

Hello / Hallo

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to December, over the next few weeks the children in the **Infant School** will learn simple phrases in **German**, if you have any books or pictures for our display we would be grateful.

On **Thursday 7th December** all **Infant School** children must please **come to school in their PE kits** as every child will be participating in a **Christmas themed dance lesson** run by Miss Charlotte who the Year 1 and 2 children met last year in our Healthy Week. We hope the children will enjoy undertaking this festive dance extravaganza. Please note children in Year 2 will still have their PE sessions on Monday and Friday as normal.

Congratulations to our **Year 6 children** who have risen to the challenge of working through **practise SAT papers** this week. The staff are busy marking 180 booklets. The Summer SAT papers are sent to be externally marked so please bear with the teachers as they may not have the scores next week at Parents Meetings to hand, but will be able to tell you how your child regulated in the tests.

I hope that you have found this week's **Junior School maths meetings organised by Mrs Claire Gerrard** worthwhile. Thank you for those that attended who expressed their gratitude towards the children for being brave and welcoming their parents to come in and watch them in class. Whereas younger children love their family to come into school some of our older children can be self conscious.

Next week *Elfridges* will open in both schools, to secure your child's entry please pop onto **ParentPay** to purchase the ticket. Please also note we take the children in small batches across the day, the presents are not always wrapped on the same day as we rely on the good will of staff in their free time to do this. If you could lend a hand then presents will come at a quicker rate. Thank you for your support and if you have anymore gifts then we would appreciate them as this is a **POPULAR** event for the children to engage with.

We look forward to seeing you next week in school **in person** in both the school halls for the **Autumn Parent Consultations**. Children in the **Infant School** will have had targets sent home today via email, which will support you in how to help your child at home.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes / Beste Wünsche

Rae Lee [Headteacher]



Preschool

This week, **preschool** continued working hard on their gross and fine motor skills. In PE we thought about 'Superheroes' and how they might move, and remembered to stop and be still when we heard the instruction 'freeze'! We made balancing beams and practised balancing and moving along them including sideways by side stepping. We used some small connecting shapes and learnt the words, 'shorter' 'longer' and 'longest' whilst building, and used scissors to cut pictures from magazines. **Next week** we will read, 'A Christmas Pine' by Julia Donaldson and learn Christmas songs. The songs will be uploaded to Tapestry so that you can join in also! Look out also for one of our Christmas bears, 'Robin' and 'Holly', who will be visiting each child's home for a night in the run up to Christmas, we are very excited!

Reception

This week **Class 1 and 2**, have enjoyed designing and decorating our fabric bag as part of our DT work in enquiry. We loved being Teamwork Tigers creating paper chains to decorate the Reception classrooms! In maths we have been comparing numbers and amounts using the language of 'more', 'fewer'/'less' and 'equal'. In literacy we have used our phonic knowledge to segment and blend words to label pictures for the story of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. **Next week**, we are looking forward to learning some Christmas songs and learning more about positional and directional language in maths

Year 1

This week in **Class 3 and Class 4**, we have been naming 3D shapes, sorting them into groups and we went on a 3D shape hunt around the school. In English we have been editing and improving our piece of writing about our families. We have been busy practicing our nativity play and songs and could we remind you that all children need their costumes in a named bag by **Wednesday 6th December**. **Next week**, we will be writing our conclusion of our science materials investigation.

Year 2

This week, in **Class 5 and 6**, we wrote a recount and remembered to include a title, time words and to write in chronological order. We were impressed by the writing. In maths we continued working with money, learning how to make the same amount using different coins. We evaluated the bags we have been making in DT. **Next week**, we will edit and improve our recounts. In maths we will solve money problems involving change. We look forward to learning about tempos in different pieces of music.

Year 3

This week in **Beech and Chestnut Classes**, we prepared ourselves to write by watching a short film, 'The Wishgranter' and made predictions about how the story will progress and end. In maths, we secured our 3-digit place value knowledge using place value counters and through game play. In science, we explored different properties of soils and began to discuss the importance of soil in our lives. **Next week**, we will investigate which soils are best for drainage and floodplains.

