



Dear Parent/s and Carer/s,

We are now speeding through the second half of term – it is hard to believe we're almost through November already. Plans in school are starting to turn to Christmas plays, parties and events and you will get further details for each in separate letters from year groups.

### Harvest

It feels a long time ago but we held our Harvest Festival Assembly on the final Friday of last half term. Y6 added to the display with some amazing pumpkin art and autumn haiku poetry as well as reading a few poems out to the rest of the school.



Your donations were incredible and were hugely appreciated by Horsham Matters who came to collect them in the afternoon. They send their sincere thanks to all staff, parents and pupils who donated and have helped them supply 7000 food parcels already this year. North Heath alone managed to send 229.7kg of food to the food bank!



Horsham Matters are already looking to see how they can support families over Christmas and there is a new appeal below if anyone is in a position to donate. Thank you all for your support of the community for this event.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/merrychristmasappeal>

### Phone Reminders

Just a brief reminder that mobile phones should not be used at all within the school building. For safeguarding reasons, we would also ask that parents and carers do not take photos of anyone other than their own children on the school site.

If pupils need to bring phones into school for their walk to or from school, these should be handed to class teachers in the morning so that they are not used or at risk during the school day.

We would also ask you to check the age limits on the various social media apps that are popular with our pupils. It is always worth remembering that the adult or bill payer is responsible for messages sent from a child's phone, so it is worthwhile checking in from time to time.



### Reception Welcome Meeting

Thank-you to all the parents who came to the evening welcome meeting on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November. It was great to see so many of you and we hope you found the meeting as useful as we did. We have got some ideas to work on to support our youngest learners even more at the start of their time in school.

## School Council



Hopefully, everyone enjoyed our Children in Need pyjama day – it was lovely to see so many different pyjama and onesie styles and even the odd dressing gown! The children greatly enjoyed having their cuddly toys join them for the day as well, and many pupils shared these during reading sessions with other year groups.

The school council have this message to share: *Thank you for your generous donations this year to support us in raising money for Children in Need. Because of your kindness and generosity, we have raised a grand total of £389.98. We really enjoyed dressing up in pyjamas and completing the Children in Need orienteering.*

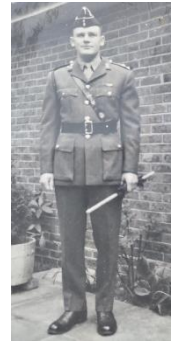
### Autumn

We had some amazing help with our leaf clearing at half term! Many thanks to those parents and pupils who came in to help make the site safe for the children to play outside. Many thanks too for taking away bags of leaves to dispose of in your own gardening bins from that day as well as the many bags produced by our site manager since then – this is definitely benefitting the environment so we are very appreciative. Feel free to take any others that are stacked near the main school gate...



### Year Six

As part of their Conflict Topic and in respect of Remembrance Day, pupils from Year 6 went to Horsham on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November to lay a poppy wreath on the war memorial in the town centre. They then returned to school in time to observe their two minutes' silence along with the rest of the school.



Their trip was followed up by a visit from a retired officer who, although too young to have served in the war, had memories of war-time childhood and post-war rationing to share, as well as an insight into his own time serving in the army. The pupils in Y6 are becoming much more familiar with morse code as a result!

### Absence

Please remember to contact the office if your child is unable to attend school for any reason. We do ask that pupils with temperatures remain off school and children should be off for 48 hours following any sickness.

If you have appointments booked and need to request an absence, please speak to the office to collect the relevant form. Please be aware, however, that I am unable to authorise holidays during the school term.

### Sayers Croft

A huge well done to our Y5 pupils who entertained the school in the morning and their parents and carers in the evening of Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November. They spoke clearly, performed with skill and sang brilliantly. We are all extremely proud of their ability to perform with such confidence to a substantial audience.



### Guinea Pigs

I'm sure that you have all heard but we have now got two school pets!



Two white guinea pigs joined us after half term and are enormously popular with the pupils. They are currently taking turns in each classroom so that each group of children gets to see them a bit more closely. Our new pets are currently still unnamed, but we are working on it! The pupils have narrowed the selection down to four pairs of names and they now need to vote for their absolute favourite. See their final choices below:

**Sugar & Snow**

**Thunder & Lightning**

**Marshmallow & Cookie**

**Snowy & Marshmallow**



## Christmas



We have a school Christmas Tree arriving in school at the beginning of December and would like to invite all infant pupils to create some decorations for it. The decorations can be taken into pupils' classrooms and they will get a chance to hang them from the tree. Please name the decorations so we can return them at the end of term.

