



Acorns  
Nursery

Hamsey Green  
Primary School



# In A Nutshell

Headteacher's Newsletter Autumn Term 2023 Week 10

Dear All



Despite the fact the Christmas tree is up and the twinkle lights are draped around the ceilings, Year Six went back in time and experienced what life was like for children during World War Two. They participated in drama scenes, watched film clips and created an art piece as a keepsake. The children had a great time looking at artefacts provided by Biggin Hill museum. They transferred their learning to their writing, which was very emotional to read.

On Thursday, Year 1 were very excited that the Sixth Form PE Ambassadors came over to teach them further football skills. I think they were in awe of the older children and the older children were amazed at their skills! A great time was had by all of them and we look forward to them returning to teach them again.

The children have also been learning about Road Safety in assembly. As we are still without a Road Crossing Patrol person, it is vital that children learn about how they can stay safe. Road safety is also regarding car parking. We have had complaints this week from our neighbours notifying us of inconsiderate parking across driveways which block access.

Thank you for all the yummy chocolate that was donated for next week's chocolate tombola! I was very tempted to eat a piece but was very good! We cannot believe that the Christmas Fair will be on NEXT FRIDAY!! We look forward to seeing you all there!

Today, we also hosted our first Dragon's Den of the year. We were so grateful to the Bouncy Boss who came to help judge the children's products. The pitches were amazing—jingles, PowerPoints, adverts and with tasters too. It was so hard to judge—you can see their products at the fair next week. Please do contact your class Rep/PTA to offer your help—even if it is for half an hour, it will be hugely appreciated.

Wishing you a lovely weekend, Mrs Mace

## Bailey's Blog

On Tuesday I had my first birthday! I seem to have slept a lot so I think I could be coming down with something... This week, I have been enjoying reading with the children—I have read a story called Beowulf with Siad Class which was about a monster (and much to Mrs Mace's disgust ate the mud off Mr Brown's football boots!!) I have had lots of cuddles this week which has been lovely too. I have been very excited today as I too am in Christmas mufti!!



## Upcoming November events

**Tuesday 28th November** Year 3 Greek Day & Year 4 Roman Day  
**Wednesday 29th November** Year 5 to Fairfield Halls to see the Whitgift Autumn Music Concert  
**FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 3.15-5.30PM** CHRISTMAS FAIR

Please see page 2 FOR DECEMBER EVENTS!





### Upcoming December events

**FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 3.15-5.30PM FAIR**

**WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

**FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER—CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

**FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER—CHOIR TO GREENACRES TO SING**

**COFFEE/TEA/HOT CHOCOLATE AND MINCE PIES WILL BE ON SALE AT ALL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES!**

**MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER 9.00 YEAR 1 & 2 PLAY**

**MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER 1.30 YEAR 5 & 6 CONCERT**

**TUESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 9.00 RECEPTION SHOWCASE**

**TUESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 1.30 YEAR 3 & 4 PANTOMIME**

**WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 9.20 ACORNS CONCERT**

**THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER 9.20 ACORNS CONCERT**

**FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER EARLY FINISH DOUGHNUT SALE**

**12PM ACORNS**

**1.05 RECEPTION**

**1.10 YEARS 1—6**





This week, we have had a maths focus week at Acorns Nursery. The children have taken part in a variety of number games, songs and activities linked to numbers and shapes.

In Talk for Writing, the children have been thinking of ways in which we could innovate our "Autumn leaves" poem. The children were encouraged to think of additional words to use in the poem with the adaptation of changing leaves to snow!

The children have also enjoyed exploring our new winter outdoor covered construction area with the addition of a new mud kitchen and weighing scale area. The children can access this area throughout the day which has really enhanced their opportunity for imaginative and creative provision outdoors all year round.



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.

### Absences & Sickness

**If your child is absent from school, please email [absence@hamseytlt.co.uk](mailto: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.

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

<b>1st place:</b>	-	<b>Rowling (4) - 96.5%</b>
<b>2nd place:</b>	-	<b>Kinney (3) - 96.2%</b>
<b>3rd place:</b>	-	<b>Inkpen [R] - 94.8%</b>
<b>Whole School:</b>	-	<b>92.4%</b>

### Communication this week

- 22.11.23 – Email to Reception to Year 6 regarding ticket sale for The Jungle Book on 7.3.24. Tickets £3.50 in Shop Products on Arbor.
- 23.11.23 – Email to Year 5 regarding Whitgift Concert at Fairfield Halls no payment required.
- 23.11.23 – Email to whole school Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day £1 in Shop Products on Arbor.
- 24.11.23—Email to whole school Grotto Winter Wonderland letter from PTA.



