



Hempsted Church of England Primary School

March 2026 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers and Governors,

As we head into the summer term with the days brighter and longer it is the best time of year to be in school. I hope you enjoy the Easter Holidays with your families and we will be ready on the 13th May to welcome you back. With sports days and residential trips on the horizon it will be an action packed term as always.

New Deputy Headteacher

We are delighted to welcome our new Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Emily Macdonald to our school community. Mrs Macdonald brings a wealth of experience having taught for 25 years from Nursery to Year 6. Currently, she leads EYFS, KS1 and specialises in Phonics and Early Reading at her current school. She has a strong commitment to nurturing every child's potential, both academically and personally. With a passion for inclusive learning, Mrs Macdonald will play a key role in supporting our staff, pupils, and families, as we continue to build our school community. We are confident that Mrs Macdonald will be a fantastic addition to our leadership team, and we look forward to the many contributions she will make to our school's ongoing success.



Bikeability

Year 5 enjoyed three days of Bikeability training where they learned lots of important skills such as using hand signals and reading road markings.

Lewis said, "It was really fun using the skills we had learned on a long ride to the canal and back!"

Arthur said, "You have to remember your ABC. We must check the AIR in our tyres, our BRAKES and our CHAIN. We also make sure we are not wearing loose, unsafe CLOTHING."

The instructors commented on the children's lovely manners and the sensible choices that they made when on the roads. Well done Year 5, we are very proud of you.



Camp Fire Day- Reception, Year One and Year Two

We had a great session outside with Mrs Smith and her son Daniel, who came into school to hold our forest school camp fire morning. We learnt about how fire is made and we even got to toast our own marshmallows!



Caretaker needed!

Mr Read our wonderful Caretaker is moving on to a new challenge. We wish him all the best and thank him for all he has done to keep our school safe and nice place to learn.

This means we are looking for a new caretaker, all of the details can be found on the school website.

If you are interested or know someone who is please contact the school office to arrange a visit.



Class 4 Residential

Last week, Class 4 had a fantastic time at the Wilderness Centre, in the Forest of Dean. The children experienced many fun and challenging outdoor activities - crate stacking, bushcraft skills, low ropes course, team building, rifle shooting, tunnelling, a night walk and roasting marshmallows at the campfire. Over the three days, Class 4 showed many of our school values, including Teamwork, Courage, Perseverance, Joy and Friendship and the children enjoyed sharing their experiences to their parents during our class assembly.



Slimbridge

Year One had a fabulous trip to Slimbridge Wetlands Centre and it was very wet!! But despite that, we all had a great day and enjoyed Welly Boot Land. We learnt lots about birds in our education session- 'Brilliant Bird Adaptations' and enjoyed observing the different birds, including flamingos. We even saw Tilly the Otter being fed.



Ole Samba!

On Friday 20th March, Class Three took part in a Samba workshop, where they played the instruments and music of the world-famous Brazilian Carnivals. It was loud, it was fun and the children did a great job of keeping to the rhythms on their drums in their performance.



Girls Football Final

Huge congratulations to the Girls Football Team who won the Gloucestershire Small Schools Knockout Tournament! The team showed fantastic determination, teamwork and resilience throughout the tournament, facing strong opposition in each round. The final was a particularly tense game. It was 2-2 at full-time so the game went into extra-time with a golden goal scored by Emilia Ballinger in the second half of extra-time to retain the shield they had won last year! A fantastic accomplishment! They represented the school brilliantly and we are very proud of them. A big thank you to Harry Ballinger for training the team and leading them so superbly throughout the season.



Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Quiz

Well done to Jessica, Juliet, Santos and Stanley in Year 6 for representing Hempsted in the annual Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Quiz. They showed fantastic wildlife knowledge and worked well as a team, supporting each other to come a very respectable second in their round against Hunts Grove and St James'. There were some challenging questions and both the adults and children came away learning something new!



Important Dates for Your Diary

<u>April</u>			
Monday	13th	8.50am	Back to school – Start of Term 5
<u>May</u>			
Wednesday	6 th		Reception class trip to Cotswold Farm Park
Monday-Thursday	11 th – 14 th		Year 6 SATs Tests
Friday	15 th	9.15am	Year One – Class Assembly
Wednesday	20 th	9.15am	Reception – Class Assembly
Friday	22nd		Inset Day – School closed to all pupils.
Half term 23-31 st May			
<u>June</u>			
Monday	1st	8.50am	Back to school – Start of Term 6
Friday	5 th		Year 3 trip to Nature in Art
Sunday - Wednesday	7 th - 10 th		Year 6 Residential – Osmington Bay PGL
Thursday	11 th		Year 6 Leavers Service at Gloucester Cathedral
Friday	12 th		Class Photos and Leavers Photos for Year 6
Tuesday	16 th		Severn Trent whole school assembly and Workshop for Year 4
Friday	19 th		Year 3 – Class Assembly
Tuesday	23 rd		Infant Sports Day – Year R, 1 and 2
Wednesday	24 th		Junior Sports Day – Year 3, 4, 5 and 6
<u>July</u>			
Tuesday	7 th	6pm	Year 6 Play – Performance to Parents
Wednesday	8 th	6pm	Year 6 Play – Performance to Parents
Friday	10 th		Leavers Disco Infants 5pm-6.30pm Juniors 6.45pm-8pm
Friday	17 th	9.15am	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Friday	17th	2pm	End of Year – School finishes at 2pm

My School Fund

Please sign up for My School Fund to raise money for our school. Once you have registered every time you shop at Sainsbury's or Argos you will earn money for the school. We currently have 77 people registered and raising funds for the school each time they shop. If you know someone who shops at Sainsbury please get them to sign up.

Click the link to sign up today. Sign up [here](#).





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. 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!



GGT Fest
Growing Great Together

 **Friday 10th April**
11am - 3pm

 **Kings School,**
Gloucester, GL1 2BG


The Venture Community Hub

Exclusive Youth Zone
Hosted by:

  

Facepainting & Henna

Arts & Crafts

Sports & Games

Music & Shows

Inflatables & Climbing Wall

 To book your **FREE** tickets, scan here: 

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