



Hardwick & Cambourne Community Primary School Newsletter

6th December 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we start to approach the Christmas period, it's been great to reflect on what a lovely term we've had. Your children have worked fantastically well during the term and have really enjoyed their learning. Now we have school plays, carols and festive fun to look forward to. Hopefully many of you were able to attend last Saturday's PTA 'Step into Christmas' event, which was a lovely way to get December off to a great start and a great fun way of raising money for the school (over £1500). We'd also like to remind you all of the Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 14th December. All money raised will go directly to Save the Children. As many of you will be aware the financial climate in which schools operate continues to be a challenge, you will probably be aware that I've been as active as I can be in raising the issue of the plight of Cambridgeshire schools at both local and national level. Everyone at the school is trying hard to still find a way of maximising the funding we get to provide as well as we can for your children. We will protect the core function of the school and prioritise the care and education for your children at all times. There will be some inevitable implications in some of the peripheral elements to the functions of the school, and we will try our very best to limit the impact of these. The situation only looks like getting tougher though in the years to come, and as I tweeted earlier in the term, it's incredibly frustrating when I meet other schools of exactly the same context and size as ours but in a different county, and find out that they receive £160,000 a year more in base funding. Please rest assured that neither I, or the school staff will stop protesting about the poor levels of funding received by Cambridgeshire schools. I'd also like to thank those of you who have added your voices to support us and to the chorus calling for a truly fairer funding formula. On a more positive note we've added a few things that might be helpful for parents to our website and Its Learning platform. Firstly we now have a new Administration of Medicines Policy, in the parent Information page of the website. You might well want to read it, as it contains a few alterations to practice. Also please could we remind you all of the English page on the Its Learning Platform where you will find a wide range of useful web links, games, book lists, spelling lists, year group expectations, phonics support and competitions including the Half Term Writing Challenge. A brand new challenge will be launched very soon and every child who participates will be celebrated and receive a certificate for their wonderful writing. Hopefully you'll all have a lovely Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you all again on the 7th January.

Andy Matthews

Nursery news

We have had an action packed half term so far. The children have really enjoyed learning about bears through stories, games and rhymes. Our next theme will be winter and of course, Christmas! They have relished the opportunity to continue their learning outside in all weathers thanks to our brand new puddle suits. A heartfelt thanks to all families who took part in our sponsored Autumn treasure hunt to enable us to make these purchases. We have started early phonics activities- lots of fun listening games with musical instruments to help children tune into sounds. The children have been focusing on numbers 1-6 in maths and recognising simple 2D shapes. We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas singsong on Wednesday 12th December, 1.15pm. It promises to put us all in the Christmas spirit! Thanks for your ongoing support.

Reception news

We have had a wonderful time in Reception this half term, starting with an autumnal theme and moving onto Space, before stepping into Christmas at the end of term. The Space topic really captured children's imaginations as they took on the role of astronauts. They pushed their physical limits on the astronaut obstacle course and were keen to write in the space log book about what they had seen on their expeditions. The children built rockets of all shapes and sizes using a variety of materials, which provided excellent learning opportunities for discussion of shapes and counting down from 10! We are now deep in rehearsals for our Christmas Play, The Sleepy Shepherd, and looking forward to performing in front of everyone next week. We hope you all have a relaxing Christmas with plenty of rest (ho ho ho)! In the New Year our topic will be cold places, with an initial focus on Antarctica - so children will have to wrap up warm, Brrrr!

Year 1/2 news

Our topic in Year 1/2 this half term has been 'Toys' and we have had a wonderful time learning all about old toys and new, designing and making our own moving toys and collecting information about everybody's favourites. Our own toys that we brought into school mysteriously disappeared one night and we spent a day as detectives trying to find out where they had gone. They had come to life and gone off on their own adventure! We have been very impressed by the children's dazzling acting and singing skills and we can't wait to perform for you. After Christmas, our topic will be 'Pirates' and there will be a dress up day with a date to be announced. Enjoy the festivities!

Year 3/4 news

What an exciting half term this has been! The children have thoroughly loved our topic on the American Ancestors. They have researched about the life of the Native Americans and the reasons why settlers arrived from Europe. They have set up a gallery of "Wanted" posters, learnt various different Line Dances and created fairground rides which they have programmed using their coding skills. The children also really enjoyed making Dream Catchers, some fantastic looking Totem Poles and very detailed tepees. Wishing you all a relaxing holiday and to those of you who celebrate Christmas, we wish you a happy one. Looking forward to welcoming you all back to a "Magical" 2019 in January.

Year 5/6 news

It has been a very busy term. We have packed in so much! We all very much enjoyed our trip to London, visiting the Houses of Parliament or the Imperial War Museum. It provided us all with a wider perspective and deeper understanding of our topic as well as the opportunity to visit our own capital city. We have all been very focused on our topic work this term, learning about WW1, WW2 as well as famous people who fought for freedom. The pupils have created some lovely homework pieces and we thank you, parents and carers, for your continuing help and support for your children in completing home-learning tasks. We are all very proud of our Year 6 team again this year - Bea, Monty, Shan and Despoina - who represented us at the 4th annual English Challenge held at Jeavons Wood School. Our team did especially well in the grammar round and would recommend everyone to keep reading! It was a really fun event and our representatives all worked brilliantly together as a team to answer memory round questions, grammar questions and a wide range of really challenging questions about a number of different authors, books, poems and text types. A big thank-you to all parents for supporting us and for school staff who gave up their evening to attend and support our team. We recently sent out a request for any parents or grandparents who might like to come in and share their memories of stories they were told of their family's experiences of the war years. If you are able to come in to talk to the children about this, please do get in touch very soon. We are looking forward to seeing you soon at our presentation event for parents and carers. Do come in and enjoy a presentation of what your child has been working on this term. (Please check the dates for these events for each campus with your son/daughter). Finally, our topic next term is 'Tomorrow's World'. More details to follow at the beginning of next term. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year. See you all in 2019!

Mrs Evans Bench

Many of you may have noticed the new bench on the playground at Cambourne. This is a memorial bench to our sadly departed Mrs Evans. I'm sure she would've been touched that so many people wanted to remember her at the school, and those children who do now have a place to sit and remember her by. Special thanks to the PTA for their help in arranging and funding this memorial.

Ethics council upcoming events

14th December: Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

4th-8th March: Waste Week

15th March: Red Nose Day for Comic Relief

Lunches

We would like to bring to your attention that currently the school is carrying a dinner money debt of about £1000. As has been made clear earlier in this newsletter, we are simply not in the position to sustain this level of parental debt. Therefore from January, any parent with a debt of more than £20 will not be able to book a school meal for their child until this debt is cleared. Later in the term we will be bringing this threshold down to a debt level of £10. Please make every effort to clear any school meal debt before January and try to pay in advance for school meals in the future.

In Spring term menus are now available to view via the [school website's school meals page](#).

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

Daily Weekly Half Term

£2.30 £11.50 £82.80

Winter weather warning

As we approach the winter months the chances of snow closure days increase. If we do need to close for bad weather we will try to inform you as soon as we can in the mornings, and this is very often before 7—7.30am. We will do this in 4 ways. We will always contact Radio Cambridgeshire and other local radio channels, who will announce this on their channels. We will inform the Local Authority who will update the school closures page of the County Council website. We will also put the closure on the school website and tweet the closure to all parents linked the twitter account below.

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

