

# Halewood C of E Newsletter

## December 2023



### Message from Mr Catt

Welcome to our newsletter. What a wonderful half term it has been! We have had so much Christmas joy around school over the past few weeks. We could not be more proud of our children.

Our nativities were a huge success. The children did an incredible job in retelling the Christmas story with such confidence and enthusiasm. I am sure you will all agree that it was a magical moment watching our children shining on the stage. The singing, dancing and acting brought so much joy to us all.

We are incredibly proud of our school choir for all they have done this half term. They have raised over £300 for charity, as well as spreading Christmas cheer across the community. They have performed at John Lennon Airport, Jaguar Landrover, Derby Court Residential Home, Halewood Town Council and our Carols by Candlelight evening. They have been truly inspirational.

We have had many successes in sport this half term, thanks to the commitment and dedication of our children and staff. Some stand out performances came from our Year 4 children, who won the Knowsley football tournament, and our Indoor Athletics Team who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in Knowsley. Well done everyone!

This half term, we have been focussing on our school value hope. The children have learnt about the hope that Jesus brings, and how it is our responsibility to spread hope in the world. Christmas is a time for hope. We often have so many things that we hope for: special presents we have put on a list, a nice Christmas dinner with family, visits from special friends. But sometimes we forget the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus the hope of the world. Our Christingle service was a great reminder of this. It was a special moment seeing all our children lit up by candlelight, singing Away in a Manger. This Christmas time, take a moment to stop and say thank you to God for the most precious gift of all.

Finally, I would like to say how sad we are to be saying goodbye to Mr Tunstall. Mr Tunstall has been a teacher at Halewood C of E for 6 years and has brought so much to our whole community. We have been truly blessed to have someone with such talent, passion and energy teaching at our school. He has brought joy to all he has taught and will leave a lasting legacy of sport, music and fun and laughter. On behalf of the whole school community, I would like to say a huge thank you for all he has done and pray that God will continue to bless him as he takes up his next exciting chapter.

As always, thank you so much for your continued support and partnership. Have a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God bless,

Mr Catt



## Mr Tunstall

This term, we said goodbye to Mr Tunstall during a special musical challenge assembly. Mr Tunstall will be missed by children, staff and parents and we send a huge thank you to all he has done for the school and for our children and wish him well in his new role at Cronton C of E

Thank you Mr Tunstall and Good Luck.



## Change to School Day

From January 2024, our school hours for children in Reception to Year 6 will be  
8.40am – 3.10pm

Gates will open at 8.35am



## PPRD

Thank you to parents and carers for attending PPRD in November. It is always a pleasure to share your children's successes with you.

## Nativities

We are so proud of each and every one of our children from Nursery to Year 6 who treated parents and carers to fantastic performances reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. They performed with confidence and sang their hearts out and the joy they brought to the audience was clear to see.



## Christingle



The children and staff came together during our Christingle Service to share the light of Jesus and share His message of hope.

## Christmas Jumper Day and Lunch

We had lots of fun on Christmas Jumper Day! The children looked super festive in their jumpers and accessories. We raised a fantastic £402.00 for our sponsored children.



## Choir

Our choir have treated members of the community to lots of Christmas cheer with their fantastic voices, from people travelling through the airport to those watching the Christmas light switch on in Halewood, rounded off with an evening of Christmas Carols by Candlelight at school.



## Children in Need

Thank you to parents and carers for your kind donations to Children In Need. We raised an amazing £283.50 to support children and young people in the UK.



## Poppy Appeal

This year we raised a fantastic £122.24. Your support makes a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community. Thank you so much.



## Year 5 Robinwood

We are extremely proud of our year 5 children who had a fantastic time at Robinwood. They each challenged themselves from the Giant Swing to Crate Challenge and the famous Pirhana Pool. What a team !



## Visit from the bird man

Thank you to S&R Birds of Prey who brought their amazing birds into school. The children learned so many fun facts and asked some great questions.



## Culture Club

Culture Club has been running this half term for Year 3 and it has been led by one of our fantastic Year 6 pupils. The children have learned facts, sampled food and taken part in a crafts from Florida, Ukraine, France, California, Scotland and China. Thank you so much Miss H !



## Healthy Families

A number of families have taken part in the Knowsley Healthy Families workshops over the past 5 weeks. The final session was a cooking workshop – a great way to complete the course with a festive snowman made of pancakes !



## Attendance

Well done to Year 2 who are our attendance winners this term with 98.3%

Whole school attendance to date is 97.1%

### Class attendance to date

Reception – 96.7%

Year 1 – 97.3%

Year 2 – 98.3%

Year 3 – 96.3%

Year 4 – 97.4%

Year 5 – 96.8%

Year 6 – 96.9%



Congratulations to our Attendance Champions and winners of our Goodie Bags

Reception - Lily

Year 1 - Dolcie

Year 2 - Alanna

Year 3 - Jessica

Year 4 - William C

Year 5 - Grace

Year 6 - Sadie



## Attendance – what do the percentages mean?

We aim to encourage and assist all pupils to achieve excellent levels of attendance and punctuality. Therefore, our target for all pupils is to achieve at least **97%** attendance over the course of a school year, with no unauthorised absences.

