This week's whole school attendance rate is 95.1%

Enabling children to be the best that they can be!

HORWOOD AND NEWTON TRACEY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th December 2024



Dear parents/carers,



Christmas preparations are definitely in full swing this week with the children at HNT. We began this week with our nursery, reception and class 2 children putting on a fantastic performance of 'Barmy Bethlehem' for the key stage 2 children then two performances for their parents, families and wider community of HNT. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the children and a huge thank you to all our staff who worked incredibly hard to prepare the children with their lines, acting and beautiful singing.

Lunch Bunch Christmas Sing Along



Our School leadership team along with some key stage 2 children performed a range of Christmas songs and carols for the local community on Wednesday afternoon this week at the monthly 'Lunch Bunch' group. They also handed out some Christmas cards to the local residents which have been designed by the children across the school.

It was so lovely to see the children spreading good cheer during the festive period. Again, a huge thank you to staff in practicing and preparing the children for this event.



Christingle Service

Our key stage 2 children are looking forward to welcoming our parents, families and wider community to our Christingle service next Wednesday 18th December at 2:45pm in the Gospel Hall. They will be creating their own Christingles on Wednesday morning in readiness for the service and can take this home following the service in the afternoon. Looking forward to seeing you all there.



Staffing Update for the Spring term

Over the past two weeks, we have had interviews to appoint a teacher for class 2 and a teaching assistant to work across the school. I would like to invite parents along to meet our new members of staff who have joined and will be joining us next term. We will also be discussing the staffing across class 2 and 3 for the first half of the Spring term. The meeting will take place in class 3 on Wednesday 18th at 3:30pm straight after the Christingle service. Children are welcome to join you and can read a book or do some colouring in class 4 whilst we have the meeting.



Parking around the School



Last week, I attended the Parish Council meeting at Lovacott Village Hall. This was a great opportunity to meet many of our local residents and to discuss opportunities for the school to work in partnership with our parish and the wider community of Horwood and Newton Tracey. I was warmly welcomed and shared some of the exciting things that have been going on in the school over this term, including the great work already established with our school leadership teams, our Global School links with Sharada School in India and our weekly celebration assemblies that take place in the Gospel Hall. The residents did raise concerns about the parking on the lane leading up to the school during school drop off and pick up. As always, we greatly appreciate your support and cooperation in ensuring the safety and well-being of our children and families.

We would like to kindly remind everyone to park safely and respectfully around the school premises. In particular, please avoid:

- Blocking driveways or making access difficult for our neighbours.
- Parking on the main road leading to and from the Village Hall.

The main road is frequently used by children and families walking to school, and as there is no dedicated footpath, parked cars create obstacles that force pedestrians, including young children, to step into the road. This poses a significant safety risk. To alleviate this risk, we kindly request that families park in the Village Hall car park and walk to and from school.

We understand parking can be challenging at times, but your consideration in this matter goes a long way in ensuring the safety of everyone in our community.

Christmas Hamper



Thank you to everyone for your kind donations for our Christmas hampers over the past few weeks. Please can we ask that any outstanding raffle tickets are returned to school. The draw for the hampers will take place at the end of the Christingle service next Wednesday. Thank you to our fantastic FRIENDS team who have co-ordinated the raffle tickets and to Mrs Robinson for making the hampers look fabulous ready for the raffle.



Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Just to remind all our parents and carers that next Thursday is our school Christmas Jumper day and Christmas dinner. Unless you have notified the school office, all children have been booked in for Christmas dinner on Thursday 19th and Christmas party food on Friday 20th December. We may also have a visit from someone special on Friday afternoon, depending on how busy he is at the North Pole!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Cook

Reminders...

Come and join us at our Celebration Assemblies, every Friday morning at 9:00am in Lovacott Gospel Hall, opposite the school. Everyone is welcome!

Year 5 London Trip payment instalments have been set up on Parentpay. Please log into your account to see the payment plan.

Please note, class teachers are not available in the mornings as they are busy preparing for the day ahead. If you would like to arrange a meeting with a teacher, please contact the School Office via email admin@hntps.org or telephone 01271 858373. Thank you for your understanding.

Reception and Year 6 parents/carers have received an email about the National Child Measurement Programme taking place in the Spring Term. The letter includes an OPT OUT link - all opt outs need to be received by Friday 20th December.

