



Hempsted Church of England Primary School

October 2025 Newsletter



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! Just like that, September has come and gone. It is lovely to see all of our pupils and their families back at school and part of our school family.

A special welcome to those new parents, children and families who join us for the first time this year. We hope you have settled in well and feel included in the school community.

Apologies for the lateness for this newsletter and I will ensure we get back to monthly newsletters going forward.

Farewell

After years of service to the children and families of Hempsted, I am sad to say that Mrs Bassett is hanging up her whistle and retiring. We wish her all the best for the next chapter of her life and thank her for all she has done for the school. I will leave the rest for Mrs Bassett to share in her message below.

We also say farewell to Mrs I Jones who has been supporting pupils at Hempsted since November 2023. We wish her good luck as she starts at a new school in November. We would also like to thank her for sharing her love of dance with our pupils and providing an after school dance club which was a favourite of the KS2 children.

Message from Mrs Bassett

After 23 wonderful years at Hempsted School, it is time for me to say goodbye. I began my journey here as a Teaching Assistant, and later took on the role of Sports Coordinator—two roles that have brought me so much joy and fulfilment.

Sport has always been a passion of mine, and it has been incredibly rewarding to see it flourish across the school. Over the years, Team Hempsted has had so many opportunities to take part in events, tournaments, and clubs, and I am so proud of all that they have achieved. From sports days to after-school activities, and from local competitions to county-level and national success, the children's enthusiasm and determination have always shone through. Seeing them grow in confidence, teamwork and resilience through sport has been one of the greatest highlights of my time at Hempsted.

I will always treasure the friendships and memories I've made here—with pupils, parents and colleagues, past and present. The laughter, support, teamwork and shared sense of achievement have made my time here truly special.

It is not easy to say farewell to a school that has been such a huge part of my life, but I leave with a heart full of gratitude and I know that the school will continue to thrive. Thank you to everyone who has been part of my journey—I will miss you all greatly, I will always carry with me fond memories of my time here and the many wonderful children and staff I have had the privilege to work alongside. I am excited for the next chapter while carrying with me so many happy memories of these 23 years.

Thank you Team Hempsted, it's been a pleasure.

Mrs Bassett

Black History Month

Next week classes will be celebrating Black History Month. Each class will have a lesson which will focus on significant figures in black history and celebrate their achievements.

Parking

I remind all parents NOT to park on the yellow zigzags outside of the school gates. Parking on them puts our pupils and your children at a higher risk while entering and leaving school.

It is also not acceptable to block private driveways. I am concerned to hear that some of the local residents have not been able to access their property and received abuse when they have asked parents to move their vehicles.

Bikes and Scooters

I remind parents, carers and pupils that they should not be riding bikes or scooters in the school grounds.

Parents' Evening

Parents evening will be taking place on **Tuesday 21st** and **Wednesday 22nd** of October. You should have received an email with booking information and we look forward to welcoming you to discuss how your child has settled into the new school year.

Sport

Sports have started well at Hempsted School with Cross Country for Classes 2 - 6. Fitness and Well Being Club for Classes 1 and 2. Girls' Football Club for Classes 5 and 6. Boys' Football Club for Classes 5 and 6 and for Class 4 on a Thursday lunchtime. And finally, Atlas Multi Sports for Classes 2, 3 and 4.

We have been very fortunate to have Gloucestershire County Cricket come into school and work with each individual class every Monday too. The children are really enjoying the new skills they are learning. It's so good for every child in the school to get these opportunities to experience different sports.

The Girls' Football Team have taken part in a round-robin competition. They all played so well and are now through to the next round. Good luck girls.

The Boys' Football Team kick off their first game this week. There are 28 boys attending the club from Years 5 and 6, which is fantastic to see.

In April 2026 Team Hempsted are having the swimming pool back on site, this will be on the playground. The timetables and the costings have been sorted, a separate letter has been sent out with all of the details. Again, every child in every class will have swimming lessons. This is such a good opportunity for them all.

Creative Arts Club

At the end of last term the children in Year 5/6 Creative Club completed their challenge of using plastic waste to create sculptures for the school garden. We researched endangered animals and drew up our designs on paper first before we set about creating them out of empty plastic bottles, plastic shower caps, yoghurt pots etc.

The final creations are now sat by the pond in the school garden for everyone to enjoy as they pass on the way to school. We hope you all love our turtles, whale and jellyfish as much as we do!

Special thanks to the Rudland - Beck family for the abundant donations of empty plastic bottles.

