



Newsletter

Christmas 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the term and year draw to an end I would like to thank you for your support this year and wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope that in the coming days you will be able to find time to enjoy being with your families.

Our newsletter is packed to the brim once more and highlights the very best of what we have accomplished this term. Our newly launched 'Reader of the Week' has been a huge success and the children have loved choosing books from our cabinet as their reading reward. Our Year 6 children completed a successful week at Hilltop in October and we have had many fundraising activities in the past few weeks. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our school and local organisations.

Next term holds just as much excitement, Year 6 are off to sing at the O2 as part of the Young Voices Concert, there is scooter training scheduled for classes across the school and towards the end of term, Year 4 will be getting ready for their own overnight adventure after Easter. There is lots to look forward to.

With very best wishes

Mrs Shenston
Headteacher





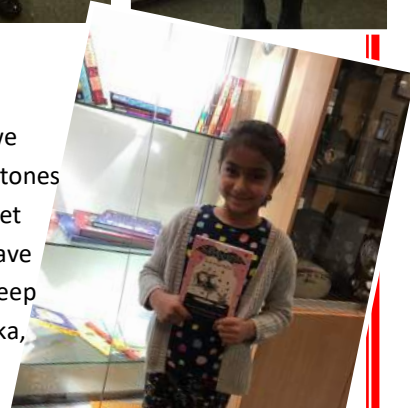
Year 6 residential to Hilltop





Reader of the Week

Thanks to generous donations from families in recent years, we were able to take our School Council to visit our local Waterstones at the end of the Summer term to stock our new glass cabinet with beautiful books. This term our Readers of the Week have been thrilled to be able to choose one of these books to keep and enjoy. Congratulations to Hollie, Jenson, Emily, Marika, Olivia, Mario, Aarohi, Lottie, Heidi, Ellen, Zoya, Amy, Freddie, Amy, Harley, Denny, Joshua and Polina.



Book Review Competition

Ahead of our October Book Fair, we ran a competition for the best book reviews. We had some fabulous entries, so many congratulations go to our winners Toby, Erin, Marika and Alice, who all won £5 vouchers to spend at the book fair.



Harvest Appeal for Bishop's Stortford Foodbank

We were delighted to collect such a large number of donations for Bishop's Stortford Foodbank and they have asked us to pass on their thanks to you for your generosity.



We had fun supporting BBC Children in Need last month, wearing sporty and spotty clothing to take part in the Pudsey Bearpees Challenge with Joe Wicks. Blue-bell Class managed 2071 bearpees over the course of the week!

Thanks to your generosity and our traditional cake sale we raised £458.10 this year!



Poppy Appeal

Clover Class painted some beautiful poppies to mark Remembrance Day.

We had two very heavy collection tins to return to the Royal British Legion and raised £225.95 to boost their annual Poppy Appeal.

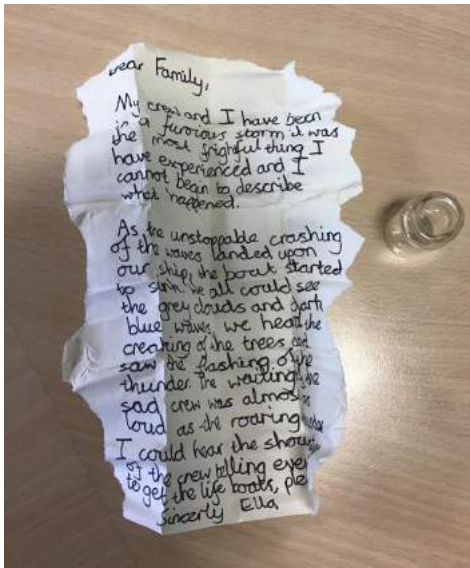


Thank you to all those of you who were able to support our Macmillan Coffee Morning in September—we raised £137.31!



To mark Black History Month, in October our school took part in the Great Big Live Assembly, a virtual assembly connecting together more than 500 schools simultaneously - around 300,000 children.

