



Hoath Primary School

January 2026 - Newsletter

Happiness
Opportunities
Achievements
Together
Honesty

Dear all,

Happy New Year! It is great to welcome you back after Christmas. We hope that you had an enjoyable and restful one. This newsletter promises to be less busy than Decembers for obvious reasons however it also gives us an opportunity to reflect on all the fun and exciting opportunities our children had during the festive period.

We were treated to nativities, festive lunches, pantomimes, shopping events, fayres, Christmas concerts and so much more. In recognition of this, I would like to say to everybody thank you for the part you played. The children had a fantastic time and also were able to show off their amazing talents in a variety of ways. They sang, they danced, they created wonderful things and they supported one another in the madness. The same could be said for all our school adults and you as parents so Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, Parents and carers too, for your generosity at Christmas – the staff are always very humbled at this time of year so thank you.

This term, we will be focusing on attendance. Some parents will have been contacted to come and meet Mr Sanders to discuss strategies going forward. As a school, we will be promoting attendance at every opportunity. Attendance Ted will be back for the class with the best week's attendance and Punctuality Pup for the class who are here on-time the most during the week. Please do your best to ensure your children are in school as this does ultimately support their progress. Please do your best to be here on time – if you do not come through the gate by 8.45, you will be marked down as late.

We will be thinking about healthy eating and sustainability this term. Therefore, we would like you to support us with our packed lunch project. Firstly, we need to remind you that we are a nut-friendly school as we do have children who are allergic to certain nuts and they would need urgent medical treatment if they were exposed to these nut types. Please avoid sending nut-based products into school and be mindful of ingredients when purchasing packed lunch products. Please see the advice on the next page of the newsletter.

Secondly, we would also like you to consider the packaging that you send in. We do recycle crisps packets via the Walkers scheme but would like to have a ban on other single-use plastics. Please consider how you can reduce this for example using foil and then cleaning it to re-use rather than cling-film. There, again, is some advice after this on the newsletter. Thirdly, we would like you to consider the packed lunch you send in. We know times are tough and time itself is tough but please try to send in a nice balance of healthy food to keep your child going through the day.

As ever, thank you so much for your support. We really are proud of our school community and we appreciate everyone within it. We send you our best wishes for the happiest of new years. Please come and find us if you need us,

Kind regards,

Mrs Maria Phillipson

Dear Parents,

Nut Aware Schools

It is important for us to clarify that we are a nut aware school. Whilst we do allow nuts in school, we minimise their use (and products containing them) as we do have children in school who may react to nut products. Please read through the following guidance to ensure you understand our policy:

Definition -

Nut aware schools do not ban nuts outright but instead promote awareness and education about nut allergies among students, staff, and parents. They implement strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to allergens.

Purpose-

The focus is on creating an inclusive environment where students with allergies can learn to manage their condition while still allowing for the presence of nut products in the school.

Implementation-

Nut aware schools may have designated areas for eating, encourage handwashing, and educate students about recognising and responding to allergic reactions. They may also have policies in place to minimise cross-contamination during food preparation.

Kind regards - Mrs M Phillipson

Donations Please

We are in the process of revamping our Class 2 outdoor area, using recycled materials where possible.

We are kindly asking for any of the following donations:



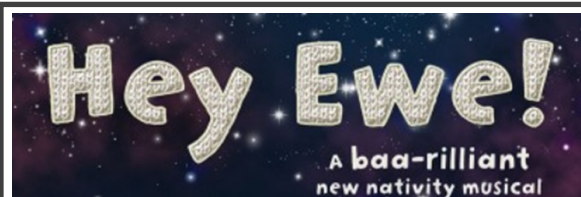
large cable reels
plastic bottle crates
guttering (different shapes/sizes)
tyres various sizes
cones
scales
plastic measuring jugs/containers
chunky chalks
basters/ large pipettes
bamboo sticks
wooden planks
wooden logs
small brooms
Tarpaulin
large paper rolls



