



Headteacher's Introduction

Well, it is safe to say that Christmas has arrived at Hempland! We had a great time decorating our Christmas trees on Tuesday morning which was then followed by our whole school Crafternoon. We are sure the creations will look fabulous in your homes over the festive period.

The engagement with our 14 Days of a Hempland Christmas has been great and we have loved reading your tweets and seeing your photographs. Please keep posting next week too! We have included a link to our Christmas Quiz for the children so please have a go over the weekend. If you do, please bring your answers into school on Monday morning and these can be passed to your child's class teacher. Don't forget to add your name to your answer sheet!

Mr Haynes & Mrs Innes

STEM Week

After the great success of STEM week last year, we will be having another this year, again based on the United Nations Global Goals. This will be the first week after the Christmas holidays. Every class in school will be taking part in a week of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths activities based on these fantastic ideas. Like last year, we will be aiming to make use of as much recycled materials as we can. We are therefore asking parents and families if you could help out, by providing the following objects to help with our activities. The more, the better! We would only ask that the items are cleaned before being brought into school. To make sure that the items and materials are quarantined, please could they be brought into school on **Wednesday 16th December**. Classes will put a table or box outside their classrooms ready for your items. Don't buy specifically for this - the idea is to use things that would otherwise be thrown away.

Year R, 1, 2, 3 and 4 - most general recycling, including plastic bags, plastic boxes, cereal bottles, egg boxes, takeaway containers (foil or plastic)

Year 5 - plastic drinks bottles, straws, skewers, milk bottles with handles, yoghurt pots, cotton reels.
Many thanks.

Update from the governing body

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Although it will be different this year, we were pleased to hear at the Local Governors Committee meeting on Thursday 26th November 2020 that the school is working hard to ensure the Christmas spirit and cheer will be 'present' (excuse the pun) throughout the school.

The meeting was productive with plenty of good news; the school finances are in good shape and performing better than anticipated in spite of the difficulties of COVID-19. A recent project to update the teaching display screens went well, with all classrooms now kitted out with state-of-the-art, large format, interactive displays.

One of the main topics of discussion was the stability of the school leadership. Mr Haynes has worked tirelessly along with the senior leadership team to steady the ship through a difficult time with the added complexities of the pandemic. We would like to thank him for his continued hard work. We are pleased to say he will continue in the role for the rest of the academic year to ensure that the school continues to thrive under his leadership. We are in the process of looking at the options for the future and will keep you updated with any progress.

Keep an eye on the head teacher updates and newsletters for what's happening throughout December, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas.



Milk

In order to reduce waste and the impact on the environment of having small individual tetra-pak cartons and plastic straws in school, we are changing our milk supplier and will no longer be using Cool Milk.

We will be purchasing milk in larger containers to pour out into reusable cups for the children and are able to recycle the milk bottles.

The payment options and dates to be paid by are:

- Spring 1 £5.80 by 31/12/2020
- Spring 2 £5.00 by 19/02/2021
- Summer 1 £6.60 by 30/03/2021
- Summer 2 £7.00 by 01/06/2021

Total until the end of the school year £24.40.

If you have any questions regarding this, please get in touch with the school office via phone on 01904 555495 or by email at office@hempland.pmat.academy

Christmas 2020

Events this week...

At School: Animated Objects Theatre Performance

We are very excited to be welcoming Lee and Dawn Threadgold into school on **Wednesday 9th December**. They will be performing The Reluctant Dragon for all of our Key Stage 2 bubbles and The Frog Prince for our Early Years and Key Stage 1 bubbles. **Lee and Dawn will be more than 2m from children and staff at all times.**

At School: Christmas Jumper Day

We will be supporting this once again for Save the Children on **Friday 11th December**. We have set up a JustGiving page for you to make a donation should you wish to support this.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hempland-primary1>

Please note that there is no need to buy a Christmas jumper especially for this event. Feel free to add a festive touch to an existing jumper instead – homemade and creative are usually better anyway!

At School: Christmas Lunch

We will be enjoying our Christmas lunch with all of the trimmings on **Friday 11th December**. All children should now have signed up for this, but if you would like to add your child to the list, please contact the school office. Packed lunches are of course an option too.

At School: Christmas Cards

Just a reminder that cards can be brought into school on **Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays** and they will then be given out on a Friday in class.



At Home: 14 Days of a Hempland Christmas

We have really enjoyed reading your tweets and seeing the photographs of your Christmas creations as part of our 14 Days of a Hempland Christmas. There are lots more exciting activities for next week and would love for you to share these with us. We have included a link to our Christmas Quiz for the children. If you would like to have a go at this, please send in your answers on Monday and pass to your class teacher.

At School and Home: Foodbank Collection

On **Friday 11th December**, we are holding a collection for the York Foodbank to help families in our area throughout the Christmas period. Any donations you wish to make can be brought into school and there will be a table outside your child's classroom in the morning. At the moment, they are especially looking for:

- Laundry detergent
- Biscuits
- Sponge puddings
- Tinned fruit
- Jam
- Toothpaste
- Shaving foam
- Disposable razors
- Long life fruit juice

Coronavirus reminders and updates

Thank you for helping with the safe coming to and leaving school each day. Your hard work and support has really helped us to keep everyone as safe as possible. As we move into the last two weeks of term, it is as important as ever that we maintain the 2m social distancing and wash hands regularly. We all want to make it to the Christmas break in full health.