Please note that starting after the half-term holidays, if your child experiences a bump or medical incident during the day, we will log the details on our new online platform, MEDICAL TRACKER. You will be notified via email through the Medical Tracker system.

Please ensure that children remove earrings and other jewellery for PE and have their long hair tied back for safety reasons.



10% Discount Code for school uniform from MyClothing



Here's a 10% discount code for parents to save money on uniform from MyClothing.

Code = UNIFORM10
Expires 20/12/2024

https://myclothing.com/collections/horwood-and-newton-tracey-community-primary-school-23238/

What's on...?

Next Week: W/C 16th December 2024

Please note our autumn term afterschool clubs have now finished.

Monday	
Tuesday	• Year 5: Forest School (please ensure kit is in school)
Wednesday	• Class 3: PE (please come to school wearing kit) • Hamper prize draw • Christingle Service (Classes 3 and 4) at 2.45pm • Meeting for Class 2 and 3 parents to discuss staffing in January at 3.30pm in school.
Thursday	• Wear a Christmas jumper to school day! • Christmas lunch (Classes N, 1-4 - we will assume your child is having a school dinner unless you inform us otherwise).
Friday	• Celebration Assembly at 9:00am in Lovacott Gospel Hall - parents and carers welcome to join us • Christmas Party Lunch (Classes N, 1-4 - we will assume your child is having a school dinner unless you inform us otherwise). • Father Christmas will be visiting school

Celebration Assemblies on Fridays

If you are attending our Celebration Assemblies, please ensure that any photographs you take are only of your own child or children and are not shared on the internet or social media platforms. Thank you.

Dates for your diary....

School Term Dates 2024/2025 - Autumn Term

Last day of school: Friday 20th December 2024

Christmas holiday: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025
Inset Day: Monday 6th January 2025 - NO SCHOOL

School Term Dates 2024/2025 - Spring Term

First day of school: Tuesday 7th January 2025

Half-term holiday: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025

Last day of school: Friday 4th April 2025

Easter holiday: 7th April to 21st April 2025

First day of school: Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Spring Term Clubs

Romar Sports Club: Key Stage 1 Games
When: Mondays, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Where: Playground
Who: Open to Class 2 and Year 3
Places Available: 16 only
Start Date: Monday, 13th January
Cost: £30.00 per child for 10 sessions (£3.00 per session)

Netball Club
When: Tuesdays, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Where: Playground
Who: Open to Year 4, Year 5 and 6 children
Places Available: 16 only
Start Date: Tuesday, 14th January
Cost: £30.00 per child for 10 sessions (£3.00 per session)

Creative Activity Club
When: Mondays and Thursdays, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Where: In school
Who: Open to children of all ages
Places Available: 20 only
Start Date: Monday, 13th January
Cost: £10.00 per child for 10 sessions (£1.00 per session)

What have we been learning in class this week?

Foundation Stage Class (Nursery & Class 1)

The Foundation Class have been busy in Santa's workshop with Mrs McFarlane. They have been making cakes and decorations with clay. We have been helping Santa with his sleigh and also weighing parcels!



Class 2

As we approach the end of term, Class 2 have been getting in the festive spirit with the Nativity, as well as some more festive activities in the classroom. We are also working hard to consolidate all the learning we've worked on this half term, completing some great writing and carrying out lots of practical maths activities. We are also continuing our weather observations in science and geography, and have been very glad that our trusty UK weather has played its part in providing us with some excellent recent examples



Class 3

This week in class 3 we have been developing our skills of subtraction using exchange. We have used lots of visual representations of our calculations to show our mathematical reasoning and understanding. In our writing this week we have begun to create our own descriptive stories based on the book 'Coming Home' by Michael Morpurgo using all of the key skills we have been developing across this half term in our English lessons.



Class 4

This week we have spent some time looking carefully at our writing and planning what we need to do to improve it. We have also started looking at division and using the bus stop (short division) method. We are also busy making out clay for Christmas and working on a science experiment to measure the effect of voltage.



