

# HARRIETSHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Nurtured We Flourish

13.12.24

Dear Families,

I cannot believe that Christmas is nearly here! It doesn't feel that long ago that we were all starting the new school year in September. We have had another busy week this week, with lots of great celebrations.

### Christmas Fayre:

A HUGE thank you to Patsy and our PTFA for all of their hard work with organising the Christmas Fayre. Thank you also to our staff for their help in setting-up, running the fayre and clearing-up. The event wouldn't have happened without our staff and PTFA family joining hands to make this work. Thanks also to our Governor and parent helpers and to all stall holders who made the event so much fun. We will have news soon of the final amounts raised - watch this space! To see pictures of the Fayre, please see here: <https://www.harrietsham.kent.sch.uk/christmas-fayre-december-2024/>

### YR Show:

On Friday our youngest children, who are just 4 months into their first school experience, performed to the school and to their families in their Christmas Show. They were amazing. They had learnt lines, learnt songs, learnt Makaton signs and also produced some lovely art work with writing too. We are all so incredibly proud of them. Our thanks to their teaching team who did a marvellous job of co-ordinating 52 children whilst ensuring that they had all learnt their songs and signs.

### OPAL Lunchtimes:

Our thanks to all of our families who visited for OPAL play this week. Whilst we are very early on in our OPAL journey, it was lovely to share with you all where we are and what our children enjoy at lunchtimes. It was great to see so many smiling faces, despite the weather. Our huge thanks to our OPAL Play Leaders: Mrs Frost, Miss Bradley and Mrs Mannering, for making playtimes so great for us all.



**Please, if you visited, complete our short feedback form here:**

**<https://forms.gle/6DEVfgWZ4zmkf9QX9>**

**We have a few more exciting events this week, before we break up.**

**Please see below for important announcements.**

Kindest regards,

**Jackie Chambers**

**Headteacher**



Term Dates and year dates for families: [Term Dates](#) | [Harrietsham Church of England Primary School](#)

Parent Calendar: [Calendar](#) | [Harrietsham Church of England Primary School](#)

Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December:	<b>Year 1 Nativity – 9:30am</b>
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December:	<b>Christmas Dinner – Christmas Jumpers allowed</b>
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December:	<b>Christmas Jumpers allowed</b> YR Trip to Post box – Letters to Father Christmas
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December:	<b>Year 1 Nativity – 2pm</b>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December:	<b>Christmas Jumpers allowed</b> Christmas Cards sent out

**TERM ENDS: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

# Puddle Suits - Mud and Wet Weather.

We believe that outdoor play is vital for our children's growth and development. At present our main Forest School site is not in use, due to the fencing going in, but, the children will still be learning / playing outside as much as we can plan it into the curriculum. For this reason, it would be ideal for your children to have outdoor clothing suitable for wet / muddy play, in school every day.

### The Benefits of Outdoor Free Play on Children's Development

Mental Health	Physical Health	Cognitive Health
Better moods Decrease in hyperactivity Decreases in symptoms related to anxiety and depression	More opportunities for movement Decrease in the likelihood of developing obesity or diseases Development of fine and gross motor skills	More opportunities to make decisions and problem-solve Increases in creative thinking Children use higher levels of sequencing, planning, organizing
Emotional Health	Social Skills	Play Skills
Development of empathy Increases in self-esteem Development of emotional intelligence	Increased social interactions Higher levels of sharing, cooperation, helping Decreases in solitary play	Increased creativity Development of higher play skills and play types More opportunities for imagination and engagement




This week I sent out a link about the school purchasing in bulk all-in-one puddle suits for our children so that they can be appropriately dressed for Forest School / Play / Outdoor Learning, despite the weather. I am pleased that we have had a great response with 43 families responding so far, wanting suits in a range of sizes. If you would like to consider ordering a puddle suit for your child, please complete the link below. Prices should reduce if we can order in bulk.

<https://forms.gle/dgYvdNTxX19WqKWE8>



### BENEFITS OF MUD PLAY

- Promotes Creativity & Imagination
- Uses Fine & Gross Motor Skills
- Creates A Total Sensory Experience
- Fosters A Connection With Nature & The Environment
- Boosts Immune System
- Improves Mood & Reduces Stress
- Builds Problem-Solving Skills
- Invites Open-Ended Play Opportunities



Please do keep an eye on our Forest School Site development - the fencing is very nearly finished and the Forest School is now connected to the School Sports field. This means that we very nearly have two secure school sites - one with the school building and playing field, and one, the other side of the footpath, with the Forest School and Sports Field.



# PLEASE HELP - Class Parent Reps

Thank you to those lovely parents who have signed up so far.