**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.**

### **"Surrey County Council encourages residents to offer Supported Lodgings/foster"**

*Supported Lodgings, and Fostering are both incredibly rewarding experiences that can transform the lives of both the children/young people being supported and the carers' themselves. Children and young people who enter the care system have often experienced trauma and instability in their lives, and a stable and supportive carer family can make a significant difference in their wellbeing and development.*

*Nationally, there are currently over 70,000 children living with carer families in the UK. However, there is still a significant shortage of Supported Lodgings and foster carers, with around 9,265 new carer families needed in the next year alone. In Surrey, there are over 1,000 children in care and Surrey County Council have just under 400 carer families.*

*Supported Lodgings is targeted at young adults aged 16-21 to help them build their independence skills ready to live independently in the future, from the security of a caring, stable home environment.*

*Supported Lodgings Carers and Foster carers come from all walks of life and backgrounds, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to caring. Whether you are single or married, young or old, own your own home or rent, you can still become a carer. The most important thing is a willingness to provide a safe and loving home for a child in need.*

*This is the message that Surrey County Council is promoting in national recruitment film 'Any of Us'. The short film has been jointly funded by over 80 councils across England and aims to raise awareness about fostering, particularly among those people who may not have previously considered themselves suited to caring for vulnerable children and young people. The film looks at the potential of three people from different backgrounds to become carers, and the potential of children they care for to grow and thrive. 'Any of Us' is available to watch from the 26<sup>th</sup> September.*

*If you have ever thought about fostering, or offering Supported Lodgings, now is the time to take that first step and find out more. The more people who consider caring, the greater the chance of finding loving, stable homes for children in Surrey who desperately need them.*

*You can contact Surrey County Council Fostering Service on 0300 123 1620 (this is the General Fostering Duty telephone, please ask for the Supported Lodgings worker, when connected), via email at [supportedlodgings@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:supportedlodgings@surreycc.gov.uk) or by visiting the website; [www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering)*

*You can watch 'Any of Us' via [Any of Us - YouTube](#) and connect with the Fostering Service on social media via [@surreyfostering](#)"*

### 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

P2iP

Bring **WATER** every day!

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



### Whole Grains

(Great for Snack or Lunch)

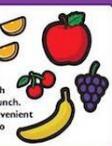
Make sandwiches with whole grain bread. Look for labels that say "100% Whole Grain"



### Fruit

(Great for Snack 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

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](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.

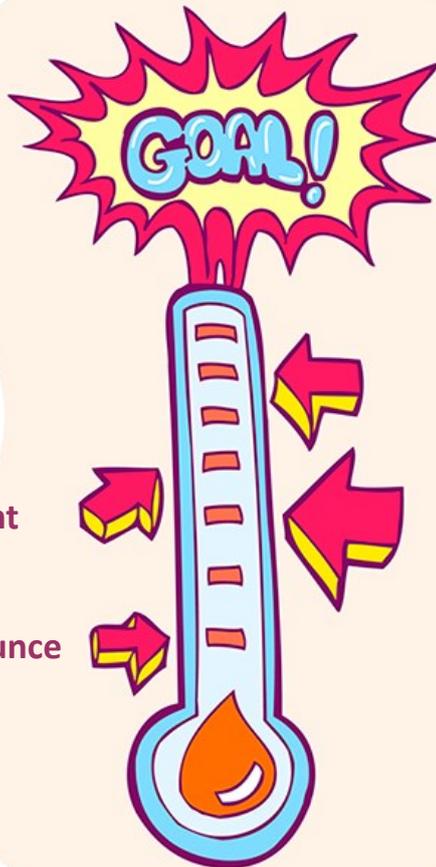
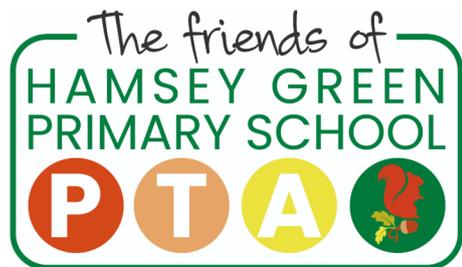
Please name your child's school uniform and coats. We have a lot of unnamed uniform in our lost property box!



THANKS  
for your  
  
DONATIONS

£198 Children in Need

£310 Macmillan Coffee Morning



£ 629 Autumn Event

£ 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/carers 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/carers 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