Pupil Learning Awards This Week



Class 1	Betty for excellent singing
Class 2	Jude for working hard in maths this week
Class 3	Aria for practicing and developing their subtraction with exchange in maths
Class 4	Thomas S for working hard on some difficult maths



Class 1	Kara for fabulous reading using her phonics
Class 2	Harper for making links in her maths learning
Class 3	Ronnie for making fantastic links to include all our key skills in their independent writing
Class 4	Harriet for making links across her learning about Antarctica



Nursery	Harper-Leigh for being so helpful and smiley at school



Silver award

Harper, Ronnie T

Lunch menu: W/C Monday 16th December 2024

Our meal price is £2.55 per day for Class 3 and 4 children. Classes 1 and 2 children qualify for Universal Free School Meal funding.

Jacket Potatoes with a choice of toppings are available every day.

Fresh fruit, salad & wholemeal bread are available daily. Gentle reminder: we are a nut free school.

Menu - Next week

	Monday 16/12	Tuesday 17/12	Wednesday 18/12	Thursday 19/12	Friday 20/12
Meat/ Fish	Fish Fingers/Salmon Fishcakes	BBQ Chicken Fajitas	Beef Bolognaise & Spaghetti		Christmas PARTY
Vegetarian	Veggie Fingers/Filled Jacket Potato	Veggie Fajita/Filled Jacket Potato	Cheese/Tuna Wrap/Filled Jacket Potato		Christmas PARTY
Side	Chips/Pasta/ Baked Beans/Peas	Mixed Veg	Sweetcorn		Christmas PARTY
Dessert	Chocolate Cake & Chocolate Sauce/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Banana Muffins/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Chocolate Biscuit/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt		Christmas PARTY

Menu - 1st Week Back

	Monday	Tuesday 07/01	Wednesday 08/01	Thursday 09/01	Friday 10/01
Meat/ Fish	CLOSED	Cod Fillets/ Salmon Fishcakes	Cheese & Tomato Pizza Baguette	Roast Chicken	Hot Dog/Ham Roll
Vegetarian	CLOSED	Veggie Fingers/Filled Jacket Potato	Cheese or Tuna Wrap/Filled Jacket Potato	Quorn Chicken Fillet/Filled Jacket Potato	Cheese, Ham or Tuna Roll/Filled Jacket Potato
Side	CLOSED	Chips/Pasta/ Baked Beans/Peas	Potato Wedges/ Coleslaw	Roast Potatoes/Veg & Gravy	Garlic Potatoes/Fruit & Salad Selection
Dessert	CLOSED	Sprinkle Cake/ Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Gingercake and Custard/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Ice Cream & Peaches/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Chocolate Cracknell/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt



Our Reading Baskets this week.....

have been awarded to:

Class 1 & 2: Teddy

Class 3 & 4: Osha



Children who are awarded the reading basket will have the opportunity to take the basket home for the weekend and enjoy the range of lovely books, snuggly blanket, hot chocolate and marshmallows with their family. We ask that the reading basket is returned to school on Tuesday so we can prepare the basket for the following weekend. The draw for the winners will take place each week in our celebration assembly which we invite our parents to join us for in Lovacott Gospel Hall at 9:00am.

Reminder for parents of nursery-aged children



DON'T FORGET

A number of applications have already been received by Devon County Council, but some parents still need to apply online for their child's primary school place in September 2025.

Closing Date for applications: 15th January 2025

Christmas Card Competition

A big thank you to all the children who took part in our "Design a Christmas Card" competition! Your creativity and effort have been fantastic to see! We are thrilled to announce that there are four special prizes, one for each class: Foundation Class, Class 2, Class 3, and Class 4. A huge congratulations to the winners, whose designs were handpicked by Mrs. Humphries! Well done to everyone for your wonderful entries and for taking part.

Congratulations to the Winners



Ayda (Foundation Stage Class), Joe (Class 2), Wilfred (Class 3) and Molly (Class 4)



Lunch Bunch Visit at the Village Hall
Wednesday 11th December 2024

Today, members of our school council and other Key Stage 2 children, visited the Lunch Bunch community group at Lovacott Village Hall. The children sang Christmas songs and distributed Christmas cards featuring the winning designs from our Christmas Card competition. Both the children and the older members of the community thoroughly enjoyed the interaction, making it a lovely and memorable event for everyone involved.







