



Acorns
Nursery

Hamsey Green
Primary School



In A Nutshell

Headteacher's Newsletter Autumn Term 2023 Week 13

Dear All,

It was lovely to see you all at the concerts this week! I am sure you were beaming with pride as the children shone on stage. From the youngest at Acorns who sang like angels, to Reception who recited their poems and innovated Christmas Talk for Writing stories, to the Nativity story retold by Years One and Two, to Years Three and Four pantomime 'Snow White' to the slick Christmas concert for Years Five and Six, every single one of them excelled!

At the end of the Year Five and Six concerts, as well as the audience's rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas, the Governors, Trustees, CEO and I presented our Co Chair of Governors, Mrs Fernandes, with the Outstanding, Long Service Award by Surrey County Council. Having served the school for the last 30 years, we look forward to many more!

Not only have we had all of the plays, we have ended the year with the Reception, Years One and Two Winter Events and class parties. The children had a great time dancing and chilling with their friends. During Christingle, one of my favourite assemblies of the year, we have also taken time to reflect on the importance of remembering to be grateful, having good manners and being kind, during what is usually a very busy time of year. The children have said they will be offering to help keep their rooms tidy and help you all out.

Even though we have reached the end of term, we were proud to host Jamie Thomas, who is our school trainer for Talk for Writing. He came to visit Hamsey Green to see the progress we have made since the scheme started and to assess the school to become a Showcase School for others to visit and learn from. *We wait with baited breath!*

We are so thankful to the anonymous elf who delivered some presents which were raffled out to children – a lovely surprise.

Finally, a huge thank you from us all and the PTA for the amount raised during the Winter Wonderland.

The staff and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year. I am very grateful the amazing staff we have across Acorns and Hamsey and cannot thank them enough this term.

Wishing you a lovely holiday and New Year. See you in 2024!

Mrs Mace



Upcoming events

2nd & 3rd January 2024—Inset Days

4th January 2024—First day of Spring term

10th January 2024—last Reception parent tour

15th January 2024—Primary school application deadline

Week beg 22nd -26th January -PTA Penny Wars
Winning class wins a Mufti Day on 29th Jan—more information to follow





This week, the children took part in our annual Christmas Concert. Over the past month they have worked really hard to learn a variety of festive songs. They also retold our Talk For Writing poem "Snow" which the children had innovated from our autumn poem. The children were just amazing and we were just so impressed with how well they sang! What a lovely way to end the year.

Lots of festive activities have also been enjoyed this week... with an assortment of craft activities and Christmas themed activities such as making snowmen in the tuff tray and Christmas hoopa!

Acorns Nursery would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you back in 2024!



Please can we ask adults to supervise any children at the start and end of the day—children should not be climbing any of the outdoor play equipment. Thank you for your co-operation.

Absence, sickness, appointments and lateness

If your child is absent from school, please email absence@hamseytlt.co.uk or leave a message on the absence line (01883 622000 option 1). Please let us know their full name, class and reason; including any symptoms they may be displaying. We do need to hear from an adult each day a child is absent for safeguarding reasons. Please do not bring your child to school if they have been sick during the night. If your child has been sick or has an upset stomach, children may be off school for 48 hours following the last episode, each case is dealt with separately. Any appointments which are made during the school day impacts on attendance as does any lateness or collecting early.

Thank you for your co-operation.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) Please read this guidance before keeping your child off.

Attendance

1st place:	-	95.5% Donaldson (1)
2nd place:	-	94.6% Kinney (3)
3rd place:	-	92% Inkpen [R]
Whole School:	-	89.8%

Communication this week

- 12.12.23 – Email to all years and nursery regarding end of term early finish and return to school in Jan.
- 12.12.23 – Email reminder to Year 6 parents of children going on residential trip regarding payments.
- 12.12.23 – Email to Year 1-4 regarding Dance Club.
- 13.12.23 – Email to all year groups regarding Rock Steady for Spring term.
- 14.12.23 – Email to whole school regarding illness.



Autumn Term House		
Diamond		1st
Sapphire		2nd
Opal		3rd
Emerald		3rd
Ruby		5th
Topaz		6th

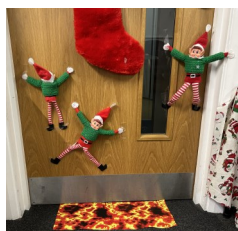
Thank you to our fair sponsors...

