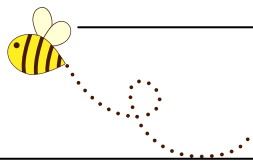


Inspire, Believe, Persevere, Achieve

Hatch Warren Junior School



Hatch Warren Herald



Issue No. 44 | Friday 19th December 2025



A message from Mrs Thomas

Wow!! What a busy end of term we have had!

All the year groups have had their Listen2Me music concerts in the last couple of weeks. We welcomed lots of families in to school and it was a great opportunity to hear everything the children have been working on this term. Children in Year 3 learnt African drumming, Year 4 have been practising vocal skills (and we heard some amazing part singing from them!), Year 5 learnt the Ukulele and Year 6 have been playing the descant recorder. These are fantastic experiences for the children and they loved performing for you all.

We have been taking part in all things Christmassy since last Friday. The Friends of Hatch Warren Juniors ran an extremely successful Festive Fun Friday last week. The children all went in to the hall during the morning to make Christmas biscuit houses, reindeer food and Christmas decorations. The team were absolutely amazing and we really can't thank them enough for their hard work and dedication to providing the children with a fantastic opportunity to start off the festive season in school. The after school festive fair was also a great success and the total raised so far was an amazing £1983!

Thank you everyone for supporting this event.



The Friends are always looking for extra volunteers so, if you feel you can help, please get in touch.

The children enjoyed their Panto on Tuesday - it was VERY loud! Pictures later in the newsletter.

This week, we had our Christmas lunch on Wednesday. Lots of celebrations and happy faces enjoying spending time together. We had two sittings in the hall - Y3/4 and Y5/6. A massive thank you to the staff for setting up, serving and clearing up!

Yesterday, we had a whole school singalong, including our very own Hatch Warren 12 Days of Christmas song which involved a lot of whole school involvement! Today, we have celebrated green points, Stars of Week, Growth Mindset and Golden Book award winners as well as a massive 94 children who have achieved 100% attendance this term - fantastic!

Unfortunately, today we have said goodbye to two members of staff. Mrs Bealby is leaving us to spend some time with her young children before they start school. Miss Grainger is leaving us to go travelling around the world - a great opportunity but we are so sad to see her go!

It just remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas! Enjoy the break with your families. Mrs Thomas

Whole School Information



Chartwells - New Catering Company

A reminder that in the New Year we welcome Chartwells as our new school lunch provider. Please refer to the email sent previously and the children are coming home with the new menu today. As of January the new cost will be £2.75 per meal.

Panto & Christmas Lunch

M&M productions visited on Tuesday 16th December and gave a wonderful performance of Snow White, the children really enjoyed it! A special shout out to Mr Barrow & Mr Hartley for being good sports and taking part!

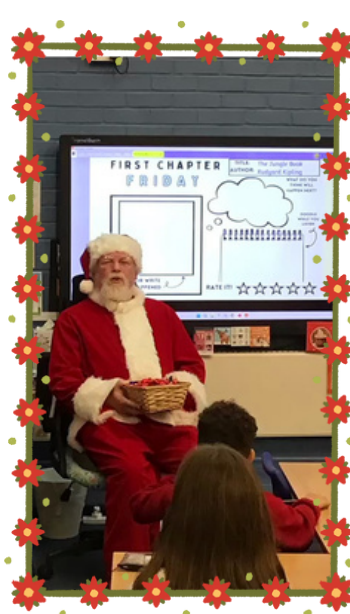


A massive thank you to the kitchen staff for providing another lovely Christmas lunch for the children, it was great to see so many of you in your Christmas jumpers!

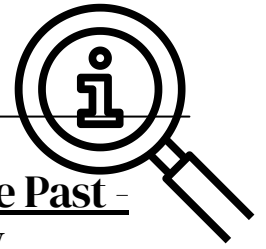


Festive Friday

It was so lovely to see the children taking part on The Friends of Hatch Warren Festive Friday last week. It got everyone thoroughly in the Christmas spirit!



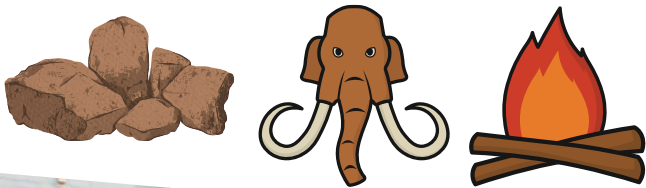
Whole School Information



Staffing Update

A warm welcome to Miss Blake & Miss Smith who join our Lunchtime Team and have already been getting to know the children.

A reminder we say a fond farewell to Miss Grainger and to Mrs Bealby, we wish them all the best for the future. We look forward to welcoming Mr Lingard in Year 6 in January.



