



GREAT HOCKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY NEWSLETTER – 20th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for your continued support this term. We hope you enjoyed the Christmas Celebration at the Church, we think the children were so confident in their performances, we were really proud of each and every one of them.

Attendance

Weekly Attendance	Week Ending 29/11/24	Week Ending 06/12/24	Week Ending 13/12/24	Week Ending 20/12/24
Rabbit Class	89%	98.9%	92.7%	82%
Owl Class	96.8%	94.8%	98.1%	98.5%
Deer Class	98%	98.3%	93%	92.7%
Hedgehog Class	95.3%	93%	91.7%	90%

Our Christmas Tree

We were lucky enough to be able to choose our own Christmas Tree from the Christmas Tree Field. A small group of children went with Mrs Garrod to find the perfect shaped tree. It took a while but eventually everyone agreed on one! Thank you so much to Vince Thurkettle who cut it down for us and gifted it to the school. The children then carried it back to school.





All of the children and staff really loved decorating it in our special Christmas Tree Assembly led by Rev Vanessa, whilst singing Christmas carols.

Choir

I took our wonderful choir to sing to the residents of Coronation House Care Home in Thetford. They all wore Christmassy head wear and performed beautifully. The residents loved it and asked the children lots of questions about school and what they wanted for Christmas. I think it may have been the highlight of their day!

Our Nativity

This year we performed our Rabbit and Owl Nativity at the village hall, which was a much better venue for parents to see and hear their children. The children were fantastic in their costumes, using loud voices and learning all of the songs with the actions.

Our Christmas lunch

The children worked really hard preparing the meal; peeling potatoes and carrots, stirring up the batter for the Yorkshire puddings, mixing the stuffing and cutting out heart shaped ginger biscuits. Mrs Garrod did a brilliant job of organising everyone and cooking the dinner, with her special helper Mrs Beatson. Their hard work was much appreciated. The meal was then enjoyed by all of the children, singing Christmas songs and having a very merry time!



Deer and Owl class visits

On the 11th December Owl class went on a school trip to The Bridewell Museum in Norwich. They learned about Florence Nightingale. We interviewed two children from Year 2 and asked them about their time there. They did a range of activities including an information retrieval trail around the Museum and made lanterns, like Florence Nightingale used. They said they loved listening to all of the interesting facts and they would love to go back again.

Written by Alice La Patra and Thea Terzza in Year 6.

Deer class went to the Castle Museum on the same day to learn about the Romans. They met a member of the Iceni tribe and a Roman soldier (both actors) and learnt about how they lived. They looked at various weapons and armour from the Roman times and handled different artefacts that were discovered buried in the ground near Snettisham. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and were impeccably behaved!

Special Visitor

The children were extremely excited to have a visit from the one and only - Father Christmas and his elf! They arrived in his special tractor drawn sleigh, perfect for visits to the countryside!





Parent Forum

Thank you so much to the five parents who attended. The parent forum is a chance for parents to find out more about what happens in school and to discuss a range of topics, so parent voice contributes to continuing to develop and improve the school. We would really like more of you to attend next time so I will send an agenda in advance, and if you cannot attend, but wish to give your views on any topic that we will be discussing, you can email the office beforehand. This time Miss House talked about the History curriculum and taught a history lesson for the parents that Deer class had participated in earlier in the term. There was a chance to ask questions and look at the work that the children had produced.

We then discussed the new school meals so that I can feedback to Aspens on how we would like to move forwards next term, ensuring the service they provide is to a high standard. The parents who attended felt the children really enjoyed the puddings and fishy Friday but weren't so keen on some of the menu options. I will be having a meeting with Aspens in the new year to give all of our feedback.

We discussed the Writing Cafés and how well attended they were. The parents found them really useful and enjoyed watching how their children are taught writing in school. They said this had impacted on how they can support their child at home with developing their writing skills. They requested we plan Cafés in different subjects such as Maths, so they fully understand how to support their children in other subject areas at home too – so watch this space!

Great Hockham has Christmas Talent

Thank you to Miss Wade for organising our Christmas Talent Show. The children performed confidently in front of the whole school and amazed us all with their special talents. There was poetry, magic, singing and dancing. A huge well done to all of the children who took part- we were so impressed!





The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed toward the appeal. We had the heaviest collection tin at 2.45g in the area and raised a brilliant £207.51. Your contributions will help support the Armed Forces Community, past and present.

Friends of Great Hockham Primary School

A huge thanks to everyone who came along (and donated) to our Christmas Fayre last night. Everyone had lots of fun and we can tell you that a staggering £960.87 was raised for the school! That's a truly amazing amount and we (and the children of course) thank you for your generosity. That sum is almost the equivalent of three coaches for class trips!

We hope you all have a relaxing festive break and we will see you at one of our events in 2025. Many thanks for your continued support.

Friends of Great Hockham

And thank you to ...

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to our wonderful Friends committee who go over and above to support the school, organising fun activities and raising money to buy new resources for the children.

We would also like to thank our AMAZING parent helpers who come into school every week to hear readers in different classes or support within the classroom. This really does make a difference to the children's fluency in reading and the progress they make.

Dates for your Diary

January 2024

Tuesday 7th January: Children return to school

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy spending time with your family and friends over the festive period and have a lovely break.

Best Wishes

Lisa Hazard

Mrs L Hazard