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Paul Meakin- luxury hamper and donation | Waitrose—x 2 hampers |
| The Med Kitchen—voucher | The Harrow —voucher |
| Cook—voucher | The Horseshoe—voucher |
| DTAA Dance Academy—voucher | Costa --voucher |
| Majestic Wine —Bottle of Bubbly | The Scoop Company —voucher |
| Co-op—mince pies | Priory Farm—voucher |
| Angel Decorations Mrs Bozhani | |

And all those who gave their time to help set up, man and pack down stalls.

In a Nutsh-elf

On Monday, the elves did some great cleaning and polishing of our trophies; Tuesday they had great fun playing 'the floor is lava'; Wednesday they bandaged each other up after falling into the lava!; Thursday, the elves made their own Christingles; and to say goodbye, the elves managed to get themselves into the TV to say goodbye to all the children!! until next year.....





**Surrey and Borders
Partnership**
NHS Foundation Trust

ADHD MEDICATION

The government has announced a national shortage of medicines used to help manage ADHD symptoms. The shortage of these products is being caused by a combination of manufacturing issues and increased global demand; it is expected that the delay will impact until at least December. This is going to be a difficult time for families, and the Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust want to help schools feel equipped with the necessary resources to be able to prepare and support these families over the next few weeks.

We will be contacting all affected families over the next week to update them on the national issue and set out our advice. This will include children and young people currently on, and those awaiting an initial appointment to discuss and potentially commence, medication following an ADHD diagnosis. At present we are asking parent-carers to take a look at our information and resource page for [Neurodevelopmental needs](#) on the Mindworks website. This page, which has recently been updated, provides signposts to lots of helpful strategies and interventions to support ADHD symptomology as well as some medication advice under the [ADHD section](#). Parent-carers should also keep up to date with our [talking point](#) section of the Mindworks website which will be updated regularly.

We'd particularly like to draw attention to this statement: [National ADHD Medication shortage: Mindworks Surrey \(mindworks-surrey.org\)](#) which includes an important reference to what families should do where a child/young person is taking guanfacine (Intuniv®). This medication should not be stopped suddenly as it can cause the child/young person to experience high blood pressure, so parents / carers are being asked to only contact us if they are having difficulty obtaining guanfacine on 01372 216555, lines are open 9am to 12:30am.

NHS

102,000 children starting school in England are at risk of catching measles

Check your child is up to date with their MMR vaccinations

ACTION: UKHSA advice for education and childcare settings amid high levels of flu, COVID-19 and scarlet fever

As winter illnesses continue to circulate at high levels and pupils are returning to education, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published a [reminder on how to minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings](#). UKHSA advice remains clear that children can continue to attend as normal unless they are unwell and have a high temperature. [Further information](#) on when a child is too ill for school or nursery is available. There is no requirement to be absent from school on a precautionary basis. School staff should continue to maintain their high expectations for face-to-face attendance. For further information, please also see our Education Hub post on the [latest guidelines around COVID-19](#) and for Strep A, our separate post on the [exact circumstances in which children should be kept off school](#). UKHSA is providing regular updates on [Strep A](#). Both UKHSA and DfE are continuing to closely monitor the situation. To help reduce the risk of some illnesses, including flu, vaccinations are being provided in schools. UKHSA, in collaboration with NHS England and DfE, have produced a [briefing for secondary schools](#) giving details about all vaccines offered to adolescents in schools and the role that schools play. This includes information on the flu vaccination programme being offered this year to those in Years 7, 8 and 9.

If any children are on antibiotics 4 times a day—this can be administered in school—please come to the office to complete a form and speak with the office staff regarding administration of this.

<https://surreyeducationsservices.surreycc.gov.uk/Article/130697?source=Newsletter&guid=9BD81055-C11E-44A3-80FC-DA10DF698E3E>—Guidance on Strep A/Scarlet fever.

<https://surreyeducationsservices.surreycc.gov.uk/Article/130698?source=Newsletter&guid=9BD81055-C11E-44A3-80FC-DA10DF698E3E>—Guidance on Norovirus.