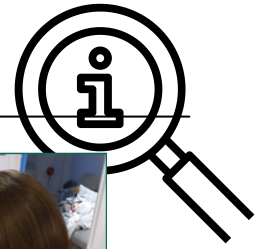
Year 3 - Portals to the Past - Stone Age Day

On the stone age day we were split into two groups Homo sapiens and Neanderthals. We looked at antlers, stone age axes and bones that came from the stone age. We were allowed to hold them as well. Some of the activities we did were trying to kill a woolly mammoth by scaring it with loud noises and waving fire. Then to kill it with spears. We also learnt about how to look and gather food. Some of us collected nuts and berries while the others learnt how to hunt deer. We also learnt about how humans started as monkeys and it was great seeing the teachers be monkeys. It was a fun filled exciting day learning about the stone age and joining in with the activities. Also, it was great to see some many children dressed in spots and animal fur.

By Avni and Theo class 3



Whole School Information



Junior Duke Challenges Update

Another term of fabulous Junior Duke challenges has flown by and I continue to be amazed by the standard, commitment, and perseverance shown in completing them. For those who haven't yet started—there's still time! Don't leave it too late, as these challenges are a fantastic opportunity to grow, learn, and shine.

Keep up the brilliant work, and let's finish the term strong! 💪

I'm curious to discover what everyone will accomplish in the coming term.

Mrs Griffiths



Sienna showed remarkable independence and resilience by planning exactly what she needed from the shop, walking there herself to gather the ingredients, and then skillfully baking a batch of delicious fudge. Her ability to take initiative, stay organized, and see the process through from start to finish highlights her confidence and determination.



Lucy showed impressive discipline by budgeting her own lunches for the week. It wasn't easy, but she managed to plan carefully, avoiding last-minute costly choices and sticking to her plan with resilience. Her thoughtful approach made the challenge a success and highlighted just how fantastic her planning skills are.



Charlie's adventure was both a success and a learning experience 🌍🌟. Being well-organized clearly paid off and it's great that he enjoyed himself along the way. The hiccup with technology is such a classic reminder: no matter how advanced our gadgets are, sometimes the simplest things—like a paper map, a written itinerary, or just asking locals—can be the most reliable when the signal drops.




Achievements



House Points

The current total for the year are: 188,253 Absolutely amazing!!

House	Points
Farah	50,968 
Gershwin	48,870
Newton	48,158
Rowling	40,257

Stars of the Week/Growth Mindset



Congratulations to the following children who were awarded "Star of The Week"/"Growth Mind Set" Award over the last two weeks: we are proud of you!

Class 1: Alfie M, Fletcher, George, Riley, Fred, Arabella,	Class 2: Poppy, Zara, Gracelyn, Henry, Layla, Jayson	Class 3: Cody, Azzurra, Eray, Asya, Kaja, Zeynep
Class 4: Ceecee, Kaleb, Emily, Elliott, Hanna-Maria, Samuele	Class 5: Harper, Mia, Ayda, Mabel, Roman, Alex	Class 6: David, Octavya, Peter, Reuben
Class 7: Red, Issy, Emelia, Leo H, Zoya, Evie	Class 8: Luke, Lily, Blake, Sophia	Class 9: Elliot, Daniel, Paisley, Elliot, Jake, Max
Class 10: Violet, Freddie H, Lotte, Max, James, Brandon	Class 11: Josie, Jack, Clara, Kaiden, Theo, Lucas	Class 12: Darcey, Aiden, Adriana, Hattie, Ellie, Summer



Year Group Updates

Year 3

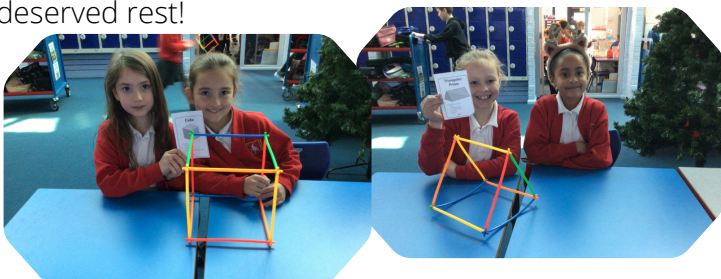
To finish the term, Year 3 have enjoyed some truly memorable and exciting experiences. Our Stone Age Day was a huge success, with children arriving dressed for the part and fully immersing themselves in Stone Age life. They took part in a range of activities, working together brilliantly within their tribes, problem-solving and showing excellent teamwork throughout the day. The children were especially thrilled to knock down not just one, but two woolly mammoths! Following this, Avni & Theo have written a fantastic recount, which really captures the excitement and learning from the day.

We have also been busy practising our Christmas song, 'Sparkle and Shine' which the children sung so enthusiastically on Thursday. A select few from the year group have supported Miss Smith in filming a video of their performance which turned out brilliantly, spreading lots of Christmas cheer!

In Maths, we have been developing our measuring skills, carefully measuring a range of objects around the classroom and even ourselves using centimetres and metres. The children have been learning how to use rulers accurately and record their measurements carefully.

In DT, the children have worked incredibly hard on their soft toy project, learning how to use a running stitch and decorating their creations in their own unique way. They showed fantastic patience and creativity throughout the process. We hope you enjoyed seeing the soft toys come home as they truly showcase the children's effort and imagination.