We are still looking for Class Reps for the following classes:



- Cygnets (Miss Ashwood)
- Sparrows (Miss Frazier)
- Woodpeckers (Mrs Giannini and Mr Saye)
- Swallows (Mrs Wells)
- Eagles (Mrs Stroud)
- Hérons (Mrs Pickering)



If you could help your child's class, please do let me know  
([headteacher@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk))

## Attendance Matters

KS1

Winner



Cygnets

KS2

Winner



Robins

Year 6: 93.1%

Year 4: 95.3%

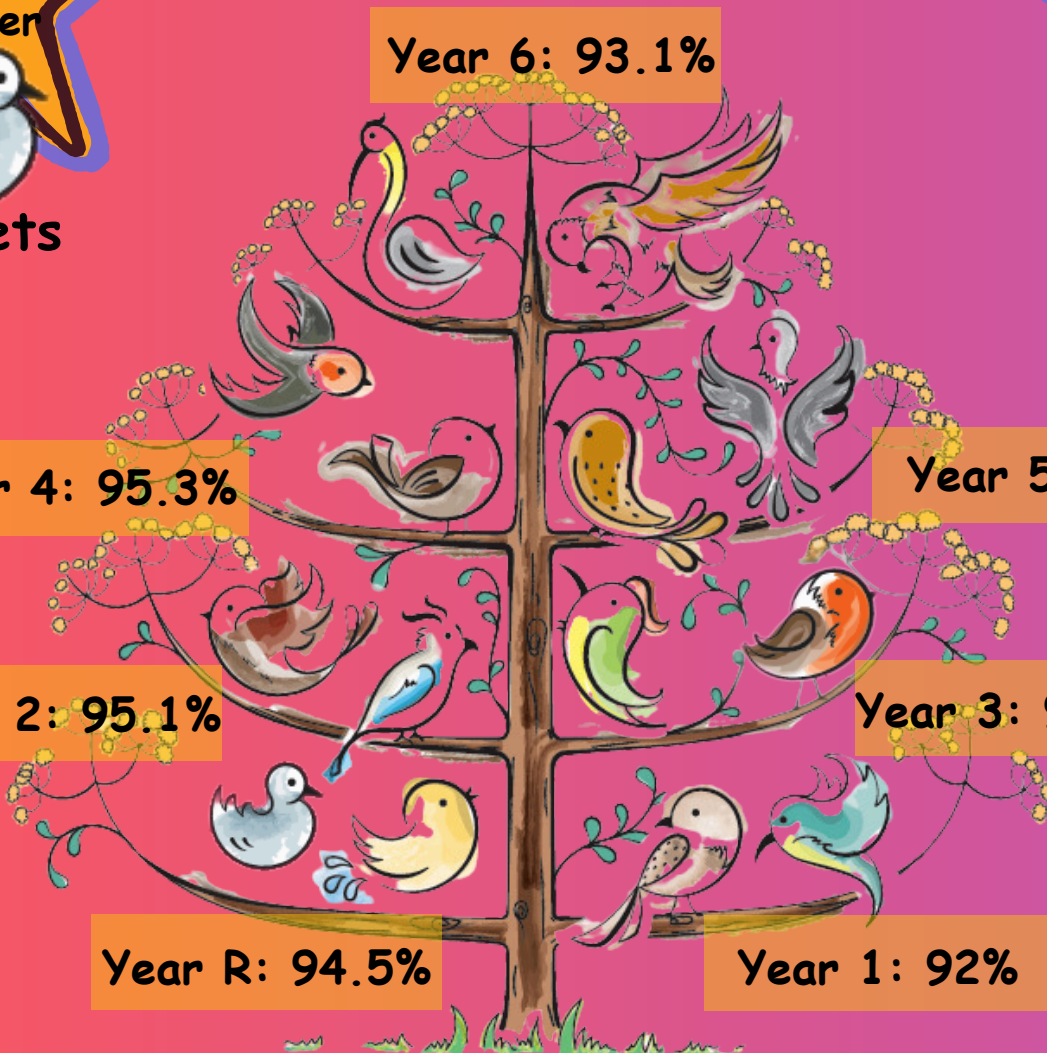
Year 5: 93%

Year 2: 95.1%

Year 3: 95.3%

Year R: 94.5%

Year 1: 92%



### PRAYER GROUP MEETINGS THIS TERM

Please do feel free to join our Prayer Group.

The group meets in the office on the following dates:

Monday 16th December at 2.45pm



# Church Connections

Please see below details of upcoming services and events at our local, St John the Baptist, church.



## Join us this Christmas

St John the Baptist, Harrietsham

### Carols by Candlelight

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> December, 5.30pm

### Nativity Fun with Messy Church

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> December, 3pm

### All-Age Christmas Celebration

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 11am

### Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Eve, 11.15pm

### Christmas Holy Communion

Christmas Day, 11am

### Benefice Carol Celebration

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> December, 11am



MERRY CHRISTMAS

## NATIVITY FUN FOR ALL



### Christmas Nativity Fun with Messy Church

St John the Baptist Church,  
Harrietsham  
Sat 21 Dec | 3pm - 5pm

Come dressed up as a nativity character or have fun with our dressing up outfits.

Craft activities, Christmas Nativity, snacks and drinks to enjoy!



### The Pathways Church Christmas Special!

Lenham Community Centre  
Sun 22 Dec | 5:30pm - 7pm

A special Christmas service for young and old.

With Christmas nibbles, carols and a craft for children to make.



**Do bring family and friends. Everyone is welcome!**