



Dear Parents,

We can't believe it is already the end of the autumn term. The Christingle service on Wednesday evening was the perfect end to the term: it really encapsulated how amazing our pupils are – we don't just see this during special events but day in, day out. It really is a pleasure to lead a school full of such wonderful children. Of course, this wouldn't be possible without our dedicated and super team of staff – our thanks go to them for their hard work during the busy festive period and since the start of term. Thanks also to parents for their support – it is very much appreciated.

This week we have focused on Design Technology in our curriculum lessons – I do hope you enjoy the decorations the children have worked so hard on. It has been fantastic to see their textiles skills progress over the week.

Wishing all our families a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year! We are looking forward to seeing you all for a super spring term on January 7th 2025!

Mr. Donaldson & Mr. Cope

Residential Parent Meetings

As many of you know, we have two residential visits taking place in the spring term. Year 5/6 will be spending the night in London in February, and most of Year 2/3/4 will be Stargazing in Northumberland in March. Parent information evenings will take place on Monday 14th January (Y5/6) and Thursday 30th January (Y2/3/4) at 4.30pm. We hope you can join us.

Further information regarding both visits will be sent out in the New Year.

Making our Village Smile

Last week, our oldest children delivered Christmas cards around Hunton and Arrathorne as part of our 'H&A 36' where we aimed to 'make the village smile', it was lovely to hear that we did just that!

Help Required!

We'd still love any old sheets or tarpaulins to use in our Curriculum Sheds at breaktimes. Please do send them in – house points up for grabs!!

CPD Day

School will be closed for staff CPD on Monday 6th January. We will re-open for pupils on Tuesday 7th January.

Diary Dates

We have updated our diary overleaf with lots of dates for the spring term. Please take the time to read them carefully.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

Governors' Corner

What an amazing evening! No-one could leave the Christingle Service without experiencing the real meaning of Christmas. Led by the children who presented poems, prayers, readings and carols. It was a truly joyous occasion enjoyed by all - thank you children, the church was full to overflowing. A big thank you to Mr. Donaldson and his team for all of their hard work, not only in preparing the children for this service but also for their continued hard work, dedication and commitment throughout the term. Hunton & Arrathorne is a thriving, excellent school, which provides outstanding experiences for all of our pupils. Thank you to everyone who supports the school.

On behalf of all the governors, we hope that everyone in the school community enjoys a happy and peaceful Christmas and send our best wishes for 2025!

Andrea Peacock – Chair of Governors

Head Pupils' Corner

A Christmas message from our Head Boy & Head Girl:

We have had a great term! We had a fun, educational trip to Foxglove Covert and enjoyed spending time in nature. We had a good experience at the pantomime, with lots of laughs. Although it was cold, we raised lots of money at the Christmas Fair and everyone had fun. Year 6 went to Crucial Crew where we learnt drug awareness and fire, water and online safety. At the Christingle, we raised money for the Children's Society. We hope you enjoyed the magic of the night with all of the candles. We wish you a Merry Christmas and hope you enjoy sharing time with your families. We look forward to coming back next year!

Ronnie & Evie (Head Boy & Head Girl)

Diary Dates

Please keep checking the dates below as some may change at short notice!

When?	What?	Who?	How?
Wednesday 18 th December	Christingle @ St Patrick's Church – 6pm	All	Information sent
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Party	All	Information sent
Friday 20 th December	School Closes for Christmas Holiday	All	See newsletter
Monday 6 th January	School Closed – CPD Day	All	See newsletter
Tuesday 7 th January	School Opens – Spring 1	All	See newsletter
Wednesday 8 th January	Open Evening for September 2025 Starters	N/A	See newsletter
Monday 14 th January	Y5/6 Residential Meeting – 4.30pm	Y5/6	Information sent
Tuesday 15 th January	Skip2b		
Wednesday 29 th January	Parent Open Morning – Reception Phonics *Rearranged date	REC	Information to follow
Thursday 30 th January	Y2/3/4 Residential Meeting – 4.30pm	Y2/3/4	Information to follow
Monday 3 rd February	Y3/4 Dodgeball Competition	Y3/4	Information to follow
Wed 5 th – Thu 6 th February	London Residential	Y5/6	Information sent
Monday 10 th February	Parent Online Safety Workshop – 9.00am	All	Information to follow
Monday 10 th – 12 th February	Wraparound Club 'Spring Specials'	All	Information to follow
Friday 14 th February	Mid-Year Reports Home	All	See newsletter
Friday 14 th February	School Closes for Spring Half-Term	All	See newsletter
Monday 24 th February	School Opens – Spring 2		
Wednesday 26 th February	Spring Concert – 9.00am	All	Information to follow
Mon 3 rd – Tue 4 th March	Y2/3/4 Stargazing Residential	Y2/3/4	Information sent
W/C Monday 10 th March	Book Week	All	Information to follow
Thursday 20 th March	Easter Film Night	All	Information to follow
Thursday 3 rd April	Easter Labyrinth	All	Information to follow

Around the Classes...

Robin Class (Reception): In our final week of 2024, we have been very excited to continue our journey with the mysterious egg in our classroom. The egg cracked further and hatched....Olivia the Owl had a beautiful baby tawny owlet. In the whole school Design Technology week, we have been focusing on textiles and the skill of weaving and creating decorations for our tree! We have enjoyed our Christingle, Christmas party, festive craft mornings, Grinch themed – activities and even had visits from two very cheeky elves! A fantastic week to finish off the term before a very well-deserved rest - well done Reception on an amazing first term! Happy Christmas to all of our families from the Robin Class team 😊

Robin Class (Year 1): This week, we have been full of festive joy! We have aspired through our Design and Technology, using a needle and thread to create a Christmas creation on binca. We thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas party, so much dancing and games, lots of laughs and giggles. Also, we have worked extremely hard performing at our Christingle, and we loved sharing our efforts with you all. A really busy but greatly rewarding term, where the children have all excelled, and are ready for a little break. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kingfisher Class: We have been busy developing our sewing skills this week in Design & Technology – the children have really excelled in researching, designing, making and finally evaluating their Christmas decorations – hopefully they are hanging proudly from your trees! I think we can all agree that the children also excelled in our Christingle performance; their poetry reading and singing were fantastic and it is always a lovely end to the term. On Thursday, the children also loved their Christmas party with lots of fun and games before we ended the week with our 'Big Quiz'. The children have had a wonderful first term and we hope they have a magical Christmas break!

Partridge Class: What a wonderful beginning to the academic year, I can't believe it is Christmas already! I have loved getting to know the children; they've really shown how amazing they are. We have thoroughly enjoyed creating our Christmas decorations during DT week, the children can't wait to hang them on their Christmas trees! Partridges were brilliant at the Christingle and had a great time celebrating at the Christmas party. I hope that you all have an amazing Christmas, a Happy New Year and a well-deserved rest. See you next year!

Woodpecker Class: Just like that 2024 is over! We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Woodpecker Class this term. They have risen to the challenge of being role-models to the younger pupils and we couldn't be prouder of all they have achieved – they really champion our school in all they do. This week, they have enjoyed our Design Technology by sewing and stuffing Christmas decorations, preparing for our Christingle service and celebrating with our Christmas Party!

Safeguarding Reminders

Mr. Sam Donaldson is the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Mr. Gavin Cope is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Mrs. Louise Wyatt is the Safeguarding Link Governor.

If you have worries or concerns about a pupil, please don't hesitate to speak to one of the people named above, in confidence.