



Horwood and Newton Tracey Community Primary School Newsletter

Friday, 3rd December 2021

Dear parents, carers and children

Yesterday we had a wonderful whole-school trip to the Plough Theatre to watch, "Rhia and the Tree of Lights". The children watched the story of Rhia who lived in Devon but whose grandmother had been born in India. She went on an adventure to discover how to make her grandmother's tree blossom. She learnt how to lean on the support of others, being inspired by the story of Diwali about how Rama and Sita overcame obstacles to succeed.

It was a lovely story of friendship, resilience and hope. The children were wonderfully behaved and clearly loved the interactive storytelling. The youngest children also enjoyed the coach journey almost as much as the theatre itself!

How lovely to have a whole-school trip out after so much isolation and having to keep in class bubbles. We are trying, very hard, to keep our hygiene measures maintained to reduce the spread of Covid. Thank you everyone for your ongoing diligence to lateral flow/PCR test your children and keep them off school if they are unwell.

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Upcoming Trips and Dates

Tue, 7th December – **Flu immunisations**
Tue, 7th December – **final** after school clubs
Wed, 8th December – private **music tuition** lessons
Wed, 8th December – 7 pm Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
Fri, 10th December – inter Family Group **Singing competition**
Tue, 14th December – 5.30 pm Full **Governors**
Wed, 15th December – **Christmas lunch** and raffle draw
Fri, 17th December – Christmas **party lunch** and last day of term

The Friends School Calendar

The Friends of the school have organised a wonderful school calendar with every child's self-portrait on it. They cost £7 each or 3 for £20 and can be ordered by returning the order slip or emailing the office. Payment will be set up via ParentPay.

After School Clubs

Next week is the final after school club session. New clubs will be planned for next term.

Coloured Christmas Hampers

Thank you everybody for your generous colour themed donations for our hampers. The school councillors are busy selling tickets before school and at lunchtime out of the meeting room window. Do pop by and have a look at the hampers, drop off your sold ticket stubs or pick up more tickets to sell.

Parking around the school

This week I have spoken with representatives of the police, ambulance and fire service who have assured me that in the event of an emergency they would ensure access to our neighbours' properties even if cars were parked blocking the roads. We would prefer, obviously, that our parking did not cause an obstruction in the first place. Thank you for your continued support of this.

Class 1 – could Reception children please bring in an orange in next week on Wednesday 8th December to make a Christingle.



Enabling children to be the best that they can be!



Tea @ 3 with Mrs Eadie

Tea @ 3 is awarded to those children who have kept the school "Golden Rules" and is a Friday afternoon reward of tea/hot chocolate, cake and biscuits with Mrs Eadie. To keep mixing of children to a minimum, Tea @ 3 will be held with 4 children from each class, each week. Today's pupils from Class 2 are: Carter, Amelie, Ayden and Darcie. Well done!

Year 6 leavers' hoodies

The Year 6 leavers' hoodies are now available to order online at

<https://www.leavershoodies.com/horwood--newton-tracey-primary-school-2022-leavers>

These can be worn as uniform after Christmas. Thank you Mrs McFarlane for organising this.

Flu Immunisations – 7th December

If you have booked and consented to the nasal flu immunisation these will happen during school time on Tuesday, 7th December.

Applying for a Reception School Place September 2022

The admissions portal is now open for Reception admissions for next year until 15th January 2022. Admissions can be made online on the Devon County Council Primary Admissions page: [Apply for a reception or year 3 place at a primary school \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

Resources Committee Meeting

The Resources Committee met on 16th November to discuss various items regarding finances, safeguarding and premises related to the school. We discussed the ongoing issues with our boiler, and the recent visits from the County Council around this. The good news is that they are going to financially support the school with any repairs and we've been put on the list for a possible upgrade in 2022/23. Following visits by governors to the school in October, we reviewed the impact of funding and the arrangements around Pupil Premium, Sports Premium and Special Education Needs & Disabilities (SEND). This is to make sure it is being used in an appropriate way, and to see the impact it is having on pupils. We also had discussions about the wider finances of the school and the how these are used, including looking at the possible amount of funding the school may receive next year. The meeting was fully attended by all committee governors and we all continue to feel the school remains performing excellently.

Karl Murphy-Barnes, Resources Committee Chair



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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 "eat well".

COMMUNITY NEWS

Christingle Service, Newton Tracey Church, 5th December at Newton Tracey Church at 9.30 am.



Parish Council meeting at 7 pm on Wednesday, 8th December at the Village Hall.