

Friday, 17th December 2021



Helmshore News!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, here we are at the end of another busy and exciting term in school. The children have, as always been a delight to teach and work with. They have shown great resilience and determination despite these challenging circumstances. You, the parents and carers, have also been fantastic, supporting your children, working with teachers and forming part of that team with us around your child. Thank you for helping us to support your child's learning and well-being.

The children have been involved in some exciting and innovative projects and topics this term and they have produced some high quality work. There are lots of examples of this shared on Twitter each week so please follow us to view lots of the children's work, special awards and school news.

All the children in Key Stage 1 have taken part in our production of 'Little Robin Red Vest'. They really enjoyed the singing and acting and have created a fantastic film for everyone to share and enjoy. You should have received a link to this production via email and it is also on the school's website. In Key Stage 2, each class has contributed with a reading and a Christmas Carol to form a super a Carol Service including some of our favourite carols. I hope you enjoy watching your beautiful children perform and singing along to get yourself in the mood for Christmas.



As you know, the well-being of both pupils and staff is a key focus in school now, more than ever before. We are able to provide individual children with the personalised support they need via one of our key people in school: Mrs Perry our SENCO, Mrs Jackson our Children's Champion, Mrs Frain our Trauma Informed Schools Practitioner and Ms Kilcullen our School Counsellor. If you feel your child needs any additional support or you have any other concerns please get in touch and we do whatever we can to help.

This term we have remained committed to our Risk Assessment but have tried hard to safely organise as many activities as possible. We were pleased to organise our BBC Children in Need fundraising games and activities in both Key Stage Departments and raised a total of £865.42 for this good cause. We also raised £298.11 for the Poppy Appeal and were visited by representatives of the Royal British Legion who presented a special certificate because our school raised the most money in the area. These are just a couple of fundraising events we have held this term and we are very grateful for your support with these events. This year's virtual X Factor Show has proved as popular as ever and we had several class acts to watch. Some of our pupils are truly talented and have the potential to go right to the top. Sadly, we have just heard that Young Voices has been postponed so we must just hope that it will go ahead at a later date.

During this term, we have had 41 positive cases of Covid 19 in children and 8 in staff and some days we have had up to 37 children absent in one day. We have never witnessed such a high level of absences before. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all members of staff and to you, the parents and carers who have supported school so well by communicating with us promptly and considerately.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and good wishes and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Helmshore Primary school.

Stay safe and well but enjoy the festive season

Christine Myers



If you have not had the opportunity to watch our Infant film of "Little Robin Red Vest", a heart-warming tale of Christmas kindness. The link below will enable you to view the film and we hope you enjoy watching and sharing our little performance with family and friends.

<https://vimeo.com/656475176>

Our infant children have worked very hard at this special performance and we have had lots of fun. It is lovely to see their talents and enthusiasm shining through.

Visit our Twitter page at twitter.com/HelmshoreSchool where you will see regular updates on what we have been doing in school.

Our Key Stage 2 children contributed with readings and Christmas Carols to form our KS2 Carol Service, which we shared with the whole school this morning. I hope you enjoy watching the children perform and singing along to get yourself in the mood for Christmas.

The link below will enable you to view our KS2 Christmas Carol Concert:

<https://vimeo.com/657736604>



Coming Soon ...

Our Key Stage 2 children will be sending you a very special Christmas message which will be available to view on the school website very soon!

Dates for Diary:

17/12/21 ~ School Closes for Christmas	22/03/22 ~ Full Governing Body Meeting
04/01/22 ~ School Opens for Spring term (1)	01/04/22 ~ School Closes for Easter
06/01/22 ~ Y4 Commence Swimming Lessons	19/04/22 ~ School Opens Summer term (1)
07/01/22 ~ HHS Friday Drama session with Y6 (3 wks)	21/04/22 ~ Braiswick Photographic (Class Groups)
11/01/22 – 14/01/22 ~ Life Education Centre Visit	02/05/22 ~ School Closed (Public Holiday)
11/01/22 ~ Life Education - Parent Session 8.50am	05/05/22 ~ School Closed (Inset Day)
14/01/22 ~ Y2 Falconry Visit	09/05/22 – 13/05/22 ~ KS2 SATs Week
15/01/22 ~ Rec '22 Primary Application Deadline	10/05/22 ~ Governing Body Committee Meeting
01/02/22 ~ Governing Body Committee Meeting	27/05/22 ~ School Closes for Half Term
11/02/22 ~ School Closed to Pupils (Inset Day)	06/06/22 ~ School Opens for Summer term (2)
14/02/22 – 18/02/22 ~ School Closed Half Term	09/06/22 & 10/06/22 ~ Y6 First Aid Training
21/02/22 ~ School Opens for Spring term (2)	14/06/22 ~ Governing Body Committee Meeting
25/02/22 ~ HHS Friday Drama session with Y5 (3 wks)	20/06/22 – 23/06/22 ~ Y6 Bikeability
01/03/22 ~ Governing Body Committee Meeting	28/06/22 ~ Full Governing Body Meeting
03/03/22 ~ World Book Day	21/07/22 ~ School Closes for Summer Holiday
03/03/22 – 07/03/22 ~ Scholastic Book Fair	

Primary Admissions Reception 2022 (CLOSING DATE 15th JANUARY 2022)

If your child has a 4th birthday on or between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 they will start school in **September 2022**. Apply on-line at [Lancashire County Council Primary School Admissions](#). You must apply even if an elder sibling is already attending school. The closing date for applications is **15th January 2022**.

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium Funding

Have your circumstances recently changed? Are you now entitled to any of the benefits listed below? If the answer is **yes**, your child could receive free school meals (Year 3 – Year 6), saving you up to £11.75 per week. Even if your child is in EYFS, Year 1 or Year 2 and currently entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals, registering could assist the school in securing additional funding that will enable the school to provide additional support and resources. Currently, financial support is also available during school holiday periods to those families that are entitled and have registered.

The criteria for funding as based on parents being in receipt of any of the following:

- Universal Credit with a household income of **less than £7,400 a year** (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income-Based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, **not** entitled to Working Tax Credit and household income less than £16,190
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Income Support

- Working Tax Credit 'run on' – the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you finish work

If you think you may now be entitled to this benefit, there is an online registration to complete and a decision will be sent to you and communicated with the school.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=3>

School Holiday Pattern – September 2022 to July 2023

The school holiday pattern for the academic year 2022-2023 (Sept 2022 to July 2023) is now available as detailed below.

Helmshore Primary School School Holidays ~ Academic Year 2022/2023

AUTUMN TERM 2022

School opens	School closes
Friday 2 September 2022	Thursday 20 October 2022
Monday 31 October 2022	Friday 16 December 2022

SPRING TERM 2023

School opens	School closes
Wednesday 4 January 2023	Friday 10 February 2023
Monday 20 February 2023	Friday 31 March 2023

SUMMER TERM 2023

School opens	School closes
Monday 17 April 2023	Friday 26 May 2023
Monday 5 June 2023	Friday 21 July 2023

In addition the school will be closed on the following days ~

Thursday 24th November 2022 (Parent Consultation Day)
Monday 1st May 2023 (Public Holiday)
Thursday 4th May 2023 (Polling Day)