

Newsletter

6th December 2024



As we approach the festive season, I find myself reflecting on the vibrant tapestry of events and achievements that have coloured our school life these past weeks. It's been a period of growth, celebration, and community spirit that truly embodies the ethos of Hugglescote Community Primary School.

Our children never cease to amaze me with their empathy and eagerness to make a difference. This was evident in our whole school coming together for two minutes of silence on Remembrance Day, a poignant moment of reflection and respect. The spirit of giving continued with our Children in Need fundraiser, and I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Binns for her sterling efforts in organising the sales. The final total was £1200, your generosity will make a real difference to children's lives across the country.

Speaking of generosity, our PTFA Christmas Market was a resounding success. The dedication of our PTFA members and staff in creating this festive fundraising event was truly commendable. Your support ensures we can continue to enrich our children's school experience, and for that, we are immensely grateful.

Our youngest learners had an exciting outing to St John The Baptist Church, while our Year 5 children reached for the stars with their visit to the National Space Centre. These experiences beyond the classroom walls are invaluable in broadening horizons and igniting curiosity.

It's with mixed emotions that I share news of staffing changes. After 14 wonderful years at our school, Miss Stretton will be leaving us to take up the role of Deputy Headteacher at another primary school in Leicestershire. While we'll miss her greatly, we're incredibly proud of her well-deserved promotion. Change often brings new opportunities, and we're delighted to announce that a new leader will be joining us after Easter we appointed this week but cannot share details until her current school community have been informed. In the interim, Mrs Kirkwood will be teaching the class, ensuring continuity for our children.

Our school community has much to celebrate. We were honoured to receive the School Spirit of the Games award at the North West Leicestershire sports awards event, a testament to our children's sportsmanship and enthusiasm. A hearty well done to all who participated in the cross-country event at Sir John Moore School - your determination and team spirit were admirable. And who could forget the wonderful EYFS nativity? Our youngest performers captivated us all with their endearing portrayal of the Christmas story.

As we look ahead to the festive season, there are several important dates for your diaries. Our Christmas Church Service for the children will be held on Tuesday 17th December, a beautiful opportunity for reflection and celebration. Thursday 12th December promises to be a day of fun and festivity with our whole school pantomime and Christmas Jumper Day. Our Year 2 children are busy preparing for their Christmas performances on Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th December - we can't wait to see what they have in store for us!

The PTFA are hosting a movie night on 13th December, perfect for some pre-holiday relaxation. Our school Christmas Lunch will be served on 18th December, always a highlight of the festive calendar. And to round off the term, we'll have a non-uniform day on 20th December.

As I write this, I'm struck by the warmth and vibrancy of our school community. Each event, each achievement, each act of kindness weaves into the rich fabric of Hugglescote Community Primary School. As we move into the holiday season, I want to thank each of you - children, parents, staff, and community members - for your continued support and enthusiasm. It's what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Wishing you all a joyous and restful holiday season.

Paul Driver



EYFS Nativity

The EYFS children performed their first Christmas nativity, 'The Wiggly Nativity'. Every storyteller, wise man, camel, village folk, angel, star, sheep, shepherd, innkeeper and animal, along with Mary and Joseph used their excited energy to wriggle their way through our performance! We were so proud of every Bumblebee, Butterfly and Ladybird child. Well done to you all. A very Merry Christmas and a happy new year from the EYFS team.



School uniform

It is with regret that I must inform you that we have observed a significant number of children not adhering to our uniform expectations. In particular, we have noticed an increasing number of children wearing leggings with white Nike socks, which is not in line with our policy. Additionally, hooped earrings have become quite prevalent, especially among our younger children, which is also not permitted.

Furthermore, we have noticed a growing trend of children wearing logo items, which is against our school's guidelines. As you are aware, our uniform policy is in place to promote a sense of community and belonging, as well as to ensure that our children are dressed appropriately for the school environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of adhering to our uniform policy and to request your support in ensuring that your child is dressed in the correct attire when attending Hugglescote Community Primary School. I understand that adhering to a uniform policy can sometimes be challenging, but it is crucial for maintaining a positive and focused learning environment for all of our children.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our uniform policy, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am committed to working with you to ensure that our children are dressed appropriately and that our school continues to uphold the high standards that our community expects. Our uniform policy is available here: <https://hugglescote.leics.sch.uk/parents-carers/uniform/>

EYFS – Visit to St.John the Baptist Church

The EYFS had a wonderful trip to St. John the Baptist Church last week as part of our RE learning.

