



Hugo Meynell School Newsletter

'Aiming High; Supporting Dreams'

Friday 11th December 2020

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School Menu for w/c Monday 14th December is 'Week 3'

Attendance and Lates



School Target 2020/2021:	97%
Attendance This Week	96.66%
Attendance Year to date:	97.21%
Lates:	3



Lockdown Challenge – Loggerheads to Lapland

Thank you to everyone who completed our Loggerheads to Lapland challenge. We are pleased to announce that we have achieved our goal and have managed to walk a total of **2167 miles**. Well done everyone. We are still outstanding some sponsorship money, please remember to add this to ParentPay by Monday 14th December so that we can announce the competition winners next week.

Christmas Dinner

AiP will be serving their Christmas dinner in school on **Thursday 17th December**. A delicious menu has been arranged to include roast turkey, pigs in blankets, vegetarian wellington, mash and roast potatoes, peas, carrots and sprouts along with iced sponge for dessert. There is no need to pre-order Christmas dinner this year as children will order this in class during the morning. The dinner will cost £2.15 per child for children in Nursery and KS2 and payment should be made in advance on ParentPay. Children in Reception and KS1 receive Universal Free School Meals so there is no charge.



Change of Menu

AiP Catering will be serving Thursday's menu (week 3) on Wednesday next week as the children are having their Christmas dinner on Thursday.



Cold Weather

As the weather is turning colder, please ensure that your child brings a named coat, gloves and hat (where necessary) to school each day. It is also important that your child wears a jumper or cardigan as windows are open to ensure that our classrooms are well ventilated. If they feel the cold easily, they may want to wear a vest or plain t-shirt under their school uniform.

Star of the Week!

Congratulations to this week's winners!

- | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Year 1 | Isabelle Burn & Jaxon Lainton | Year 2 | Oscar Coogan & Millie Allen |
| Year 3 | Bruce Condliff & Tommy Venables | Year 4 | Ethan Hillman & Phoebe Bacon |
| Year 5 | Ava Whitney & Terence Kettle | Year 6 | Kyle Lear & Emil Buhaniuc |



Little Owls

We have spaces available in Little Owls for both morning and afternoon sessions. If you would like to book any sessions for your child please email littleowls@hugomeynell.staffs.sch.uk or contact the school office.

In addition to lots of games, toys to play with and books to read, the craft activities for next week are:

- Monday** – 3D Christmas Tree **Tuesday** – Gift Boxes **Wednesday** – 3D Snowman
Thursday – Christmas Fortune Tellers **Friday** – 3D Christmas Lights





Community

Candy Cane Forest – Christmas Bauble Competition

Please read the following message regarding the Candy Cane Forest and the Christmas Bauble Competition.

Following the success of the recent Pumpkin competition, I am delighted to announce the Christmas competition is open! Seeing all the decorations and lights already up around the village has been heart-warming, and shows the community spirit in these difficult times. The Fairy Forest has been transformed into the Candy Cane Forest from the film Elf, and it would be wonderful if as many children and their families as possible could contribute to the displays.

The 2 wigwams are now Christmas trees but, of course, they will need decorating, so we are inviting everyone to make a bauble to put on the 'trees' and surrounding branches. The bauble can be any size, colour, shape, design or material (with the exception of glass, please) and be suitable to hang outside. You could 'upcycle' something you have at home already; design something totally unique; find use for something you've had in the bottom of your decoration box but too big for your own tree; have a look through Pinterest or Google and recreate something you see there - the only limit will be your imaginations!

There are 3 age groups, and 3 special prizes:

- Under 10 yrs
- 10 – 16 yrs
- Over 16 (incl adults)
- Most imaginative
- Funniest
- Best use of upcycled/recycled materials



If you'd like to enter, please contact Fiona Rolfe on 07491 664875, or send an email to fiona-rolfe@hotmail.co.uk

Messages from the Classrooms

Being in a primary school at this time of year, busy as it is, is a wonderful place to be. Seeing the excitement and joy on the children's faces as we prepare and lead up to the festive period never fails to bring a smile to our faces. Today, was a brilliant example of this with Christmas jumpers aplenty and a special visit from Trixie, the elf and two of Father Christmas's reindeer. I am sure the children have been keeping you up to date with what they have been learning but if not, the below messages from the classroom will fill you in on all you need to know.

Nursery

It has been busier than the North Pole in Nursery this week. Edward the elf had been very industrious over the weekend creating a special gingerbread house role play area for the children to discover on Monday morning. There were also deliveries of Christmas costumes and props to help us with our imaginary games. The children have made their own sleigh with the big blocks and made their own reindeer antlers, so they could pretend to pull the sleigh. The story of the Gingerbread Man has been popular this week and the children have collected props to support their retelling of the story. Leftover rolls of paper gave some children the idea of making a map to help the gingerbread man escape from the sly fox. The children have made cards and enjoyed posting them in our homemade post box. They have written lots of letters too, some to friends and family and some for Trixie the elf to give to Father Christmas. The children have also been busy making and creating some special Christmas surprises...ssshhh! Don't tell anyone.

Reception

This week in Reception Jingle Jangle the elf followed Mrs Shore back to school. Each day he has left a letter and a box with a surprise. The first day had some knitted characters in it so we had to work out who they were... a baby, a lady and a man. In the following days, we have had sheep, shepherds, three kings and a storybook. The children worked out the characters belonged to the story of baby Jesus being born in a stable and have had great fun playing with the characters and building the stable. Other challenges involved creating patterns on Christmas trees in Maths, using numicon to create Christmas pictures and guessing the shape in Mrs Stirland's advent calendar. In PE, the children listened to the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas' and created dances to the music with swirling snowflakes, galloping reindeer and Santa climbing down the chimney to put presents in the stockings. The children have also written letters to Santa all by themselves to give to Trixie the elf and visiting reindeer. They have also been wondering if Rudolph might make an appearance.