Many thanks - Class 2

Dates for your diaries

06/01/2026 13/01/2026 20/01/2026 27/01/2026 03/02/2026	Class 4	Forest School	
12/01/2026	Whole School	Afterschool Clubs	Afterschool Clubs start next Monday. Please click here to view the club letter. If your child would like to attend a club, please email office@hoath.kent.sch.uk . We will let you know by the end of this week if they have a space.
15/01/2026	Whole School	Spring Census	See change of menu (all day breakfast) below.
21/01/2026	Girls Football Team	Football Match	Away to Thornden Wood Primary
22/01/2026	Choir	Young Voices Concert - O2 Arena	Some of our Choir will be heading off to the O2 Arena to perform on stage as part of a choir with thousands of other children, with family members in the audience. We hope that they have an amazing experience!
28/01/2026	Class 3	Trip to Canterbury	Please click here to view the letter.
28/01/2026	Girls Football Team	Football Match	Home to St Mary's
13/02/2026	Whole School	Last Day of Term 3	School will finish at the usual time of 3:15pm
23/02/2026	Whole School	First Day of Term 4	All children expected to attend at 8:35am
23/02/2026	Whole School	Book Week	More information to follow.
24/02/2026 03/03/2026 10/03/2026 17/03/2026 24/03/2026	Class 3	Forest School	More information to follow
26/02/2026	Whole School	Wizard Stories	More information to follow
27/02/2026	Whole School	Book Dress Up Day	More information to follow



Thank You!

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your wonderful support of this year's Nativity. We are so grateful for the fantastic costumes you provided, for buying tickets, and for supporting the performances so enthusiastically. Thanks to your generosity, we raised a fantastic amount of money, which will go towards more costumes for next year's Nativity.

A special thank you also goes to our PTA for providing lovely refreshments and helping to make the event such a success.

Finally, a very big well done to all the children for learning their lines, speaking so clearly and confidently, and for their beautifully sung songs and wonderful dancing — you made us all so proud!



ALL DAY BREAKFAST

THURSDAY
15TH JANUARY 2026

BREAKFAST ITEMS

Chipolata Sausage - Meat
or Veggie
Omelette
Mini Hash Browns
Baked Beans
Slice of Homemade Bread

DESSERT BREAKFAST

Chocolate & Banana Oaty
Square
or
Yoghurt
Or
Fresh Fruit

caterlink
Leading the Innovation



KS2 Christmas Concert

Classes 3 and 4 had a wonderful time visiting the church to perform a special Christmas concert for parents and carers.

The church was filled with beautiful singing, lovely clarinet playing and confident readers as the children shared the Christmas story of Jesus' birth.



The children should be incredibly proud of themselves for performing so brilliantly and representing the school so well. A massive well done to everyone involved for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to support the children – it was lovely to see so many of you there.

Thank you also to Holy Cross Church in Hoath for accommodating us.

We hope this will be a special tradition and look forward to doing it again next year!

Sustainable Lunchbox advice sheet

Some ideas that may help to reduce single-use plastic in those lunch boxes:

1. Ditch those Disposable Bags

Instead of plastic baggies or cling film, switch to reusable containers made from stainless steel, silicone, or BPA-free plastic. They're durable, leak-proof, and perfect for everything from sandwiches to snacks.

2. Upgrade to a Reusable Water Bottle

Juice boxes and single-use bottles generate a significant amount of unnecessary waste. A stainless steel or glass bottle keeps drinks cold (or hot), saves money, and avoids all that throwaway packaging.

3. Clean with Cloth

Tuck a small cloth napkin into the lunchbox instead of using paper ones. They're easy to wash, waste-free, and add a touch of style to lunch on the go!

4. Fresh > Pre-Packaged

Fruit cups, mini yogurts, and single-serve snacks often come wrapped in multiple layers of plastic. Whenever you can, opt for whole fruits or larger containers that you can portion out at home. This choice is usually more affordable, and almost always more nutritious.

