



Hempsted Church of England Primary School

November 2025 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers and Governors,

Welcome to the November newsletter. The school is a very busy place to be right now, with lots going on, exciting events and lots of learning as well. The first half-term seemed to be a very long one and we're now planning events to celebrate Christmas. The morning frost is certainly making it known that winter is on its way.

The Poppy Appeal

Thank you to the School Council who have been raising money to support the Royal British Legion. Their 'Poppy Shop' was a huge success and the collection pots were full by the end of the week. Thank you to all who supported and donated for a poppy or wrist band.

Children in Need.

Once again Children in Need was a huge success and as a school we have raised £511.17 for a fantastic charity that does so much to help young people. Thank you to all the parents, carers and children. Congratulations to the winners of the Pudsey Raffle.

Year 5 Ukulele

After 9 weeks of ukulele lessons with the amazing Lee, Class 5 gave a concert to parents and children to show off their new skills. It's incredible to think that, at the start, we weren't even sure which way up a ukulele was supposed to be held! And now, here we were reading music, and even singing along whilst we played! Well done Year 5 - you all worked so hard - and thank you again to Lee for her enthusiasm and encouragement.



Jewellery in School

A reminder that pupils are only permitted to wear a watch and a single pair of small-sized stud earrings. NO HOOPS!! Other jewellery items should not be worn. Earrings must be removed for PE and games lessons. If your child is unable to remove their own earrings, please provide **micropore tape** so that they can be covered for these lessons.

Attendance

School attendance continues to be good. As we enter the winter months, we will see an increase in the normal winter illnesses causing children to be off school. This is unavoidable. However, this is a reminder that holidays must not be booked during term time. It is often a cause of upset to parents when they see 'unauthorised absence' on their child's record so please remember that term time leave can only be authorised in 'exceptional circumstances'. The government defines persistent absence as that of 90% and below which is the equivalent of a day absent per fortnight. Our school attendance target is 95%+. We will continue to send you your child's attendance record every term.

Knitting Club

The Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have worked very hard with Mrs Jones, Mrs Dickson and Mrs Mooney over the Autumn term to make many poppies in preparation for Remembrance Day. We decided to dedicate our memorial to the women's war effort and discussed the many things women did to keep the country running, whilst the men went to war. We hope everyone in the village enjoys our efforts.



Yr4 Christmas Drawing Competition

Thank you to all of the Year 4 children who took part in the Christmas Drawing Competition. Each year the children in Year 4 are asked to design and draw a Christmas image that can be used on the front of the Parish Magazine for December and in the promotion materials for St Swithun's Church events throughout the Christmas period.

There were many fantastic designs submitted and it was very difficult to narrow it down to just two.

A huge congratulations to Bella whose art work will be used on the front of the Parish Magazine and Rose whose art work will be used to promote events at St Swithun's Church over Christmas.



Parent/Teacher Consultations

Thank you to all of you who attended the meetings. It is an ideal opportunity for both teachers and you to share successes, concerns and targets regarding your child's progress. We want to remove any barriers which may prevent individual children from reaching their full potential – an effective dialogue with parents and support at home are always vital.

Christmas Parties and Performances

We look forward to welcoming you into school or St Swithun's Church over the next few weeks to enjoy our Christmas Performances. The school is full of song at the moment while we rehearse. We look forward to sharing this with you, dates for performances can be found in the 'important dates' section of the newsletter.

Sport Update

Football

Congratulations to the Girls' Football Team who have won their league. In doing so they qualified to play at Finals Night against all of the other league winners from across the city where they finished 3rd. A huge achievement, well done girls and a big thank you to Mr Ballinger who runs our girls' football team.

The Boys' Football League continues into the New Year. We are currently mid-table after 4 games in a league of 9 teams. The boys' B teams have also taken part in a festival at Oxstalls Sports Park in preparation for the KO Cup in the New Year.

Cross Country

Once again our Cross-Country Club took part in the District Cross Country Championships in November. 54 children from Hempsted took part in the event and put all of their Tuesday and Wednesday morning training to the test. The whole team did fantastically well with the Year 2 team finishing 2nd overall. An amazing 9 pupils qualified for County Trails which is an incredible number. A special mention to Rose who came 1st out of all Year 4 girls. Emilia, who came 2nd out of all of the Year 5 girls and Josh who came 3rd out of all of the Year 5 boys.

