will be taking place in every class and to the premieres of our year group Christmas presentations. School closes for Christmas at slightly earlier staggered times as follows:

- 1:30pm - Reception
- 1:35pm – Year 2
- 1:40pm – Year 1
- 1:45pm – Year 6
- 1:50pm – Year 5
- 1:55pm – Year 4
- 2pm – Year 3

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker

Headteacher



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to Aiden and Year 5 Hawthorn Class who have collected over 100 chocolate bars and pairs of socks for Whitechapel Mission. Aiden and his mum made up the *sockolate* gifts and delivered them to the homeless outreach centre last weekend. See picture above.

Congratulations go to the following children who are taking home a certificate for their achievements this week.

- **Reception Oak Class** Anaya – for being helpful
Joseph – for trying hard all week especially in PE
- **Reception Chestnut Class** Maxim – for always displaying excellent manners and showing care and respect for others
Chloe C – for building good relationships with others and always showing enthusiasm for her learning
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Ama – for great concentration in Maths
Siaana – for super use of adjectives in her writing



- **Year 1 Cedar Class** Alex – for fantastic Maths work using part whole models
Matas – for excellent effort in Phonics this week
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Emily – always showing an enthusiastic approach to learning
Leo – for making good choices and for being enthusiastic in the Christmas Carol
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Logan – for a positive and enthusiastic approach to learning
Lexie – for always approaching tasks with enthusiasm
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Leo – Making excellent effort with his writing
Isla – for good careful work in Maths and cooperating with her working partner
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Leo – for working super hard to write a convincing letter to Santa
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Lewis – for encouraging his partner and sharing ideas in Maths
Elliott – for working well with his partner and pushing his understanding in Maths
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Jackson – for a positive growth mindset
Lottie – for pushing herself in her learning particularly in formal division
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Ellie – for a beautiful and unique Christmas cinquain poem
Anish – for growing in confidence in all subjects and trying new ways to present his home learning
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Theo W – for excellent manners and showing respect around the school
Ranye – for working incredibly hard and making great progress across all subjects
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Aayan – for giving support to his learning partner when writing cinquains
Ka Him – for tackling all learning activities with positivity and determination
- **Year 6 Rowan Class** William W and Jessica – for making careful vocabulary choices in their Christmas Truce cinquains
Aya – demonstrating a good understanding of key events in our class reader

Attendance Congratulations to Elm class for 100% attendance this week.

Coronavirus Update

There have been further cases of COVID in local schools this week and I would urge everyone to continue to exercise extreme caution for the remainder of the term. In order to help keep one another safe, it is imperative that we continue to follow the rules for Tier 2. With the exception of support and childcare bubbles and of the period from 23 to 27 December, when we can form a Christmas bubble with 2 other households; this means that members of one household should not be travelling in a car with or entering the house of another household, unless it is that of a single vulnerable person with whom they have formed. This means that play dates, birthday parties and sleepovers cannot take place inside until the restrictions are amended or lifted. We are only permitted to meet people from other households outside and in groups of no more than 6. Government information on permissible bubbles can be found [here](#).



Should there be a positive case in school this coming week, it is likely that one or more classes will have to self-isolate for 10 days (following a change from 14 to 10 days from this coming Monday). This will mean switching to remote learning for the remainder of the week and may mean that families are not able to form a Christmas bubble, as from Tuesday, any 10 day period of self-isolation would include Christmas day and beyond. Should any children develop symptoms resulting in a positive diagnosis within 48 hours of the end of term on Friday, parents are required to notify school in order that their contacts may be informed of the need to self-isolate. More information on this process to follow next week.

Staying Safe

We have had a number of reports again of children using unsuitable social media apps. Please remember to monitor your child's screen time and internet activity, to check what they are using and how much time they are spending. The majority of such sites are restricted to those of 13 years old and over. This includes *Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram* and *Tiktok*. Children under that age do not have the skills to keep themselves safe on these platforms and should not be using them. They are particularly at risk of harm from cyber bullying (either as the perpetrator or victim) and of unknowingly connecting with unknown and unsuitable individuals.

FOHBS News

Christmas Reindeer Hunt Thank you to everyone for your lovely feedback on the Reindeer hunt! You can still take part! The hunt runs until the 20 December. Reward and Prize draw! Suggested donation £5 per child. Simply donate at [here](#) and confirm with an email to contact.fohbs@gmail.com and we will forward you the hunt.

Class Wishlists Class wish lists for all years are live [here](#). Specific items can be purchased as a gift to your child's class or donations made. If you make a donation, each term we will let the teachers know how much has been raised so they can choose the most appropriate items to purchase from the wish lists.

Free Donations [Easy fundraising](#) and [Amazon smile](#) offer FREE donations to FoHBS as you shop. Play the [Easy fundraising advent calendar](#) and both you and FoHBS have the chance to win cash prizes each day- FOR FREE!

Peter Pan Alban Arena Still looking for your Theatre fix this Christmas? Peter Pan is running at the Alban Arena 11 Dec- 3 January. Use promo code PETERKXA9JU and FoHBS will receive 5% cash back.

Christmas Shopping Christmas fayres are cancelled this year- Support our lovely High Beeches parents by checking out their Christmas shopping adverts. See NEW advert below:
Spurred on by the challenges faced in lockdown, Fun Charts were developed. Themed and fun reward charts with matching stickers. Take your child on a short journey with an achievable goal [here](#). 10% Discount for HB parents and 15% FoHBS donation!

Further Information and Reminders

Uniform and Keeping Warm! Further to a notice on Jotter earlier this week, children should be wearing long trousers or skirts/dresses with tights or knee-length socks during Autumn 2 and Spring 1 (from October half-term to February half-term). This is because we have had a number of incidents of children becoming exceedingly cold during the course of the last week or so.

We have made this request in previous years, although not perhaps in the last year or two. We have now added this to the information we provide new parents and to our website and hope that this has not caused too great an inconvenience. Should any parents need assistance sourcing long trousers, the school office staff will be happy to help.

Outstanding Payments We are excited for our whole school Christmas Dance Workshops which begin on Monday and there are still some outstanding payments, please can these be settled by 9am on Monday 14th December or email admin@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk if there is a problem with payment. There are still outstanding payments for lunches, workshops, etc we really need all these settled by Monday at 9am please. Milk orders should be placed by 9am Tuesday 15th December, no orders can be accepted after this. It would help us enormously if we do not have to chase people further for these. Thank you.

Diary Dates

14 to 16 December	Christmas Panto Dance Workshops in School
Friday 18 December	School closes 1.30pm to 2.00pm (staggered) for Christmas break
Monday 4 January	School closed for staff training
Tuesday 5 January	School opens for Spring Term 1 – same staggered start times as Autumn
Monday 18 January	Year 2 Fire of London Workshop - Hazel
Friday 22 January	Year 2 Fire of London Workshop - Willow
Monday 25 January	Nurse for Reception Screening Tests
Monday 25 January	Year 4 Viking Workshop
Tuesday 26 January	Nurse for Reception Screening Tests
Tuesday 26 January	Year 4 Viking Workshop
Wednesday 27 January	School Nurse - Lancaster form for Y6
Monday 1 February	Year 1 Castle Workshop
Friday 5 February	Year 1 Castle Workshop
Wednesday 10 February	Year 3 Egyptian Workshop - Birch
Thursday 11 February	Year 3 Egyptian Workshop - Redwood
Friday 12 th February	School closes for half term at normal time