



Holy Trinity Newsletter

Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a very long and busy term it has been with a 15 weeks stretch! I cannot remember such a long term as this ever before. The children have worked so hard during this term and I am very proud of their attitudes towards their learning and the efforts they have put into their work. I would also like to thank all parents, for the support you have given to your children, the staff and I over this term. A great team effort!

It was lovely to see so many of you attend our Open Afternoons, to share your child's work with them. The children are always so proud to show their parents, what they have learnt and I am sure you will have seen the progress your child has made, in their work. We were also pleased to see so many parents attending Parent Consultations.

Our children have definitely been out and about this term, or had special visitors in to school; Reception children had a visit from the Fire Service and loved squirting water from the hose! Year 1 visited Tilgate Park, Years 2 & 3 travelled to Lewes Railway Nature Park, Year 4 went to the Wildlife Trust Centre at Lindfield, Year 5 visited Herstmonceaux Observatory and Year 6 children had the Hands on History expert, teaching them about life during World War 1 and the impact on family life.

We are currently updating our website with new photographs, so please feel free to have a look. As you know, we have after school curriculum meetings for Years 1-6 at the start of each academic year. This is to ensure parents are well informed, what their child, will be learning about during that year ahead; our website also has lots of information about the curriculum the children will be following. This curriculum information for the year is in each Yeargroup section on the website.



Lime class as Anglo Saxons



Year 5 at Herstmonceaux



Year 1 Superhero day



Year 4 at the Wildlife Trust Centre

PTA

I would like to say a huge thank to our amazing PTA committee and team for all they have contributed towards our school over the last few years; Sophie Lightoller, Kat Finley, Louise Henderson, Amy Hughes, Emma Hughes and Jen Brown have generously given their time and hard work to enrich the experiences our children, have been fortunate to have at Holy Trinity.

Without their fundraising, our children would not have benefited from a circus skills day, Opera Brava, an increase in Forest School sessions, pantomimes, a colour run, Mother and Father's Days shopping, A Year 1 hedgehog visit, popcorn for the house treats, book lover badges, visualisers, spell checkers, reading books, author visits, new picnic benches for the field; they have also organised games and stalls at the Christmas and Summer Fairs etc. The PTA ladies have also had the support of a core group of dads, who have toiled behind the BBQ at our summer fairs. We thank all those volunteers who have helped during these events and we look forward to working with the new team after the PTA AGM in January.

I would also like to thank Mrs Claire Lawrence, who has done a brilliant job organising Christmas shopping days for at least the last five years if not more! She too is now stepping down, as her daughter will be leaving us in the summer. Again, it was a very successful Christmas shopping day!

The children have so enjoyed taking part in the many enrichment experiences and our staff have really appreciated your efforts, to benefit all of the children in our school.



Hurst Education Trust

As you will be aware, we joined HET in August 2024 and our children and staff have already benefited from that alliance. As a school, we have had Michelle Zeidler (Director of Education) and Tim Manly (CEO) regularly visiting school every few weeks, to monitor the standards of teaching and learning in school, as well as supporting the strategic direction of school improvement. The Trust also provides an independent, external adviser to complete a termly monitoring visit.

We are delighted that our internal judgements on the high standards of teaching and learning and behaviour in our school have been validated by all three trust personnel this term. I am very pleased to share with you some comments, which reflect the report given to us for the autumn term.

“Holy Trinity continues to be a joyous school which puts children at the heart of the Christian educational vision. Teaching is strong across the school which, coupled with the comprehensive support pupils are given, results in high outcomes.”

“The teaching of phonics seen in the Reception classes showed good fidelity to the scheme. Both classes had high expectations for their pupils and had created high quality and supportive learning environments for their children”

“Teaching was very strong throughout Key Stage 1.”

“Pupil’s behaviour for learning was exemplary.”

“In Key Stage 2 high-quality teaching leads to some very strong outcomes for pupils. The personal relationships and care shown to children means their personal development is also excellent.”

“Holy Trinity works effectively with all pupils including those with SEND.”

“Holy Trinity is a very effective school in which the values and ethos impact all members of the community.”

The trust work very collaboratively with their schools and we have definitely felt well supported by them this term. Teachers have been able to network with teachers from other HET schools, to moderate writing, meet as subject leaders across the trust, as well as attending a joint INSET day with the other HET schools.

Our children have also benefited from being part of the Hurst Education Trust. At the start of the autumn term, we hosted and ran an orienteering

competition for Key Stage 2 children in other HET schools, which was enjoyed by all. Our children enjoyed competing and we were proud of their behaviour towards our guests.

Year 2 children have had Hurst sixth form students in this term, to hear them read on a weekly basis, which both they and the students have enjoyed. Our Year 6 children also recently enjoyed a Spanish workshop, Flamenco dancing and learning about Spanish culture. Great fun was had by all!

