



Hardwick & Cambourne Community Primary School Newsletter

13th December 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's been an eventful term, but also a really enjoyable one I hope for all your children. All the lovely learning experiences that I've seen going on across the school have genuinely helped me get through all the various trials and issues that have hit me this term. Importantly, I can happily say that we now have a fully working boiler room at our Hardwick site; so thank you for being so helpful and understanding last week.

We are now deeply in the throws of Christmas and have Christmas plays happening all week. From what I've seen, I'm sure they will be at the same high standard they usually are. We did have our PTA 'Step into Christmas' event last week at our Cambourne campus and raised an amazing £1197.43 for the school PTA. This money is being spent on adding reading books to our library and to classroom readers. However, the sight of Mr Gaynord as the Christmas Elf is still waking me at midnight with a shiver! Can I just thank all those parents and helpers who put on the event and helped in running the stalls and clearing/setting it all up, we really couldn't have done it without you.

I'd like to wish you all a very happy festive period and a great new year.

Andy Matthews

Nursery news

We have had a fun-packed first term in Nursery and the children have settled in really well. They have enjoyed many different topics but their favourite by far seems to be our Christmas topic. They have wrapped presents, created snow out of foam, decorated Christmas trees, pretended to be Santa delivering presents and created many Christmas crafts. We have also finished this term on a high as our Christmas show was an absolute hit! A huge thank you to all who came and helped make it special. Next term, we welcome in some more children and are looking forward to seeing new friendships forming. We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Reception news

As Christmas approaches the Reception children have been busy embracing all things festive! Both sites enjoyed a magical trip to Audley End miniature railway. The children were so excited to meet Santa and his elves. They impressed us all with their exemplary behaviour and good manners. In preparation the children wrote letters to Santa using their phonic knowledge. Next week we will be writing a recount of our trip after learning sentences using 'talk for writing' actions. In maths we continue to focus on number and addition. During play rehearsals the children have shown real confidence and talent. They are very excited to show you their hard work next Friday. We look forward to seeing you there to round off a very successful first term at school. Thank you for all your support this term.

Year 1/2 news

This half term has been a jam-packed and an exciting one for Year 1/2! We have loved our 'Fire' topic and learned lots about the historical disaster The Great Fire of London and the role Samuel Pepys played. We have created effective artwork inspired by fire and bonfire night. In English we have read a range of poems based on fireworks and fire, and we then wrote and edited our own poetry. We have also written instructions based around our topic. On top of all of this hard work, we have also had a wonderful time preparing for our Christmas production 'The Good Shepherd'. The children have sung, acted and danced their way through many fabulous songs and brilliant scenes. We would like to wish you all a joyful holiday and look forward to seeing the children back in the New Year.

Year 3/4 news

What an exciting half term we have had learning about the Egyptians! The children have been so inquisitive and engaged in their learning, investigating the death of Tutankhamun, writing diaries in role as Howard Carter, and are just finishing off their detailed instructions for how the Egyptians built their pyramids. Our immersion day saw them mummifying tomatoes and fish – which when we unwrap, we hope they will be well preserved! Other highlights have been our Egyptian Days (thanks for all the great costumes), amazing self-portraits, energetic tag rugby and controlled gymnastic routines both on and off the apparatus. Thank you for all the quality independent homework sent in – the children love sharing them, and are always proud of what they have achieved. Next term, we look forward to moving on to our new topic – Rainforests. We wish you a very happy and healthy winter break – may all these coughs and colds be gone by the New Year!

