

Message from Mr Randell

Dear Parents and carers,

Another term has flown by and it will soon be Christmas! It has been a thoroughly enjoyable term and our children have been wonderful. We have had quite a number of visitors this year – both from our academy trust and also other organisations and they have all commented on our inclusive ethos and our children's remarkable support for each other. The arrival of our new playground equipment was greeted with great excitement and I can honestly say, that in all my years in education, I have never seen children play so happily and considerately.

I hope you enjoyed our school nativity and carols. There is something magical about all the children from Reception up to Year 6 performing for their families. Thank you to everybody who was able to support our Christmas gift shop through donations and/or helping to wrap the gifts. Our children were incredibly excited to be able to buy gifts for their loved ones.

As you will be aware, Mrs Luxford is stepping down from her post as teaching assistant at Hemington Primary (but will continue as sports coach) and I am sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Luxford for all she has done for our children over the last 4 years and in wishing her all the very best on her new adventures!

Thank you to all of our families for supporting our children and the school so enthusiastically. I would also like to say a huge thank you to our fantastic team of staff who have yet again demonstrated their dedication, commitment, energy, humour and passion. They are what makes Hemington Primary such a successful school!

We hope all of our families have a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing everybody in the New Year. Please remember that 2nd and 3rd January are INSET days with term starting on Thursday 4th January.

Merry Christmas!

Diary Dates

Tuesday 19 th December	Elf Run/Last Day of Term
20 th December to 1 st January	Christmas Holidays
2 nd and 3 rd January	Inset Days
4 th January	First day back of Term 2
5th - 9th February	Children's Mental Health Week
12th - 16th February	Half Term
w/c 26th February	Parents Evenings
Thursday 28th March	Last Day of Term

Hornbeams enjoyed a wellie walk of the village. We spotted lots of animals and investigated where the water flowing under the road joined the stream.



Nightingale class enjoyed a close-up exploration of a trumpet as part of their wider topic work on musical instruments this term. We were impressed that children managed to get a sound out of it!



Our Christmas Gift Shop was a great success. Children enjoyed taking part and we managed to raise £136.38 toward school funds. Thank you to everyone who donated and purchased gifts.



Attendance

Tomorrow, we will be sending out letters to parents of children whose attendance has been less than 93% during the school year so far. Schools are required to ensure that parents are aware of their child's attendance and punctuality. Our Trust policy states that attendance is expected to be a minimum of 96% by the end of the year unless there are other exceptional reasons resulting in authorised absence. Therefore, we write to parents and carers of children who are not on track to meet this expectation. A child with an average attendance of 90% over their primary school career will miss 25 weeks of school in total. Clearly, this will have a significant impact on the progress they make. We are aware that there are often genuine reasons for a child's absence to dip below the expected target; however, it is important that parents and carers are aware of their child's attendance so that school and families can work together to provide any support necessary to enable improved attendance. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or Mr Randell.

Community Notices

Free online courses for parents from Somerset County Council

51% of parents say Christmas is a stressful time. Stress can lead to conflict, and with 13% of children in Somerset likely to live in families where parents struggle with unhealthy conflict, every little bit of help can make an impact over this Christmas period.

Unhealthy conflict between parents, whether living together or apart, can have a negative impact on the mental and physical health of both children and parents.

Any parent in Somerset can access new, free online courses at a time to suit them by going to www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents.

The online courses are:

Me, You and Baby Too – a course for new parents who can struggle with tiredness and stress which can lead to misunderstandings. This course can help improve communication skills and manage conflict.

Arguing Better: designed to help parents understand how to argue in a constructive way that can make all the difference in any relationship.

Getting it Right for Children is for separated/separating parents as it is easy for children to get caught in the middle of their disagreements. This is to help parents parent their children co-operatively after parting.

If you would like to know more about these courses please email strongerfamilies@somerset.gov.uk

Support with Sleep from the National Sleep Charity

At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep. Yet in a recent survey, almost 60% of adults felt there was a lack of support for sleep issues. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely.

The sleep charity's free helpline is run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. The helpline is open 5 times a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Monday, Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is 03303 530 541.

You can read more here: <https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/national-sleep-helpline/>

Winter Wonders Arts and Crafts

Wednesday 20th December 10am – 12:30pm @ SS&L Frome

Celebrate the wonders of winter with your children this holiday.

Enjoy the experience of crafting something special together using natural winter foliage and plastic-free craft materials.

Together you can make a winter crown, wand, wreath or garland.

Make intricate paper snowflakes and explore beautiful textures with various art and craft techniques.

What do I need to know?

Suitable for children aged 3- 10 years. ✓

Maximum of 2 children per adult booking. ✓

Adults must supervise their children at all times. ✓

Please bring winter foliage. All other materials supplied. ✓

***Please see our website for eligibility information.**

Call Somerset Skills & Learning for more information / book online

0330 332 7997 sslcourses.co.uk