



Horwood and Newton Tracey Community Primary School Newsletter

Friday, 12th November 2021

Dear parents, carers and children

We have had a really busy week – Steve Manning told all the children stories on Monday. It was lovely to welcome Steve back into school after the last two years. Steve will visit the school every term.

We held parent/carer consultations this week and, again, it was lovely to welcome you all back into school. We hope the meetings were useful and updated you about your child's progress. Thank you for not bringing children to your on-site appointments. It was really important that teachers could talk freely about your child/ren.

If for any reason you missed your appointment or telephone call and would still like to chat with your child's teacher, please email the office and we will make arrangements which suit you.

Finally, this week the children have learnt about the festival of Diwali in RE lessons, assemblies and in Family Groups. We also held a minute's silence on Remembrance Day.

Mrs Lisa Eadie
Headteacher
head@hntps.org

Upcoming Trips and Dates

Tue, 16th November – 5.30 pm Governing Body **Resources Committee**
Wed, 17th November – **NSPCC assemblies**
Thu, 18th November – **Tempest photos** at the Village Hall from 8.30 am
Fri, 19th November – **Children in Need Day**
Thu, 25th November – **Y5/6 Athletics** at GTS
Wed, 1st December – afternoon **SEN Drop in** with Mrs Radley

Headteacher Hours

This term the Governing Body have supported me in having a non-teaching commitment to enable me to undertake whole-school Headship duties and prepare for our imminent OFSTED inspection. This has been much appreciated and has enabled me to focus more on leading and monitoring the teaching and learning across the school, as well as supporting staff. As a result, I can in turn share with families more on Facebook, Instagram and the website what the children are learning.

If you haven't yet signed up to our social media pages, please do have a look. Facebook – HNTPS and Instagram lovacott_school. In the Spring Term, I am planning to return to a teaching commitment of one day a week in Class 4 – I have missed this contact with the Year 5s and 6s and can't wait. Mrs Eadie

Ready for Anything Procedures

Schools are required to have emergency procedures in place (see our website for details) and this includes "Ready for anything" procedures where children have to go into their classrooms, windows are closed and doors are locked. Whilst it is important to practise this, we also believe it's very important to not unnecessarily alarm the children. We, therefore, discuss examples such as a local bonfire has got out of control or sheep have managed to get onto the playground. Similar to a fire drill, the children have to practise being "Ready for anything". This week Classes 1 and 2 practised this and were brilliant at sensibly going inside and waiting for the "all clear". Classes 3 and 4 practised this in the Summer Term and these will be repeated at least annually. Obviously if we did have sheep get onto the playground we are fortunate to have experienced sheep-herding children who could advise the staff how to deal with it!

Enabling children to be the best that they can be!

Coloured Christmas Hampers

The school is raising money by making their annual coloured Christmas hampers. The colours have been drawn and allocated by Family Group (see below). If you are able to help, please could children donate coloured items to make up these lovely hampers. The Friends of the school have arranged for hamper raffle tickets to be printed and these will also be available to buy soon. For every item donated, children will get an in-house raffle ticket with their name on and each Family Group will have a special draw for a seasonal prize at the end of term. Christine Parsons (Chair of the Friends) will join the school for our school Christmas lunch on Wednesday, 15th December to draw the hamper raffle.

Yeo – purple Torridge – silver
Taw – red Dart - gold

Thank you!

The final amount raised from the sponsored Family Group cross country is **£845!** If anyone still needs to donate via ParentPay please contact Carla at the office as the donation payments have now been removed. Thank you everyone for your tremendous generosity. This money will be used to enhance the children's experiences.

SEN Drop in – Mrs Radley 1st December

Mrs Radley is running monthly special educational needs (SEN) afternoon sessions. If you have any learning concerns about your child/dren which you would like to discuss please book an appointment via the office.

Children in Need

Friday, 19th November is Children in Need day. We are inviting the children to wear something spotty and make a suggested donation of £1. Cash will be collected on the day by school councillors and the Friends of the school have kindly agreed to pay the donations into a Children in Need account.

NSPCC Assemblies

The children next week we will be having an NSPCC assembly about how to stay safe. Letters have gone out today with more information.

Covid Risk Assessment

We are continuing to be vigilant in school with our Covid risk assessment and this week we installed CO2 monitors in each classroom. These will help identify if we need to increase our ventilation to reduce the spread of the virus. If your child has symptoms of Covid please continue to keep them absent from school and arrange a PCR test and let us know the results. The Local Authority and Government receive daily returns about our attendance and Covid numbers.

The Plough Theatre Trip

Letters will be going out next week about our whole school theatre trip to The Plough on Thursday, 2nd December.

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Tempest Photography

The children will be taken down to the Village Hall on Thursday, 18th November to have individual and sibling photos. If you would like younger children (babies) to have their photos taken on their own or with their siblings, then please turn up at the Village Hall at 8.30 am for this to be taken.

Family Group Points

Each week the children's individual reward "Dojo" points are being added together so a celebration cup can be awarded the winning Family Group. The winners last week were Taw – well done!

Personal, Health, Social and Economic Education (PHSEE): All classes will now be writing and learning "social stories" related to whole-school issues, such as playtime behaviour, bullying, etc. The **positive mental health** focus is "talk about your feelings".

COMMUNITY NEWS

Shoebox Appeal –If you would like to contribute by making a shoebox please donate before the Shoebox service at Alversdiscott Chapel on 21 November at 9.30 am. More info from Kate on: 01271 858268