Updated guidance—Winter 2023

UKHSA have provided a number of guidance documents and resources to support schools and other childcare settings in managing outbreaks of common infections which can spread easily amongst children (and potentially staff). Infections such as norovirus, scarlet fever and respiratory illnesses (including flu) are more common in the winter months.

Outbreaks can be disruptive to children's education and to the running of the setting. It is important that staff know what actions to take to help reduce the risk of onward transmission if cases of infectious illness are identified, and how to seek further advice and support.

UKHSA have updated the outbreak management documents for Surrey specific educational settings for winter 2023. They include the contact details for the local UKHSA Health Protection Team (HPT) and for your local contacts in Surrey. They also set out the information that the HPT will need to have from you should you need to contact them for advice. **These documents can be found on the Area Schools Support resources page on the [Surrey Education Services](#) website.**

Preparing for a measles resurgence in England



Autumn 2023 update.

You were contacted earlier in the year about measles by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), and a further request has now been received, to remind schools and childcare settings about the ongoing need to increase uptake of both doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

UKHSA recently published a measles risk assessment which concluded that although the risk of a UK-wide measles epidemic is considered low, a measles outbreak of between 40,000 and 160,000 cases could occur in London, due to sub-optimal uptake of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine in the capital. Outside of London there is a high risk of cases linked to overseas travel leading to outbreaks in specific groups. There has been a [steady rise in measles cases this year](#).

Education and childcare settings play a key role to play in promoting uptake of vaccinations because of the relationship you have with parents and young people.

We would be grateful if settings could assist with the following actions:

Leaflets for parents can be downloaded for printing out or for emailing. They can be found at [Measles: information for schools](#)
Posters for putting up in schools can be downloaded and printed from [MEASLES - Don't let your child catch it](#)

Additionally, we are requesting that schools send the attached letter to all school staff, as a reminder for adults that many can access the vaccination if they missed out, particularly if they work in an environment where they could be exposed to the infection. **This letter can be found on the Area Schools Support resources page on the [Surrey Education Services website](#)**

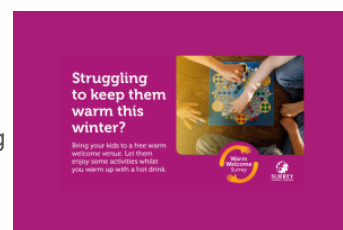
Warm Welcome venues return to Surrey

Safe and friendly places for everyone.

Warm Welcome venues are open to all residents this winter free of charge. Whether you are old or young, live alone or with your family, feel like you are struggling or just managing to get by, a Warm Welcome awaits you.

There are currently 76 Warm Welcome venues across Surrey in a variety of community spaces including community and church halls, libraries and leisure centres. All you have to do is show up! Come inside, warm up, enjoy a hot drink and receive energy advice and much more.

To find your nearest Warm Welcome visit surreycc.gov.uk/warmwelcome.





It's back! Spark a love of reading even in the most reluctant reader with the free online Winter Mini Challenge. Children can unlock rewards for reading and find fun activities on the dedicated children's website created by The Reading Agency.

What is the Winter Mini Challenge?

The Winter Mini Challenge is an online, bitesize version of The Reading Agency's annual Summer Reading Challenge. This summer, The Reading Agency teamed up with the Youth Sport Trust and public libraries to bring you Ready, Set, Read! – a Summer Reading Challenge that empowers hundreds of thousands of young people to read and play, keeping minds and bodies active over the summer break. Following the success of Ready, Set, Read!, The Reading Agency are delighted to extend the theme into the Winter Mini Challenge. With the holidays approaching, now is the time to encourage children to discover the joy of reading and to build on good reading habits!

It is easy to take part in the Winter Mini Challenge. Children simply read three books or more of their choice between 1 December 2023 and 19 February 2024 and add them to their online profile on wintermini.org.uk. Reaching their reading goal will unlock a limited-edition virtual badge and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep.

Prize for every child reaching their goal

Surrey Libraries are encouraging every child and their responsible adult to visit their local Surrey library to pick up their books and start reading! Besides picking up books from their Surrey library, children can borrow books from their school library, and download for free Surrey Libraries' eBooks, eAudiobooks and eComics. All reading counts! Once a child has reached their online goal, they can collect a prize in one of our libraries*. They can bring along their printed certificate or show the e-certificate to a staff member or volunteer on a device like a mobile phone, and they can collect a prize (suitable for 3+ year olds, available in most of our libraries, and as long as stock lasts). Please note that a child must be a library member to collect their prize. If someone isn't a member yet, they can join the library [online](#) or at their [local library](#). Library membership is free.