The Great Big Live Assembly helped children to see: - why celebrating Black History matters - what difference Black women have made and still make to our world - how we can all play our part to make sure everybody feels welcome in our school.



Year 5

The Tempest

Bluebell Class are currently studying Shakespeare's The Tempest - on their first day the classroom tables were set

up to form three ships and the children had to navigate their way through crashing waves and sea spray, which provided inspiration for some impressive writing of letters in bottles from the shipwrecked crews!



Letters to Santa

Snowdrop Class have also been writing letters, but theirs were to Father Christmas. They had a sunny walk to the postbox to send them!



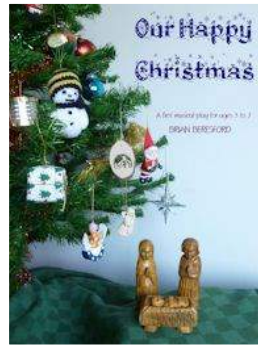


The Dangles!



EYFS Nativity





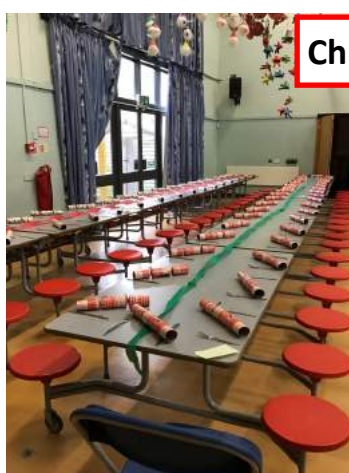
KS1 Nativity



Panto Time!



It was Panto time recently and we were pleased to welcome back local theatre group Market Theatre who raised the roof with two highly entertaining performances of Little Red Riding Hood!



Christmas lunch

We would like to say a huge thank you to our kitchen staff Jackie, Emma and Chloe who cooked and served over 240 Christmas lunches for us last week!



PTA News



Kiki and Albie, winners of the PTA Smiggle Advent Calendar raffle.

Following the PTA Annual AGM earlier in the term, we said a very fond farewell to Jo and Kristy who have worked tirelessly in their efforts to raise funds for the school during exceptionally difficult times, included running events remotely, such as a virtual disco, whilst we were all in lockdown.

We're thrilled that Debbie and Naa have agreed to stay on and we're delighted to welcome Rhona and Sarah as our new Chair and Secretary.

The new committee has got off to a wonderful start, raising over £1000 at their first Halloween Disco and all their fabulous Christmas activities have raised well over £3000, which is amazing!

Thank you to the wonderful team of volunteers who have joined the PTA to help behind the scenes too, many hands really do make light work —we couldn't do it all without you!

We look forward to many more events next year!

Christmas Jumper Day



There were some fabulous Christmas jumpers on display as we raised over £200 supporting Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Grove Cottage!



Christmas colouring competitions



Our Year 4 Buttercup Class were invited to enter a Christmas Card colouring competition held by Jackson Square, and some of their designs are now on display in the shopping centre.



We were also invited to enter the Herts and Essex Hospital Christmas colouring competition and our entries from Heidi in Buttercup, Rafe in Sunflower and Frankie in Snowdrop were all chosen as winners!



Special visitor!

There was much excitement on the last day of term when Father Christmas came to visit—thank you to the PTA for making this possible!



Sports News

Football results:

KAS League (Silver) Year 5 & 6 mixed:

Northgate	1	5	Hillmead
All Saints	1	3	Hillmead
Lt Hallingbury	3	4	Hillmead
Manor Fields	1	1	Hillmead
Howe Green	3	4	Hillmead

Year 5 & 6 Girls:

Manor Fields	2	2	Hillmead
Northgate	2	1	Hillmead
Hillmead	1	4	Reedings

We are currently taking part in two football tournaments—a mixed league through KAS and a girls competition. We are currently top of the KAS Silver League, but have played one more game than some of the other teams, so there's still all to play for next term!



A big thank you to all our pupils who have represented the school in sports events this term, including tag rugby, tri-golf, basketball, cricket, dodge-ball, netball and cheerleading, as well as many football matches.