6. Bulk it Up

On a similar note, pre-packaged snacks are convenient, but they come at a cost to your wallet and the environment. Buy snacks like crackers, trail mix, or dried fruit in bulk and portion them into reusable containers.

7. Label Everything (So It Comes Back!)

Reusable lunch gear only works if it doesn't get lost. Add simple name labels to bottles, bags, and containers to ensure they return home safely.

8. Plan to Reduce Food Waste

Studies show that more than half of the fruits and vegetables served in school lunches are discarded — and in the U.S., [up to 85% of cafeteria food is thrown away](#). To help reduce this, pack only what your child is likely to eat and involve them in choosing their favourite healthy options. Giving kids a say in what goes into their lunchbox encourages less waste and more mindful eating.

9. Say Goodbye to Plastic Cutlery

Pick up a set of reusable cutlery, such as bamboo, stainless steel, or foldable travel sets. No more scrambling for a plastic spoon!

10. Support Brands with Waste-Free Packaging

More brands are stepping up with compostable, paper-based, or recyclable packaging. Choosing these options shows companies that we care about how products are packaged, not just what's inside. You can also use these items in homemade lunches: cook with eggs that come in biodegradable cartons, portion out snacks from bulk items in paper packaging, or bake muffins with ingredients from sustainable brands. It's a simple way to reduce plastic and create healthy, waste-free meals from scratch.

[Your Back-to-School Guide to Waste-Free Lunches](#)

THE YOUNG ARTISTS' SATURDAY STUDIO

Challenge your creativity, grow in confidence, and develop your skills as an artist in an inspiring environment



PART 1 : REVISITING DRAWING

£60 (4 week block) Led by an experienced art teacher-practitioner

Dates: Sat 17th Jan - Sat 7th Feb

Time: Years 5 & 6: 10:00-11.30
Years 7-10: 12:00- 13:30

Venue: Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School
Canterbury
CT1 3EW

For further info and to secure your place, email Sharon at: believe_in_art@yahoo.com

Spaces are limited to ensure small group sizes. Book early to avoid disappointment



Stepping Up

For children aged 5 to 8



Stepping up is a 5-week activity-based course to encourage and support children aged 5 to 8 with confidence, socialisation and managing in a group. This group focuses on emotional regulation and managing and understanding our emotions and feelings and how we can help ourselves.

DATE: Starts Monday 12th January 2026

TIME: 4:00pm - 5:30pm

VENUE: Wincheap Family Hub, Hollowmede, Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3SD

BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW:

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub

- Only a few clicks away to book:
- Activities and Groups
 - Activities in family hubs
 - Canterbury district family hub activities
 - Wincheap Family Hub - Stepping Up

canterburyfh@kent.gov.uk

Visit your local Family Hub today

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub



Understanding Your Child

For parent/carers that would like to know more about sensitive and effective parenting. For parents with children in school years R to 6.



10 week course exploring:

Tuning Into Children
Exploring Feelings
Parenting Styles
Communication



Temper Tantrums and What Might Be Meant by Them
Sleep Patterns
Supporting Parent Child Relationships



DATE: Tuesday 20th January

TIME: 12:00pm - 2:00pm

VENUE: Wincheap Family Hub, Hollowmede, Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3SD



To book your space, please visit:
www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub



Time To Shine



A group for neurodivergent children in school years 3 - 6 to socialise and learn new skills in a safe, relaxed environment.

This group is for children and young people who may find it difficult to access mainstream groups and would like some support to build their confidence.

DATE: Starts Thursday 15th January 2026

for 6 weeks

TIME: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

VENUE: Whitstable Family Hub, Tower Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BJ

BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW:

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 - Activities in family hubs
 - Canterbury district family hub activities
 - Whitstable Family Hub - Time To Shine

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