Our children have benefited greatly already this term, from being able to use the Hurst minibuses; I am sure you will have seen the minibuses outside school, ready to transport our children taking part in Locality sporting events. These events have included competitive opportunities such as several football tournaments, and an athletics competition. There have also been opportunities for our children, to take part in less competitive events such as festivals in the Locality or at Hurst; this has included our Year 4 children, who have also recently enjoyed a sports afternoon at Hurst School. Our Key Stage 2 Neuro Diversity Champions also represented our school, by travelling to the Amex stadium in Brighton, to take part in a conference. Year 5 and 6 children have also attended a Great Debate at Harlands, as well as writing and maths workshops at other HET schools or Hurst. Next term some of our Year 1s and 2s will also be using the minibuses, to travel to some Locality sporting events.

Holy Trinity Church

Highlights of this term were our two Harvest Services at Holy Trinity Church, which were enjoyed by the children and their family members.



Year 2



Year 5



Year 6 Ambassadors helping KS1 at their Harvest Service

Our children also took part in the “Inspiring Angels” project at Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival. All classes made angels, which were displayed behind the altar and which looked magnificent. There was also a competition run by Father Daniel with poems created by KS2 and art work by Reception and KS1. Congratulations to Apple class - Sophie & River, Year 1 Chestnut class - Atlas, Damson class Hazel, Elder class - Oscar and Senna, Silver Birch class - Francesca and Pine class - Violet. Our KS2 children also made angels for the KS2 Christmas tree and baubles were made by the Reception and KS1 children for their tree at the Christmas Tree Festival. Both trees looked wonderful, as I’m sure you will agree. Our junior choir also sang at this festival, which was a wonderful experience and they did our school proud.



Reception & KS1 Christmas tree



Key Stage 2 Christmas tree



Holy Trinity Primary School's "Inspiring Angels" project at Holy Trinity Church



River, Sophie, Francesca, Atlas, Senna and Oscar receiving their prizes during the Christmas Tree Service.

Thank you to all parents and carers who help walk our children to the church for services. Thank you also to all parents who were able to join us at the Christingle Services this morning.

Forest school

This term, our children have enjoyed even more opportunities to take part in Forest School activities. Classes have appreciated two sessions in the woods, engaging with educational and creative tasks. Activities have included:

- creating dream catchers from willow branches and other vegetation
- using fire steels to create smouldering material to light the main fire
- using potato peelers to whittle
- making drum sticks and bottle top rattles, using v-shaped branches
- making pencils by using palm drills to create a hole in a section of sapling in order to insert charcoal
- constructing dens
- creating homes for soft toy woodland animals, using natural materials, and
- investigating any historical artefacts collected during a clearance sweep of the stream.

These engaging sessions have been led by our fantastic Forest School team of teachers: Gaby Dobson, Hannah Marshall and Lizzy Murray. Ms Murray is just coming to the end of her training, and the school is very grateful to the PTA who have funded this. PTA support also enables the school to fund Paulina Hechenleitner as an invaluable Forest School leader during these sessions. We are also extremely grateful for the support of parents during forest school sessions.



Enrichment for Able Pupils

Some of our potential greater depth pupils in Years 5 and 6 have been fortunate to be involved in a series of workshops organised by the Hurst Education Trust running throughout the academic year. These have taken place in writing and maths. The children were transported to the events in Hurst minibuses and the children and adults who attended came back energised and full of enthusiasm.

Children have also teamed up with other HET schools to take part in the Hurst Junior Prep Book Awards. The children involved have been challenged to read five novels by Easter, which they review and discuss. They will vote on their favourite book and attend an awards ceremony at Hurst after Easter. Furthermore, children have attended a debating event at Haywards Heath College where they practised using their debating skills while discussing a variety of topical issues.

Some Year 6 mathematicians have been involved in the Primary Maths Challenge this year, which really put their problem solving and reasoning skills to the test! The children who entered achieved very good results and we wait to see who has made it through to the World Wide Bonus round in January.





Mindfulness activities



Listening to Jessica-Jane in the main conference room



Looking out across the stadium



Graffiti workshop

Neurodiversity trip

West Sussex Autism Ambassadors' Conference

On 22nd October, our Key Stage 2 Neurodiversity Champions went on an exciting trip to The Amex Stadium in Brighton, by HET mini-bus, to attend the West Sussex Autism Ambassadors' Conference. The children were fantastic representatives of our school. They loved hearing the inspirational talks from Autistic adults such as a firefighter, paramedic, comedian and the Olympic swimmer, Jessica-Jane Applegate, as well as a talk from one of our school parents - neuroscientist, Professor Simner. The children also attended workshops run by Autistic people and discussed the strengths these people have – we really loved the graffiti workshop.

