



HARTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

1st December 2023



Dear Parents/Carers and Families,

It's been another busy and very cold week here at Hartford Primary; the winter chill is setting in and as the temperature drops, it's been great to see so many children wrapping up warm and keeping themselves cosy against the elements. As the ground becomes more icy and the weather grows colder, please be mindful of the pavements, roads and car park around the school, which can become quite slippery at times.

Hartford Christmas Fayre and Choir Performance

Our PTA will be holding a stall at the Hartford Christmas Fayre tomorrow (2nd December), and we have also secured a performance slot for our wonderful Young Voices choir! They will be singing some songs from their current rehearsal list – you won't want to miss it. Hartford Christmas Fayre is shaping up to be a brilliant day; festivities take place at Hartford Village Hall and across the village, from 11am to 3pm, and the children are due to perform in the earlier half of the day. Read more about the event here:

<https://hartfordparishcouncil.org.uk/hartford-village-christmas-fayre/>

Early Years Christmas Craft Afternoon at St. John's Church

Last Tuesday, our Early Years children ventured to St. John's Church in Hartford for a wonderful afternoon of Christmas-themed crafts and activities. The children learned all about the Christmas story, made their own baubles to take home and sang some Christmas songs together. A great time was had by all, and the children behaved impeccably well, paying close attention to the stories and working hard to make their baubles sparkle and shine ready for their trees.

Early Years Visit to The Ice Cream Farm

On Tuesday 5th December, the Early Years children are visiting The Ice Cream Farm in Tattenhall. We wanted our first educational visit together to be one the children would never forget! The magical Christmas visit will include time to explore the large play area, meet Father Christmas in his Grotto, a visit to the elf workshop, where they get the chance to select their own gift and of course they will have an ice cream treat. The children are very excited about this one – as are the staff! A huge thank you to the Early Years team for coordinating this visit.

Key Stage 1 Visit to Chester Cathedral

Friday 8th December sees our Key Stage 1 children participating in *Sing a Christmas Story* at Chester Cathedral. This is an event that gives our pupils a wonderful opportunity to come together with other schools in a beautiful venue to sing specially selected songs accompanied by an ensemble of professional musicians with a narration of the Christmas story. As part of the music curriculum, children have learnt the songs in school prior to the event, so are very well-prepared!

At the event, children from all schools will sit in school groups facing the front of the church, where the musicians and narrator will be seated. The Christmas story is then interspersed with the songs the children have already learnt. It promises to be a beautiful afternoon and everybody is very much looking forward to it.

A big thank you to Mrs Oldfield, our Music lead, for organising something so special.

Key Stage 1 Performance – Everyone Loves a Baby

A huge thank you to everyone who has taken their allocated tickets for our Key Stage 1 Christmas show. Every allocated priority ticket has been taken, and unfortunately, this means that no extra tickets are available. We know this will be a disappointment to some families, but with four full classes in KS1, no additional tickets are available on top of the priority allocation this year as the main hall is now at capacity.

Healthy Living Week – Winners!

During Healthy Living Week, the challenge for the week was to see which class could bring in the most fruit and vegetables for their snack. The winners of this were: 2NB, 3MG, 3JO and 6LW.

The children were also asked to look after their playground equipment. Children from 6VM, 5ES, 4MH and 4LO all tried hard with this and won the contest.

All eight classes above have won time with Mr. Cairns on the new Ninja Warrior equipment. A huge well done to all of these classes.

A Sporting Update

Last week, two Y5 and 6 basketball teams went to Hartford High School for a competition and to learn some new basketball skills. Both teams played extremely well; their sporting values were also mentioned by the organisers of the competition. Well done to George H, George P, Lucas, Max, Freddie, Abby, Olivia, Tilly, Izzy, Abigail and Jessie. The A team won the competition and will be playing in the Partnership Final on Monday!

On Thursday 30th November, the Y6 football team went to Hartford High School for the Partnership Final. They played against some very strong teams from Sandiway, St. Joseph's, Davenham and Rudheath who had also already won their local competitions. The boys played some fantastic football right from the goalkeeper through to the forwards. A special mention goes to our goalkeeper Tom who, in the final game where we needed to avoid defeat to win, admitted to the referee that he had saved a shot and it should actually be a corner to Davenham not a goal kick to us. Well done to Tom, Owen, Lucas, Cooper, Rafferty, Elliott, Max, Jacob, Connor and Isaac who will be playing in the Cheshire Finals at Crewe on January 25th.

Christmas Jumper Day – Donations

A reminder that our upcoming Christmas Jumper Day takes place on 7th December. As usual, we are asking for donations for the tombola in exchange for wearing either a Christmas jumper or something red. Our suggested donations are:

- Reception (EY): Children's tombola prizes
- Year 1: Adult tombola prizes
- Year 2: Boxes of chocolates/toiletries (see above)
- Year 3: Children's tombola prizes
- Year 4: Bottle tombola – wine, beer, spirits
- Year 5: Bottle tombola – wine, beer, spirits
- Year 6: Bottle tombola – wine, beer, spirits

We ask that any bottle donations are delivered directly to Mrs Moore's Hall at 8.45am on the day; other

donations can be taken into class, where they will be collected by the PTA during the day. Please do not bring donations to the front office as we do not have the space to accept them!

Winter Wonder-Lights

A final reminder that our Winter Wonder-Lights Christmas Spectacular is taking place next Friday, 8th December. We have stalls, Santa in his grotto, real-life reindeer, food and drink and our wonderful Christmas lights show! If you haven't yet got your tickets, today is the last day to secure Early Bird tickers for just £5. After that, you can still purchase them via ParentPay, priced at £7/adult and £5/child. Ticket collection dates for those who have booked tickets are 1st December and 4th December. On these dates, you will be able to collect your tickets from outside the front office from 2.45pm.

We still have a small number of slots available for the grotto, to meet Santa and his reindeer. To book your tickets, click here: <https://hartford-primary-school-pta.sumupstore.com/>

If you would like to offer your assistance on the evening, we are still looking for volunteers. Contact pta@hartfordprimary.cheshire.sch.uk for further information.

PTA Christmas Raffle

A reminder that today is the deadline for returning Christmas Raffle tickets and payment. The tickets are sold on a cash-only basis; please bring stubs (not tickets!) to the front office along with the correct payment in a clearly marked envelope. Do remember to write your name and contact details on **every stub** – the winners will be contacted using these details!

Free Christmas Holiday Activities with Food – Across Cheshire West

This Christmas, there are FREE activities available to your pupils and their families across West Cheshire throughout the holidays. Edsential, on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester council, have coordinated a whole host of Holiday Activities with Food (HAF) clubs, funded by Department for Education – which are completely free for eligible FSM children.

The website contains an interactive map, meaning it's easier than ever for parents/carers to search for various activity clubs on offer in their local area. This Christmas there are a diverse range of activities on offer, from trips to the pantomime, ice skating, graffiti art workshops, sports and much more. And the best part? There will be free, healthy meals provided throughout the programme, ensuring that children and young people stay nourished and energised throughout the holidays.

To learn more and book a place for your child, click here: https://edsential.com/haf-cheshire-west/?sender_id=5ad864cd98f8d

Have a great weekend and we will see you on Monday.

Warm regards,



Mrs L Cade