Foundation Stage Class & Class 2 Production

Christmas Nativity - Barmy Bethlehem

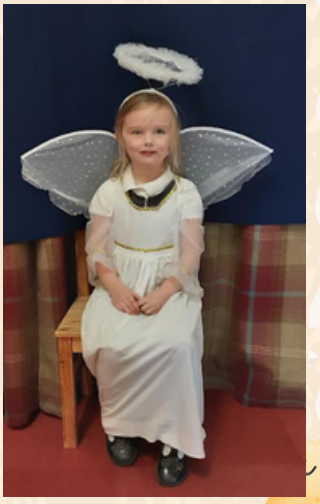
Tuesday 10th December 2024

Bethlehem is suddenly very busy. People are coming from everywhere. An extraordinary night is about to begin.....













Well done to all of our children for two fantastic performances!!



Class 4 Live Video Call To Antarctica

Tuesday 10th December 2024

Class 4 were very lucky to take part in a live call with scientists Jo and Tom in Antarctica on Tuesday. They showed us some pictures from where they are based and told us about the work they are doing, the animals they see and how they live in this hospitable environment. It gave us real insight into the treacherous journey Shackleton took all those years ago and what an amazing and interesting place it is. We learned a lot about the seals and penguins they see as well as the many jobs you can do in Antarctica. We are all feeling very inspired by the hour we spent talking Jo and Tom and we thank them for taking the time to speak to us.

Isabel: An iceberg recently broke off the glacier near Tom and Jo that was the size of London. Frozen sea water creates a thing called pancake ice. The wind has to be still it must be really cold.

Charlie: We learned that not all seals are cute and fluffy; some are really dangerous. There are lots of different breeds that live in Antarctica.

Seraphine: There are so many jobs you can do in Antarctica including pilot, chef, engineer, electrician, scientist and doctor.









Team Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies

Working in partnership with SWIMBRIDGE CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Life, Love and Learning to the Full

Part of **TEAM** MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH mynewterm

For more information and how to apply directly with My New Term please visit our website

https://www.teamacademytrust.com/vacancies or https://mynewterm.com

Community Information

Any articles which appear in the school newsletter, that have not been organised by or on behalf of the school, have not been verified by TEAM Multi-Academy Trust as to the suitability for children. The news items are for parent information only.



Exciting festive events at Barnstaple Pannier Market!

Flourishing Barnstaple is delighted to bring festive cheer to the community with an incredible line-up of entertainment at the Barnstaple Pannier Market from Tuesday, 10 December to Saturday, 21 December. Here are two special events we think you'll love:

- Teachers Rock Choir: Friday, 13 December at 7pm – Be inspired by a fantastic choir performance from Teachers Rock, joined by their Academy Choir and the newly formed TRY Torridge Choir.
- Kids Silent Disco: Friday, 20 December at 6pm – A fun-filled event where children can dance to their heart's content with music, laughter, and festive vibes!



BABY AND TODDLER STAY & PLAY

Held every Friday during term time at Little Learners, Newton Cross.
9.30am - 11.00am
These are free sessions giving children a chance to meet new friends and for parents to catch up.
Contact Lynda on 01271 858881 for more information



Parent / Carer Newsletter - December 2024

Each month we will share with you information, advice and top tips on a number of themes, as well as fun things that you and your family can do in and around Devon, and much more!

Year's 6+7 Girls Rugby
Barnstaple Rugby Club
Friday's @6:30pm

Rugby is a game for all shapes, sizes and abilities

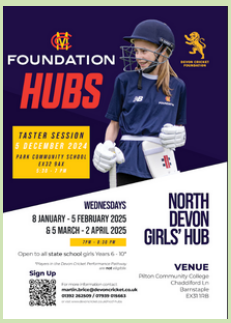
We are a new, friendly and welcoming girl's team.

You can play with us even if you currently play for another team or club



info.barnstaplerugby@gmail.com for more information...

...or just turn up on Friday and play!



THE WOODCOTT PLAYERS
proudly announce their 2025 Panto...

Jay the Giant

There will be three performances:
Saturday 22 March 2025 – afternoon and evening
Sunday 23 March 2025 – afternoon only

First read-through is on October 25 in The Hunters Inn, thereafter every Friday in November in the Village Hall from 7.30 to 9.00, before breaking for Christmas. We start up again on January 17, and will then meet every week through to the week of our performances.

We're always on the lookout for new people to join us, particulary children, so if you, and/or your children, would like to get involved
please contact Pat Ford on 07452 833222

Devon Family Hub Newsletter link - click here