Year 5/6 news

We have had an exciting and busy term and have very much enjoyed our topic, 'A Passage to India'. Our trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor in November was great fun and we all learned so much about Hinduism. The children have enjoyed a wide range of activities around this theme including making river Ganges water pollution monitors in computing, creating Hindu symbols using batik, using programming skills in the Tuk Tuk challenge and creating paisley designs using water colours and pen and ink skills. As this topic draws to a close we are looking forward to sharing some of our learning with you on the afternoon of 18th December. The children have produced some lovely pieces of topic homework. Thank you for all of the support and encouragement you give them at home to complete these, and the weekly tasks. We are all looking forward to our next topic, Ancient Greece, which will begin in the new year. We have also enjoyed getting involved in some special little 'extras' such as the Random Acts of Kindness challenge and the Reverse Advent Calendars. Thank you for the contributions that you have sent in for this – we know that they will make a real difference to the people who receive them. We all wish you a very happy Christmas and peaceful new year.

Car parking issues at Cambourne

Many of you will be aware that we have ask parents a couple of times now to please not park by the curbs at the ends of the parking bays. We really don't want to moan, however cars parked here restrict the movement of larger vehicles around the site, severely limits the vision for families walking from the car park bays to the school and also limits the turning circle of cars coming out from bays. This creates potential dangers for the children and acts to slow down the drop off process. If parents continue to park in this way, we may need to cone these areas off. This is something we don't want to have to do, but will if it's the only way to keep the car park safe. The loop is designed so that you can circle back until a space becomes vacant. Thank you.

International Award

As part of the 'International Award' that we are gaining for our school, we have been running an e-Twinning club in Cambourne and e-Twinning golden morning in Hardwick. The children are really enjoying making international friends! We have made contact with a school in Badajoz in Spain and have already exchanged photos, videos and emails. We are currently putting together a 'culture box' to send to the children in Badajoz and we are looking forward to receiving one in return! Have a look at the Its Learning page (eTwinning) to see more. There are also some Christmas songs in Spanish that the children can practise at home. Feliz Navidad!

Miss French, Ms Garland and Ms Eadon

21st February - International Mother Language Day

Get the enhanced E-Newsletter

If you would like the e-newsletter emailed to you instead of a paper copy, and don't usually get one please email **hardwickprimary@hotmail.co.uk** We will send this newsletter out via email in the next couple of days. If you usually receive one, and haven't got it by Monday, can you let us know please!

Twitter

We now have a large number of you following the school on Twitter and we are starting to use this as a very quick and immediate means of informing you of school events. If you've not already joined please start following @HardwickHead

Lunches

It's the Christmas lunch for the children on the 18th December. You should have already booked your place with the school office. If you need to access the meals menu, it can be viewed at <https://www.cambridgeshireccs.co.uk/page/school-meals/primary-school-meals/menus> by clicking on the Winter Menu.

Dinner Money - the cost of school dinners for next half term is as follows:

Daily Weekly Half Term

£2.30 £11.50 £82.80

Diary Dates for the remainder of this term and next

Monday 18th Dec - Hardwick and Cambourne Year 5/6 Indian sharing afternoon (both sites at 2pm)

End of term Tuesday 19th December

New term starts back on Thursday 4th January

All new term dates (for 2018/19) are now available on the school website

Snow days and emergency closure

As the weather is turning more wintery, I thought I'd remind you of the school's emergency closure procedures. We try to make any decision to close the school as early as we possibly can (usually between 7-7.30). We often do this in consultation with other schools. If we choose to close, we inform the local authority and BBC radio Cambridgeshire, and notify parents on the school website, twitter and parentline. If we don't communicate on any of these forums please assume that we are open as usual. The webpage for the LAs school closures is www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-&-learning/school-term-dates-&-closures/school-closures/ or tune into BBC radio Cambridgeshire and wait for their announcements.

Correct PE uniform

Teachers in a variety of year groups have noticed that some of the children regularly come unprepared for PE. Please can we remind you that the children need indoor and outdoor kits in school at all times. Outdoor kit needs to be suitably warm for this colder, damper weather. Suitable outdoor footwear is also needed. Please could pupils with long hair also remember to bring a hairband. Thank you.

Cleaning Vacancy

We still have a vacancy for a cleaner at our Cambourne site. The application pack is on our school website, or do pop into the school office if you would like one, or know someone who might be interested. Hours can be flexible!