Mrs Mooney



Eco Church

On Friday 26th September all pupils took part in an art activity organised by the Eco Church team at St Swithun's. Each child completed a piece of art work that focused on 'Peace with Creation.'

Each child's piece of art was added as a feather to create a dove for each class in the school. Thank you to the Eco Church for providing this moment of reflection for our pupils and staff.



Hempsted C of E Primary School

Adverse Weather Conditions

On rare occasions in winter, conditions may be hazardous with snow and ice. A decision will be made by the Senior Leadership Team, based on local conditions and whether it is safe to open the school. This will take into account conditions within school grounds **and** the local area. Consideration also must be given to the safety of staff travelling from further distances.



If in doubt:

- Check your phone for a text from us
- Consult the council website - <https://closures.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>
- Listen to local radio bulletins
- Consider possibilities for child care

As a very last resort, ring school, but please delay your call until after 8am.

We will open as long as it is safe to do so **and** we are confident that sufficient staff will be in school. We appreciate a sudden school closure is extremely disruptive for working parents. However, always make sure that you have a contingency plan for child care should a class or the school close.

If we are not opening this will be posted on the school and council website, a text will be sent to the priority mobile that we have for you and the closure will be stated on local radio bulletins.

If the weather deteriorates during the day

- School **will** be kept open until the last child has left the premises.
- Only in extreme circumstances would school close and a pupil **would never** be sent home without a parent/carer.
- If the weather is severe parents may contact the school if they feel that they would like to collect their child early for safety reasons (i.e. travelling/walking long distances or collecting children from other closed schools). Children will not be let out during the final 15 minutes of the day.

Coffee and Chat

The Parish and School Pastoral Teams work together to support Hempsted families. Every Tuesday we hold '**Coffee and Chat**' in the **Lysons Hall** (next to the church on St Swithuns Road) **9am – 10 am** during term time. This is an opportunity for you to meet other parents, talk to us, share experiences and make new friends. From time to time, we organise activities such as bingo, art and crafts and mindfulness.

We look forward to meeting you.

You are welcome to bring your little ones!

We hope you can join us

Dates

<u>October</u>			
Friday	17 th	9.15am	Harvest church service at St Swithun's Church (staff & pupils only)
Tuesday	21 st		Parents evening
Wednesday	22 nd		Parents evening
Friday	24 th	3.20pm	Half term – school ends normal time.
<u>November</u>			
Monday	3 rd	8.50am	Start of Term 2
Wednesday	12 th		Individual and sibling school photos
<u>December</u>			
Tuesday	9 th	9.30am	Reception Nativity
Thursday	11 th	2.30pm	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity
Friday	12 th	9.30am	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity
Wednesday	17 th	2.15pm and 6pm	KS2 Carol Service in St Swithun's Church
Friday	19 th	2pm	School Christmas Service at St Swithuns Church (staff & pupils only) Christmas Parties End of Term 2
<u>January</u>			
Monday	5 th		Inset Day - School closed to pupils for staff training
Tuesday	6 th	8.50am	Start of Term 3

Thank you for reading our newsletter. We look forward to see many of you at parents' evenings and Christmas performances in the next few months.

Kind regards,
Mr Davis



Looking for healthy after-school snack ideas?

We've got you covered!

Our free, Beezee Families healthy lifestyle programme can help your family make healthy habits.

Tuck into these healthy snacks:

- Two wholegrain crackers and tzatsiki
- Rice cakes or corn cakes
- Two crackers with a spread of low-fat cream cheese and cherry tomatoes
- Plain or Greek yoghurt and fruit
- 150ml homemade fruit smoothie
- Vegetable sticks (carrot/pepper/cucumber) with hummus
- Fruit kebabs

- Wholegrain toast with a thin layer of peanut butter
- Breadsticks
- Ayran (yoghurt-based drink)
- Baked plantain
- Sebze kebab (grilled vegetable skewers)
- Homemade fruit ice lollies
- Handful of homemade popcorn
- Apple slices with peanut butter.



Want more healthy lifestyle support?
Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.*

Scan here or Click the link



glg.maximusuk.co.uk

*Our courses are designed for families with children aged 4 and up



Shake your day away with a fun high energy dance workout

Children accompanied by an adult welcome

£8

Mondays 19:00
Hempsted Village Hall, GL2 5JU

Booking essential, get in touch to book your spot



 Zumba shake with Anna
  e_shakeitillyoumakeit
  07716089969