Panathlon

Finally congratulations to the schools Panathlon Swimming Team, who travelled to the National Aquatics Centre in London to compete in the national final. They had a great time in a fantastic setting and came 2nd. Congratulations, what an achievement!

Winter is on its way – be prepared!

As weather more typical of the season takes hold, please remember to always send your child to school with a coat and, if necessary, a pair of wellies, hat, gloves and a scarf so that they are comfortable at morning and lunchtime plays. This will also help with those more unplanned moments of the school day such as a winter walk or exploring the first frosts of the season. I would also recommend packing a spare pair of socks in case they get wet during break or lunch.

This newsletter is always a good opportunity to remind you of our procedures for closure due to adverse weather conditions, which are overleaf.

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.

Important Dates for Your Diary

<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 – Supported by CaterCater and Friends of Hempsted School 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
Wednesday	7 th		Panto! In school hall to all pupils
Thursday	8 th		Young Voices concert @ BP Pulse Arena, Birmingham



Coffee and Chat

The Parish and School Pastoral Team 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. The Church Pastoral Team also hold specific **Coffee and Chat Plus sessions during the summer holidays**. 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!

Festive Fun at the Museum!

Discover your Winter Window and dive into festive fun with creative workshops and seasonal trails- complete the trail and claim your special prize!

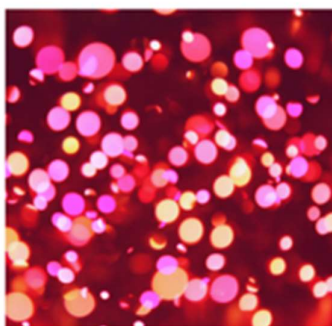


Winter Windows

Tue 2 Dec - Sun 4 Jan

A magical Christmas display of over 1,000 pupil-made cardboard windows, celebrating light, warmth, and winter traditions at the Museum of Gloucester.

Free!



Lights, Feasts and Fire Trail

Tue 2 Dec - Sun 4 Jan

A festive museum trail exploring global winter traditions through creative challenges, stories, and seasonal fun for all ages.

£2 per trail



Cracker Creations

Sat 20 Dec, 10am - 1pm

A festive kids' workshop where young makers craft unique, eco-friendly Christmas crackers filled with surprises and seasonal creativity.

£3.50 per child - adults go free!

**M MUSEUM OF
GLOUCESTER**

Scan me for more info!



What's On This Festive Season!

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A festive museum trail exploring global winter traditions through creative challenges, stories, and seasonal fun for all ages.

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Free!

For parents only!

Art After Hours: Retro Christmas Decorations

Fri 5 Dec, 6pm-7pm

Adults-only workshop to craft vintage-style Christmas ornaments with a nostalgic twist.

£12 per person - hot drink included with ticket price!

Make Your Mark

On until Sun 7 Dec

Help create a bold, collaborative tape artwork in the Museum of Gloucester's gallery – a free, evolving installation celebrating creativity and community.

Free - donations welcome

Ghosts & Giggles: Family Tour of Haunted Gloucester

Fri 12 Dec, 5pm-7pm

A family-friendly ghost tour uncovering Gloucester's haunted history, from museum mysteries to eerie ruins and hidden halls.

Child: £10 | Adult: £15

Brick Builders Club: Christmas Building!

Sat 13 Dec, 10am-1pm

Drop-in LEGO sessions for kids aged 5+. No rules, just brick-tastic fun!

£3 per child - adults go free!

Medieval Mercenary Tour of Eastgate Chamber

Sat 13 Dec & Wed 31 Dec, 2pm-3pm

Join Sir Miles for an underground tour of the Eastgate chamber, uncovering its history, myths, and medieval superstitions.

Adult: £7.50 | Child: £5 | Family: £25

Cracker Creations

Sat 20 Dec, 10am-1pm

A festive kids' workshop where young makers craft unique, eco-friendly Christmas crackers filled with surprises and seasonal creativity.

£3.50 per child - adults go free!

Glorious Glevum Tour

Tue 30 Dec, 2pm-3pm

Explore Roman Glevum with Lucius Sita, a guided tour revealing the city's history, hidden treasures, and life as an auxiliary soldier.

Adult: £7.50 | Child: £5 | Family: £25

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