



**February 2021**

**Newsletter No. 5**

### Diary Dates

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| <b>Friday 12 February 2021</b>               | <b>Last day of Term</b>                                      |
| <b>Monday 15 – Friday 19 February 2021</b>   | <b>Half Term Holidays</b>                                    |
| <b>Monday 22 February 2021</b>               | <b>First day of Term – children able to return to school</b> |
| <b>Thursday 1 April 2021</b>                 | <b>Last day of Term</b>                                      |
| <b>Monday 5 April – Friday 16 April 2021</b> | <b>Easter Holidays</b>                                       |
| <b>Monday 19 April 2021</b>                  | <b>First day of Term</b>                                     |
| <b>Friday 28 May 2021</b>                    | <b>Last day of Term</b>                                      |
| <b>Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021</b>    | <b>Half Term Holidays</b>                                    |
| <b>Monday 7 June 2021</b>                    | <b>First day of Term</b>                                     |
| <b>Friday 23 July 2021</b>                   | <b>Last day of Term</b>                                      |

### Welcome back to school

We are looking forward to children in all year groups re-joining those already in school after half term. Hornbeams Pre-school hours will be 9am – 3pm Monday – Thursday as normal. Main School hours will return to 8:50am – 3:10pm. Currently, there will be no Breakfast or After School Clubs running, this will be reviewed at Easter.

### Clothing:

P.E. will run for main school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with children coming to school dressed for P.E. Nightingale and Brunel Class will have an hour of Forest School each on a Monday and Hornbeams will continue Forest School on a Wednesday. Please ensure children wear warm clothes, which you don't mind getting dirty and bring wellies on these days. As we are following government Covid-19 guidelines, we are ventilating classrooms by opening doors and windows. This means the school is much colder than normal at this time of year. Children may wish to wear additional layers including warm jumpers, which need not be school uniform. Gloves, hats and scarves are also essential wear at this time of year.

### Hot meals:

These can be ordered for children. Please ensure you order hot meals by **9am on the previous Thursday**. We regret we cannot take orders for meals after this time.

### ChromeBooks:

If you have borrowed a chromebook from school, please could you return it in the first week back.

A huge thank you to parents and grandparents for all your time and energy in supporting learning at home and ensuring children join live classes. We are so proud of all our children at Hemington for sticking with it, through all the challenges. Learning online can make us feel extra tired and we hope you all have a well-earned rest during the half term break. Well done everyone!



### **Somerset County Youth Training Choir**

We have been asked to share the information below with the parents of older pupils who enjoy singing and may be interested in joining the Somerset County Youth Training Choir. In these current times, the health benefits of singing are more important than ever. The choir is open to children age 8 - 12 and is a wonderful opportunity for like-minded children from across the county who have a love of singing to come together in song. Alongside the fun element, County Youth Choir also focus on developing the technical skills of singing and encourage children to use their voices in a healthy way. Due to the continuing Covid-19 situation rehearsals for Spring 2021 will be online, using Zoom.

Rehearsal dates for both Spring & Summer have been set for the choir and they are hoping they may be able to meet in person in August 2021 for a 3-day course. The choir is also excited to be involved in some exciting online projects including Somerset Day and the Somerset Music Singing Festival.

If you would like to see a recent recording from the Training Choir please click here Training Choir 'Child of Song'  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNeacBXSH1U>

New members are always welcome and anyone interested should complete the online Initial Interest Form which can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BvYktXr3okqNov5wNDsMzt1Fmp0WiBJAus7cbNLuuOdUMVhUSzFNUzM3OUFRVtk4Q1JUMzhOSE9LSS4u>

### **Online Safety**

If you missed the webinar for parents and carers about online safety last week, there is another chance to get involved. Following the success of the first webinar, the Blue School, in collaboration with Avon and Somerset Constabulary have decided to host another event on February 17<sup>th</sup> 6.30 – 7.30pm. The focus is specifically around online safety and how we can all be proactive in preventing harmful content or communication online for everyone in the home.

To sign up for this webinar please click on the link below. You can also sign up to be a member of the National Online Safety Blue School Hub (see further details below)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-blue-school-online-safety-talk-tickets-139613915981>

### **Online Safety Hub**

As parents and carers, you are able to join the National Online Safety Hub for free. You will receive regular updates on new technology available to young people. There is also guidance for parents around online safety and themes relevant to young people in today's world.

You can join here: <http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/the-blue-school>. Please ensure you sign up as a parent rather than an educator.

### **Free online safety App for parents**

The Somerset cyber safety team have launched a FREE mobile app, giving you access to instant information about the latest games, apps, devices and more.

**Download for apple:** [hubs.ly/H0BwQjL0](https://hubs.ly/H0BwQjL0)

**Download for android:** [hubs.ly/H0Bx0tp0](https://hubs.ly/H0Bx0tp0)



### Fundraising events before Christmas

Thank you to everyone who collected sponsorship funds as part in the Elf Run fundraising event before Christmas. We raised £211 for Dorothy house which is greatly appreciated during this difficult time.

### Christmas raffle

We also raised £45 towards school funds through the Christmas raffle. Many thanks to everyone who donated prizes and took part.

### Reading is Magic online Festival

The Reading is Magic Festival is available online as part of the Bath Children's Festival. It has author chats, and other book activities for children to do. Free access is available to all until the end of the current lockdown. You will need to sign up with an email address and password but do not need to put in credit card details. Just Use the promocode **FREEMAGICFORALL** at the checkout.

**Children's Mental Health Week 2021** took place from 1-7 February 2021. This year's theme was **Express Yourself!** Those in school took part by taking a break from the screens and getting outside for a very cold walk! We hope some of you managed to do something to give your mind a rest at home too. You can find ideas of ways to support your children's mental wellbeing all year round at [www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](http://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

### Welcome Hannah, Lucy and Sam

We have welcomed three new staff members to school during the latest lockdown period. Hannah Klinkert, our mentor is working with Brunel class, and in particular Y6. Sam Stoppard, a student teacher joins us from Bath Spa University temporarily. You may also have heard a new voice answering the phone in the office. We are pleased to welcome Lucy Cooke to the admin team, who joins us as part of her customer service apprenticeship.

### Parent Governor Vacancies

There are currently two vacancies on the School's Local Governing Board. This is a rewarding role which requires attendance at evening meetings once a term and occasionally some communication in between. This is an opportunity to represent parents in making a positive contribution to the school community and to help ensure the best start for all our children. Please get in touch with Mrs Iles in the office if you would like to hear more.

### Hello from Hornbeams Nursery

Children currently attending nursery have been busy making Valentines presents for the special people they love this week. They have also been enjoying time outside looking at how ice affects different plants and making special treats to feed the birds. Hornbeams will also be open to all placements again after half term.