Year 4

This week in **Holly and Willow Classes** we have expanded our knowledge of writing a narrative and have practiced presentation skills by publishing our work. In science, we kept a close eye on our evaporation experiment throughout the day to see from which container water would evaporate the fastest and were excited to find out whose prediction was correct. In maths we developed our understanding of multiplication and the three times table. **Next week**, we will look at the six times table and identify the features of a newspaper report.

Year 5

This week **Oak and Ash Classes** have we have been editing and publishing our 'Nowhere Emporium' stories during English. In maths we have begun to look at fractions and finding equivalents. On Monday, Mrs Hall's husband lent us some Anglo-Saxon artifacts he had found when metal detecting. We got the chance to hold them, including a rare King Edmund coin. **Next week** is assessment week, we look forward to seeing the children focus and share what they have learnt this term.

Year 6

This week in **Pine and Sycamore Classes** we worked hard on our mock SATs. The children demonstrated our learning characteristics – persevering through the trickier topics, aiming high to be the best they can be and solving problems like pros! **Next week** will offer opportunities to be reflective as we look over the papers and think about next steps in our learning journey. Amidst all this, we found time to continue writing our pathetic fallacies, empathising with how Veridian felt when abandoned by his father. In science, we continued looking at natural selection, conducting an experiment based on Darwin's study of finches on the Galapagos islands. The children investigated which beak type was best adapted for food gathering. Finally, the children's model playgrounds are starting to take shape – swings, slides and trampolines included! Homework this week is just reading and spelling – the children need a rest.

Dates for the Diary/Mazuva eDiary

Elfridges	All Schools	now	We are collecting for Elfridges across both schools. Any unwanted gifts [suitable for adults] are gratefully received. We will open up the shop later in December.
Parent Consultations	All Schools	Wk beg 4th December	Autumn Term Consultations with class teacher and a chance to look at core books in school. All meetings will be for 10 minutes in the school hall Monday 4th and Wednesday 6th: Hartford Junior School [Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6] Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th : Hartford Infant School [YR, Y1 & Y2]
Christmas Dance	Infant School	Thursday 7th December	Miss Charlotte will return to school to create Christmas dance routines with each year group, remember PE kits please.
Post boxes	Infant School	Wk beg 11th December	Designated post boxes will be placed in each class for the children to pop their cards in.
Christmas Lunch	All schools	Wednesday 13th December	All children are invited to order a festive school lunch on Parent Pay. All staff and children will be wearing their Christmas jumpers and can donate to Save the Children Fund.
WonderDome	Year 5	Wednesday 13th December	Year 5 children will experience a planetarium in an inflatable dome in the school hall to support their learning on Space.
Christmas Fete	All Schools	Friday 15th December	Children will participate in a variety of Festive activities across both schools for £5.00 to be paid on Parent Pay . There will be a grotto for infant children to visit across the school day . Y3 children can pop over after school until 4.00pm. All children will go to the fete and can enter into a colouring competition/quiz with a prize and have a goodie bag .
Nativity	Year 1	Tuesday 12th December	Parents are invited to our Year 1 Nativity Play at 9.15am , all preschool children/babies are welcome but <u>please</u> vacate the hall if they are finding it a challenge to be quiet.
Carols on the Playground	All Schools	Monday 18th December	Everyone invited to the front playground to sing festive songs by torchlight. Our school choirs will sing solos for us. Bring torches and mittens and cash for hot chocolate. 4.00pm start.
Christmas Party	Infant School	Wk beg 18th December	Y2 Tuesday , Y1 Wednesday and YR Thursday , all children will have party in the school hall, come dressed in party clothes
End of Term	All schools	Thursday 21st December	End of the Autumn Term from 3.15pm.
Spring Term	All schools	Friday 5th January	All children in Year R through to Year 6 start at 8.45am
Sparky Start	Infant School	tbc	We would really love to get some 'real life' visitors in to school to speak to the children about their roles that help others [e.g. nurses, paramedics, train drivers, firefighters etc]. Please contact Mrs Shaw - Hshaw@hartfordinfantschool.org thank you.