Messages from the Classrooms (cont...)

Year 1

Year 1 have demonstrated their fantastic writing skills in English this week. They turned into Nibbles and used simple sentences to write a diary entry about his adventures. In PSHE, the children discussed his behaviour and sorted examples of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. They all agreed that Nibbles certainly has some lessons to learn! As a result, Year 1 decided to create some golden rules for him to improve his behaviour. This included tidying up his mess, using kind hands and respecting property. In History, the class used their senses to explore toys from the past and used both historical and scientific vocabulary. They were certainly fans of the kaleidoscope and Jacob's ladder, and many children decided to add them to their Christmas list! In Maths, the children recorded their own subtraction sums and used pictures to help them to understand. They also explored a range of 3D shapes hidden in the garden, built Santa's workshop with blocks and started to use some mathematical language to describe the shapes. In Art, they used 3D shapes to create repeating patterns. They all created some beautiful Christmas cards and some eye catching Christmas hats ready for their Christmas dinner next week! Another wonderful week has been enjoyed in Year 1.

Year 2

Year 2 have spent the week completing their factual reports about owls using subheadings, pictures and captions and have impressed us with their knowledge of owl facts. The children have also written letters to Santa explaining what they have done this year that will earn them a place on the 'nice' list. Their letters have been passed on to Trixie, the elf, who visited with her reindeer; she will give the letters to Santa. In Computing, Year 2 have been receiving, composing and sending emails; they have considered the safety of being online and even attached pictures to their emails. The children have continued to add numbers in Maths and have been investigating number bonds that make 100, using tens and ones. They have also been adding three 1-digit numbers looking for patterns such as doubles and number bonds to ten. Odd and even numbers have been a feature of morning Maths blasts and the children are beginning to recognise these. In RE, the children have been learning all about the true meaning of Christmas and the children have drawn some very detailed crib scenes. Paper folding skills have been the focus of some Christmas crafts this week and the excitement is now building towards the big day!

Year 3

This week in English, Year 3 have been writing letters to the Winter's Child explaining why they want him to stay as well as why they think he should leave. During PE, the children have used their English skills and produced and performed gymnastic sentence routines. They were all fantastic performances and have transferred their knowledge from the classroom in to the sports hall. In Computing, the class have been continuing to develop their knowledge of spreadsheets and have followed clues using the coordinates to colour in specific boxes to produce a picture. In Geography, they have completed their topic on 'To Stoke and Beyond' by identifying the counties we live in and around. They used their skills they have developed over the term and located Staffordshire and Shropshire. They were all very excited to see Trixie the elf and the reindeer. The children were very well behaved, following all of the instructions they were given. Whilst there, the children gave Trixie their letters for Father Christmas, which explained how they had helped people over the year and how they were looking forward to Christmas.

Year 4

This week in Maths, Year 4 have been dividing and multiplying by 10 and 100 and have also been solving reasoning and problem solving questions -really showing Mrs Adcock what they are made of! In English, the children have finished reading the book 'Leon and the Place Between', and have recognised features and language in the book, and in the diary entry of Abdul Kazam's son. These features included mood, place, time and character descriptions. They will use these to write their own diary entry from the point of view of Leon next week. The children have also completed a series of independent assessments in English which included grammar, punctuation, spelling and reading questions - this was to see their progress from the start of year and to let Mrs Adcock know what they need to work on next term. In RE, the children had a Hanukkah party, where they ate levivot and doughnuts, and played games to mark the celebrations. In Science, the children presented to the class in pairs their findings on a chosen endangered animal. They spoke clearly, sharing their information and were able to answer a series of questions from the class about their animal. In French, the children have been learning about 'Je peux' (I can) and were able to use good pronunciation when recognising the different actions. They also matched the French words to the pictures and translated these back into English. What another busy, jam packed week in Year 4!

Year 5

Year 5 have been working hard all week on their assessments in Maths, Reading, Grammar and Spelling. They have also written some lovely descriptive settings based on the Polar Express. In their final Computing session of the term, Year 5 have been exploring the Purple Mash Christmas activities. They have looked at coding to find Santa's lost gifts, written poems and lots of creative tasks. In Science, the children researched how sounds are heard and worked collaboratively to share their thoughts on a range of questions based on the topic. In History, the children explored how the Victorians celebrated Christmas and compared them to the traditions of today. They used this information to create interesting leaflets. In PSHE, the children looked at and discussed the pros and cons of social media and how to keep safe online.

Year 6

Year 6 have had a brilliant week this week and have completed their assessments to the best of their abilities. I am so proud of how hard they work to be the best that they can be. Well done, Year 6! In other news, we've continued with our DT project and the children have created some superb structures, by sawing, gluing and reinforcing. We're looking forward to the next stage, where we'll be thinking about the most effective way to cover them. The children have been getting in to the festive spirit and enjoyed their reindeer question and answer session with Trixie the elf.

Until next week
Mrs Gleave



Autumn Term 2020 Diary Dates – Parent Copy
(Updates in Red)

Date	Event
December	
Thursday 17 th	School Christmas Dinner
Friday 18 th	School closes for Christmas
January	
Monday 4 th	Inset Day
Tuesday 5 th	School re-opens for the first half of the Spring Term