There will be class Christmas Parties on the afternoon of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. As this is the same day as Chartwell's Christmas Lunch, there will be no additional food for the parties. Instead, pupils will enjoy different Christmas activities and the games that have been organised for this session.

Throughout December, pupils will also be using an Acts of Kindness advent calendar and will get a chance to earn extra stickers for their efforts. Good luck to all of them – let's hope we have ordered enough stickers!

### Hockey

🏒 Our Year Six hockey teams showed great skill in their matches in the first half of their tournament on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. The A team finished at the top of the table with a brilliant set of results. The B team battled hard but unfortunately lost some of their matches. See a more in-depth write-up here – <https://horshamsportsservices.co.uk/index.php/2024/11/15/north-heath-turn-on-the-style-at-the-hockey-league/> We look forward to seeing both teams in their final outing this Friday (29<sup>th</sup> November) – Good Luck!

### Uniform

Please make sure that your child/ren has/have a coat in school each day. The winter weather is fast approaching but the children will still be going outside for PE and breaktimes so need to have appropriate protection from the rain and cold. All coats should be named (even if it's just on the label) so that, should they be mislaid, it is as easy as possible to reunite pupils and coats! Thank-you for your help with this.



### Upcoming Dates

Half Term Holiday			
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Wednesday	27	Y4 9:30am-12pm	Team Games Event at The Bridge
		5:30-7:30pm Parents	x and ÷ Mathematics evening
Thursday	28	YR-Y6	FoNH Non-uniform Day – donations for house raffle
		Y5/6 4-5:30pm	Netball tournament at The Bridge
Friday	29	Y6 4pm-6pm	Hockey Tournament
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Tuesday	3	Y3/4 Christmas rehearsal performance for grandparents and siblings 1:45pm	
Wednesday	4	YR Christmas rehearsal performance to grandparents 9:30am Y3/4 Christmas performance to parents (Hazel and Lime) 6pm	
Thursday	5	YR Christmas performance to parents 9:30am Y3/4 Christmas performance to parents (Willow and Larch) 6pm	
Tuesday	10	Y1/2 Christmas rehearsal performance for grandparents and siblings 1:45pm	
Wednesday	11	Y1/2 Christmas performance for parents (Elder/Chestnut) 9:30am	
Thursday	12	Y1/2 Christmas performance for parents (Silver Birch/Cherry) 9:30am	
Friday	13	YR/KS1, Y3/4, Y5/6	FoNH Christmas disco (see FoNH newsletter)
		Parents	FoNH Christmas raffle draw
Monday	16	Rocksteady Performance 9:30am	
Wednesday	18	Y5/6 1:30pm performance to grandparents at St Marks Church	
Thursday	19	Rocksteady Performance 9:30am Y5/6 6:30pm Christmas performance for parents at St Marks Church	
Friday	20	All pupils	Last day of half term
Friday	20	END OF TERM	

<b>JANUARY</b>			
Monday	6	INSET DAY for teaching staff	
Tuesday	7	All pupils back to school	
Monday	13	Parent Consultation Evening appointments available to book online	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
Tuesday	4	3:30-6:00pm YR-Y6	Parent Consultation Evening 1
Thursday	6	4:00-7:00pm YR-Y6	Parent Consultation Evening 2
Friday	14	All pupils	Last day of half term
Half Term Holiday			
Monday	24	All pupils	Pupils return to school
Thursday	27	Y4-6	Young Shakespeare visit
<b>MARCH</b>			
Thursday	6	9:00-9:30 Y5 Hawthorn	Assembly for parents/carers
Thursday	13	9:00-9:30 Y1 Cherry + Chestnut	Assembly for parents/carers
Wednesday	19	10:00am-1:00pm – Selected Y4	Indoor athletics at the Bridge
Thursday	20	9:00-9:30am Y2 Elder + S.Birch	Assembly for parents/carers
Friday	21	Whole School	Red Nose Day
Thursday	27	9:00-9:30 Y5 Rowan	Assembly for parents/carers
Friday	28	9:00-11:00 – YR Apple + Cherry	Mothers' Day Assembly for parents/carers
<b>APRIL</b>			
Thursday	3	9:00-9:30 – Y4 Larch & Lime	Assembly for parents/carers
Thursday	3	Pupils' last day	
Friday	4	EASTER Holiday begins INSET DAY for all teaching staff	
Tuesday	22	All Pupils back to school	

A primary school is definitely the best place to be working in the run-up to Christmas! We are really looking forward to our Christmas plays and services and we know our pupils will be proud to show you what they have been working on. Until then, I wish you all the best of health in the colder, damper, darker part of the year.

Yours sincerely  
*Nicky Chesshire*  
 Headteacher