Thank you to the West Sussex Autism and Social Communication Team (ASCT) for organising such an informative and enjoyable day. Thank you to HET for the free transportation to and from the event.



Arriving at the AMEX



Autograph time with Jessica-Jane



Lunch!

Sport at Holy Trinity

This term we have seen multiple children able to attend offsite sporting activities as part of our involvement with Mid Sussex active and the Hurst Education Trust. Thanks to the use of the minibuses at Hurst, we have been able to transport children to and from the event rather than request parents / carers to volunteer.

Events the children have participated in are:

Year 3 and 4 Football festival at St Paul's Catholic College

HET schools Orienteering event (in school)

KS1 Multi skills event at Warden Park

Year 6 boys football competition at St Paul's Catholic College

Year 6 girls football competition at St Paul's Catholic College

Year 5 and 6 Dolphin "Get active" festival

Athletics competition at Haywards Heath College

Mrs Ellif

Using the Sports Premium funding, we have been fortunate to have a PE specialist in school for the last 2 years. Mrs Eliff is in school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to teach the children a wide range of sports and activities alongside coaching the teachers and support staff, to enable them to plan and run different sports. Mrs Elif also supports the planning and implementation of Sports Day, and runs an after school netball club.

"My name is Mrs Elliff and I currently work at Holy Trinity Primary School on Tuesdays and Thursdays delivering specialist PE lessons for staff and students. I have been a qualified secondary PE teacher since 2002 and was Head of PE for many years at a Brighton Secondary School. My specialists sports are gymnastics, dance and swimming but I have taught all different sports at all ages.

I set up JA sports coaching in 2016 and we are currently working in 5 primary schools in West Sussex.

My role at school includes curriculum development, whole school sporting events, supporting sports leadership, running external competitions and supporting small group work.

I have loved teaching orienteering, urban gymnastics and badminton in particular over the past year at Holy Trinity.

I really enjoy sharing my knowledge and passion for PE with the staff and students alike.

I also run the after school Netball Club on Thursdays for year 5 & 6 which I thoroughly enjoy."



John dressed as a Tommy



Bertie dressed as a German
Soldier



Anna and Caitlin practising
bandaging

Year 6

Year 6 children have been making shadufs in their DT lessons related to their study of Ancient Egypt. Their shadufs had to carry water from lower to higher ground. They designed them using their own success criteria, made their models and evaluated them against their design specification



Louis, George, Alex, Jacob and Magnus with their finished model

WW1 Day

Year 6 children enjoyed their World War One Day. They were fortunate to have the day lead by experts from 'Hands on History'. They experienced a variety of activities to aid their knowledge and understanding of the war, including bandaging, morse code, uniforms and weapons, making gas masks and investigating artefacts.



George dressed as a French soldier



Anastasiia dressed as an Officer.

Mummification

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed mummifying a fish as part of their study of Ancient Egypt. They followed the process that the Ancient Egyptians used for mummifying humans as closely as they were able to!



Carefully making an incision before removing the organs to place in Canopic Jars.



Washing the body with a salt solution.



Rubbing the body with oil and stuffing it with newspaper.



Bandaging the fish to preserve its body for the After Life.



Ready for the After Life!

What else has been happening in school....



Year 4 digestion experiment in Science



Reception colour mixing



Year 3 at Lewes Railway nature park



Reception were visited by Haywards Heath Fire service



Year 1 looking for Bog Baby in the school grounds



Year 5 using drama techniques to learn about Shackleton



Year 2 with their hand puppets



Year 4 made sculptures



Year 5 and their DT project

Christmas at Holy Trinity

I know parents, grandparents and siblings enjoyed seeing the Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativities, which were just wonderful. The confidence of the children in singing and performing was a joy to see. Thank you also to the staff and children who worked so hard together, to put on the performances.



Year 2

The pantomime was really enjoyed by all of our children. Thank you to the PTA for funding this experience.



Our children loved Christmas Shopping Day – Year 6 children were so lovely helping Reception children complete their shopping! The class hoops in the hall look amazing this year!



Christingle Services

As always, these services are always very moving and the children did brilliantly. We were very pleased to welcome Tim Manly, the Trust CEO to our KS2 Christingle Service today. Thank you to Father Daniel who kindly led both services for us. Thank you parents for coming to support us at these services.



Christmas lunch – Another successful lunch served to over 300 children. Thank you to our lovely kitchen team



Party Day

Such excitement is infectious and I am unsure who was the most excited, the children or the staff!



Mrs Saunders and Mrs Smitherman are feeling festive!



Year 4 playing party games



Year 6 enjoying Christmas Wordsearches

Year 1 making lots of new words contained in the words Father Christmas



Reception children are still working hard!

Year 5 are working hard too!



A very Merry Christmas to all our families