What can schools do to support the Winter Mini Challenge?

We would love all teachers and school librarians to encourage their children to sign up for the Winter Mini Challenge and let parents/carers know about this Challenge via their Newsletters. If your school is interested in a [visit](#) to their local library, or just like to get in touch with library staff to discuss how you can work together to promote the love of reading, please get in touch with us by sending an email to libraries@surreycc.gov.uk

More information on the Challenge can be found on our [Surrey Libraries website](#).

Healthy pack lunches

We've noticed that some of the pack lunches coming into school are not necessarily healthy or nutritious. Please can you ensure that what you send in is enough to keep them going for their afternoon lessons.

Please remember we are a nut free school—this includes spreads that may contain nuts.

A Guide to Building...

Healthy Snacks & Lunchbox

P2/P

Bring **WATER** every day!

Plugging top water in a reusable bottle is FREE and will help keep your child hydrated all day!



Whole Grains

(Great for Snacks or Lunch)

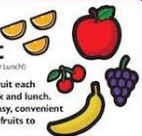
Make sandwiches with whole grain bread. Look for labels that say "100% Whole Grain"



Fruit

(Great for Snacks or Lunch)

Pack fresh fruit each day for snack and lunch. These are easy, convenient ways to add fruits to your day



Snacks

Pack healthy snacks each day. Add a healthy sweet or savory treat. Try whole grain crackers and pretzels for savory snacks or dried fruits for sweet treats.



Veggies

(Great for Snacks or Lunch)

Add veggies in your child's lunch. They add a healthy crunch instead of chips.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

CAN YOU SPARE A HOUR OR SO A WEEK? COULD YOU OFFER TIME TO HEAR SOME CHILDREN READ OR HELP KEEP OUR LIBRARY TIDY! IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE WHO WILL MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOU WITH MRS MACE TO DISCUSS HOW TO BE A VOLNTEER. PLEASE NOTE- A DBS WILL NEED TO BE APPLIED FOR UNDER OUR SAFEGUARDING EXPECTATIONS.



We are collecting used printer ink cartridges. Please bring them and put them into the recycling box in the office. We are unable to recycle toner or laser cartridges. Any cartridges recycled, helps the school to raise some money. Thank you!



We are regularly asked by parents, carers, grandparents and friends of the school as to how you can support the school to continue to provide a rich, wide-ranging curriculum and a high standard of education. If you would like and are able, to support the school and your child's education, please buy one of the books on our Amazon wishlist. This will arrive at school a few days later and be added to the children's non-fiction book box or class library.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3GIZF85XRY4MG?ref=wl_share



School Uniform

We are depleting our school stock of uniform. Please check to see what items of uniform you may need and please order through us in the first instance. Anything that is unavailable through us, please purchase through Price and Buckland directly. Price and Buckland will refer you back to us if it's stock that we hold. <https://price-buckland.co.uk/school-finder/?school-search=Hamsey+Green+Primary+School>

Please be aware that any items ordered through Price & Buckland to be delivered to the school will take longer than if you pay for p&p for home delivery.

Please name your child's school uniform and coats. We have a lot of unnamed uniform in our lost property box!