The children learned about what it means to belong to the Christian faith and explored the main features of the church, including the altar and font. A highlight was watching baby doll get “baptised”

We also enjoyed singing songs, listening to stories, and asking Rev. Laura Jackson lots of questions. The children showed great curiosity and respect throughout the visit.





OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Updates and Information

The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme is the result of over 20 years of testing and development in over 800 schools and has been used in Spain, Canada, France and New Zealand. The programme has also been adapted and used in schools in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Austria under the Play Friendly Schools project. In 2018, OPAL won first prize in an EU-funded award for the best active school's programme in Europe and two UK national playwork awards. In 2019, OPAL was awarded a quarter of a million pounds by Sport England to bring the programme to many more schools.

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete our initial OPAL questionnaires. We are now busy analysing the results.

OPAL is based on the idea that, as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.

There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

Play is not messing about. It is the process evolution has come up with to enable children to learn all of the things that cannot be taught, while also having so much fun. There are certain things children **must** have in order to be able to play. These include:

- Having clothes that they can play in.
- Having things to play with.
- Having a certain amount of freedom.

As we improve play opportunities for your children, you may find us asking you for resources and making changes about how the children use the school grounds. They may use more of the grounds, for more of the year. Your children may get a bit messier, be exposed to more challenges and have greater freedoms to play where, with whom and how they like. The experiences the school is fostering are essential for children's physical and mental wellbeing and are in line with all current good practice advice on health and safety, wellbeing and development.

We are being supported by OPAL for 18 months during which time you will be invited to events where you can come and see for yourselves what is happening and have the opportunity to join in too. If you would like to learn more about the OPAL Primary Programme, please have a look at the OPAL website (www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk), where you will find lots of useful information and several videos about the programme.

We are really excited to get started with the programme. Change will start to happen next term so do watch this space.

Swimming

Year 4 have just completed their sixth week round of swimming. They have all received another award in their swimming journey and will be receiving their swimming passport awards next week. They were fantastic, showing determination and perseverance.



Drowning is the third most common cause of accidental death in children. Here at School working with the Values of Swim England, we believe all children should have the opportunity to learn how to swim and be taught how to stay safe in and around water.

Some children do learn to swim outside of school. But for some, here at school will be the only opportunity they have to learn these vital lifesaving skills.

That is why we believe it is so important to ensure we provide the best possible swimming and water safety provision for all our children who swim.

Protecting future generations

The government has recognised the importance of teaching our young people swimming and water safety by including it in the **national curriculum**. The **three key outcomes** within the physical education curriculum all children are expected to achieve by the end of year six are:



We look forward to taking the Year 3 children in the New Year. Mrs Baugh



Dodgeball

Mr Sands and Mrs Baugh took some of the Year 6s to two dodgeball events. There were many games played and were pretty tough but lots of fun. The spirit the children showed was amazing and we were very proud of them even though the teams didn't get any further than the first rounds.

Well done to all who took part.



Y5 – Space Centre Visit

Year 5 had a brilliant time at the National Space Centre in Leicester. They thoroughly enjoyed each activity and had the opportunity to explore the inside of a rocket and even got to see a real-life piece of moon rock! Throughout the day they also had the chance to watch a show in the Planetarium where they travelled around space and the planets in our solar system. This was a great end to our topic of Earth and Space and allowed the children to consolidate their learning through hands on experiences.



**ATTENDANCE
MATTERS**

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<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance Percentage</u>
Ladybirds	96.8
Bumblebees	94.8
Butterflies	95.1
1MS	94.3
1LC	94.8
1SSm	95.1
1SS	95.5
1JJ	94.1
1JW	97.5
2MD	94.7
2NS	95.4
2DB	93.8
2SR	96.5
2JN	96
2ZN	96.1
2RW	95.4
2KT	96
2GH	96.9
2LR	95.6

Well done to 1JW for having the highest attendance so far this year!



December

- 9th – Flu Vaccinations
- 11th – Y2 Christmas Journey
- 12th – Dick Whittington Pantomime in school
- 12th - Christmas Jumper Day
- 13th - PTFA Movie Night
- 18th - Christmas Dinner
- 20th – Non Uniform Day
- 20th - End of term