The term has flown by and we are so proud of all of the children. The Year 3 team would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas, a happy New Year, and a well-deserved rest!



Year 4

Year 4 has had an amazing half term! Our theme, "From Farm to Fork," has been a huge hit with the children. They have learnt about the origins of their food and even produced their own salad. They learnt how to cut, slice, and grate in order to accomplish this, so there's no reason why they can't assist with making Christmas dinner this year!

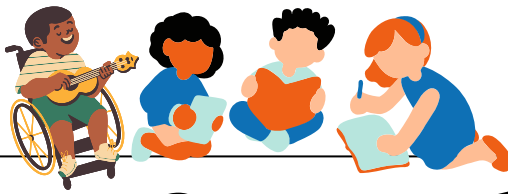
Along with learning about electrical circuits, they have also learnt which materials are insulators and conductors and the children have made fantastic progress with their times tables, thanks to our new Number Sense tables challenge.

Next half term we are excited to be finding out all about the Vikings and have Portals from the Past booked to visit us early in January.

After the Christmas break, PE days will continue on a Monday (inside) and Wednesday (outside) so please ensure that the children have appropriate clothing and that earrings are taken out and long hair tied back. Homework will be given out on a Thursday and be expected in on a Tuesday. Next half term the expectation will be for the children to use TTRockstars and complete a short reading task on Purple Mash – passwords have been sent out, but please see your child's class teacher should you need a reminder.

We wish you a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



Year Group Updates

Year 5

Another very busy two weeks in Year 5. The children have been working really hard in maths and have been converting improper fractions into mixed numbers. In English, they have been writing a narrative linked to the book 'The children of the Benin Kingdom'. In history, they have been continuing with the study of the Benin Kingdom, discussing whether the Benin bronzes should be returned to Nigeria.

In science, the children have been looking at classification and have been grouping plants and animals.

In art, they made their wire tree sculptures, where many of the children showed excellent resilience with a difficult task.

The children had a great time involved in the Christmas activities organised by the HWJS Friends. They made reindeer food, decorated tree decorations and made their own ginger bread biscuit. Finally, Basingstoke Church came in last week to talk about the meaning of Christmas and the children got to enjoy a song and a dance.

Thanks for your continued support. Have a great break.



Year 6

It has been another busy few weeks in Year 6 where we have been continuing to work hard in all areas of our learning. In geography we have been evaluating the positive and negative impact of globalisation on both the fashion and food industries. To finish the topic, this week we have been finding out about how many of the shopping brands in Basingstoke are part of global companies that can be found in different places around the world.

During our English lessons, we have been studying the book 'Real Life Dragons and their Stories of Survival' by Anita Ganeri and Jianan Liu. The book is based on factual 'dragons' such as the Komodo dragon, and tells their story of discovery and survival. From this, we have been designing our own dragons and creating a non-chronological report style text that could be included in this book. Some of the dragon ideas and the stories that go with them have been very imaginative and has been a great stimulus for writing.

We ended our science topic on sound, by investigating whether the amount of water in a bottle changed the pitch and volume of the sound. Some groups blew across the tops of bottles to make their sound whereas others tapped the bottle.

Considering how close we are to Christmas; the Year 6 staff are very proud of how focused the children have been and of how hard they have worked this term. Wishing you all a fun and festive Christmas break.



Student Achievements



A huge WELL DONE to Gabriel from Class 7 on completing his 200 Metre Swimming Badge! A fantastic accomplishment!



Amelia took part in a Junior Master Chef competition where the Mayor was the judge. She made a curry which was creamy, delicious, and was awarded 2nd place.



A massive WELL DONE to Ayda and Harper took to the stage last weekend to perform in their Dance School's end of year shows at QMC. Ayda took part in 5 dances covering Street, Tap, Ballet, Acro. Harper achieved a superb one handed arial cartwheel during her Acro performance and both danced their hearts out for the finale too. The girls have worked so hard to learn all the dances and were absolutely amazing. They should be very proud of themselves.

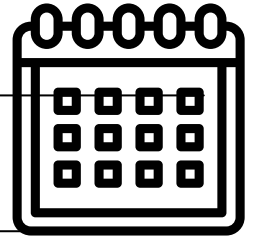


We love to hear about what children are getting up to outside school and be able to celebrate their achievements. If you would like to share any achievement news with us, just email in to the office and we can celebrate in our newsletters.

• However you celebrate this Festive
Season, we would like to take the
opportunity to wish and you your family
a lovely break and we look forward to
seeing you all in the New Year - from all
the staff at Hatch Warren Junior School

We
wish
you
a
Merry
Christmas

Dates for your Diary



Please find below a list of upcoming dates for your diary:

- 19th December - Last day of term! Collection 2.30pm unless advised otherwise via the FORMS.
- 5th January 2026, 9am - First Day back in the Spring Term

Spring Term Dates to follow in the New Year