FOR CHARITY



£133 Save the Children

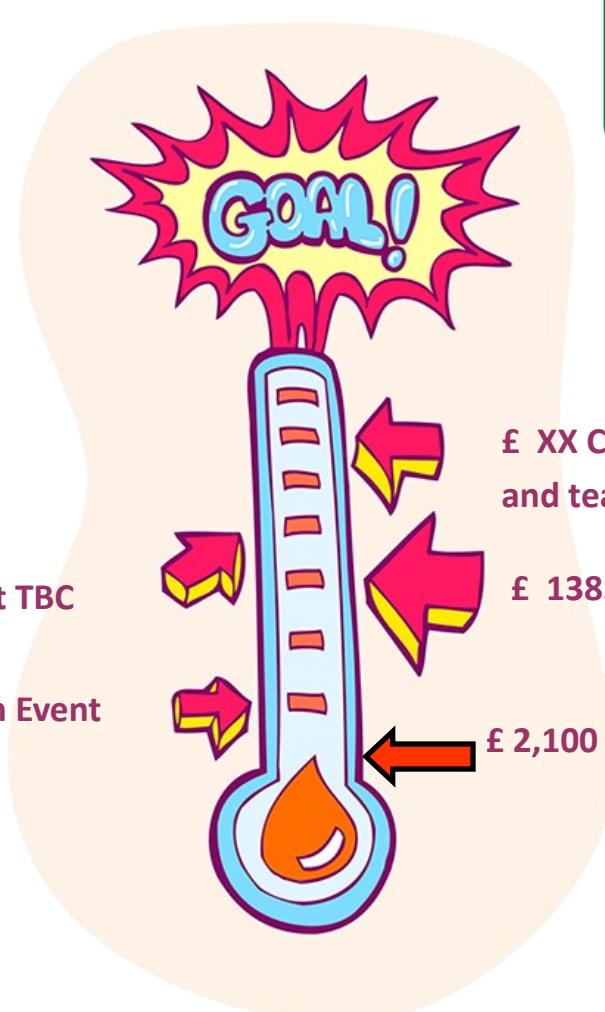
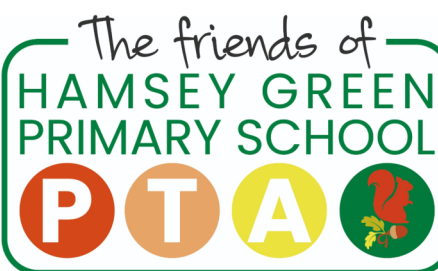
£223 Children in Need

£310 Macmillan Coffee Morning

THANKS
for your



DONATIONS



£ XX Winter Event TBC

£ 629 Autumn Event

£ XX Christmas Cards, cups
and tea towels TBC

£ 1385 Christmas Fair

£ 2,100 Sponsored Bounce

FOR NEWSLETTER FOR ALL PARENTS FROM SCHOOLS

Dear Parent/Carer

We are aware that the pandemic has had an effect on families, but the expectation is still that every child should now be attending school full time. If you consider that there are exceptional circumstances relating to your request, please let the school have full details. Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis.

Penalty Notices to Address Poor Attendance at School

A Penalty Notice may be issued as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school (absence without the agreement of the school or not covered by a medical note) and will be used by Surrey County Council in the following circumstances :-

1. Pupils identified by police and Inclusion Officers (formerly Education Welfare Officers) engaged on Truancy Patrols and who have incurred unauthorised absences.
2. Leave of absence in term time (5 days or 10 sessions or more).
 - Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2013, which became law on 1st September 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.
 - The Headteacher is also required to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.
 - In such cases the Headteacher/Governing Body must decide whether there are exceptional circumstances. They may request that the Local Authority issue Penalty Notices when the absence is not authorised. Warnings will not be given where it can be shown that parents have been notified that such absences will not be authorised.
3. Finally, the issuing of a Penalty Notice will also be considered where it is judged that a parent is failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance. This will be considered when a pupil has incurred 7 or more unauthorised sessions in the previous 6 school weeks, which may include a pupil arriving late after close of registration. If you believe at any stage that your child's absence from school may leave you liable to receive a Penalty Notice, it is extremely important that you act without delay to secure their regular attendance. If you have any questions or require further support to achieve an improvement in your child's attendance, please contact your child's school or the Inclusion Officer.

Penalty Notice relating to Exclusions

If a child is excluded from school, Section 103 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on parents/carers to ensure that their child is not in a public place without justifiable cause during school hours. This duty applies to the first five days of each exclusion. Failure to do so will render the parent/carer liable to a Penalty Notice. (Alternative education provision will be made available from the sixth day of any exclusion.)

Amount Payable for a Penalty Notice

The amount payable for a Penalty Notice issued in any of the above circumstances is currently £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the Notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. If the Penalty Notice is not paid, the local Authority must consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court for the offence for which the Notice was originally issued. Please be aware that each parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for each child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice. If there are two parents, and two children incur unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.

Advice and support is available from an Inclusion Officer by contacting your local Education Office as follows :-

North West - Tel: 01483 518130

South West - Tel: 01483 517179

North East - Tel: 01372 833588

South East - Tel: 01737 737777