This table shows how many hours of learning are missed in line with your child's attendance percentage and number of days missed in a full academic year.

% attendance	Days off school	Number of hours missed learning
100%	0	0
97%	6	30
96%	8	40
94%	12	60
92%	16	80
90%	19	95
80%	38	190

National Online Safety have put together some tips to enjoy a fun filled, tech-free Christmas. Don't forget to send us some photos on twitter !

## Top Tips for a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

It can be difficult to stay away from technology and devices, and sometimes this means that people – of any age – can find it hard to be present in the moment. As a period when families are able to spend some quality time together and enjoy each other's company, Christmas is the perfect opportunity to step away from our phones, laptops and consoles and concentrate on the things that really matter. Follow our top ten tips for a tech-free festive period and make the most of this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

- 1. BOARD GAMES CAN BE FUN (HONEST)**

OK, no one wants a repeat of that incident when your youngest had to pay triple rent on Mayfair, but going back to basics with a card or board game can be a fantastic bonding experience. Choose a game that even the youngest members of your family can enjoy and have a fun tech-free time.
- 2. MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIONS**

Spending time on arts and crafts is a brilliant way to relax and spend some productive time offline. Making your own Christmas decorations as a family can become a wholesome tradition and leave you with some treasured mementos, too.
- 3. GO FOR A WINTER WALK**

Not much beats wrapping up warm on a crisp December day and taking a stroll. Whether alone or with the family, a walk is a fantastic way to clear your head and relish the break from hectic normal life. As an extra festive treat, why not make a flask of hot chocolate to take with you?
- 4. BAKE SOME FESTIVE TREATS**

Not all Christmas cooking has to be a stressful chore that's timed with military precision. Baking some simple festive treats like cookies doesn't have to take hours – and will make sure you're stocked up on tasty things to offer any friends or family members who pop round.
- 5. READ A FAMILY STORY TOGETHER**

Turn story time into an event. Make the living room or bedroom into a tech-free space, light some candles, make some hot drinks and reach for a classic Christmas tale. It's a fantastic way to relax before bed, and the right story will help to get the whole family into the festive spirit.
- 6. TURN OFF NOTIFICATIONS**

It sounds obvious, but turning off email and app notifications can give you more control of your relationship with technology. Getting into the habit of checking your phone periodically – rather than reacting every time a notification arrives – helps you to stay present in the moment.
- 7. FEED THE BIRDS**

Food's hard to come by for wildlife in winter, so helping our feathered friends is a very worthwhile reason to put down those devices and reconnect with nature. Fill a bird feeder in the garden or take a snack for the ducks in your local park (but ditch the bread in favour of oats, rice or birdseed).
- 8. SET DAILY LIMITS**

Many apps and devices let you set reminders to let you know how long you've used them for that day. Setting daily limits puts you firmly in charge of your time and will help to ensure you don't miss out on any family Christmas memories because you're engrossed in your phone or laptop.
- 9. GET ON YOUR BIKE**

Exercise, such as going for a run or a bike ride is an excellent way to burn off some of those Yuletide calories while giving your brain and eyes a break from screen-based activity. Physical exertion also helps reduce anxiety and releases endorphins which can improve your sense of wellbeing.
- 10. MAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF**

There can be a lot of pressure to meet up with friends, make video calls and check in with people at Christmas – but remember that you need time to relax as well. Don't feel guilty about not replying to messages and emails immediately – the holiday is your chance to drop down a gear or two.


**National Online Safety**  
[#WakeUpWednesday](#)

## Child of Excellence

Well done to the winners of our Child of Excellence Awards for the theme of Hope. These children give hope and encouragement to their peers and are amazing role models.



Reception – Freya & Seb

Year 1 – Amelia & Michael      Year 2 – George & Sol

Year 3 – Mila & Oliver          Year 4 – Lois & Toby

Year 5 – Emily & Zach G        Year 6 – Lerryn & Sunny

## Athletics

Our incredible athletics team took part in the Knowsley SSP championships. They showed incredible team work and encouragement and finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.



## Football

Congratulations to the Knowsley Year 4 football champions. A team full of determination, skills and fantastic attitudes.





## Absence and Appointments



If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school office between 8.30 and 9.00am. Calls must be made to us each day and an absence note brought in with the pupil on their return. Unreported absences will be logged as unauthorised.

**WE CANNOT ACCEPT EMAILS AS A REPORT OF AN ABSENCE AND WILL FOLLOW UP WITH A CALL IF AN EMAIL IS RECEIVED.**

Please note that appointment cards or letters will be required for any time taken out of school for medical appointments. We are only able to note this as an authorised absence if we have a letter or card.

## Office Hours

Just a reminder that the school office hours are 8.30am – 4pm.



## Diary Dates

**03.01.2024** – School reopens 8.35am

**02.02.2024** – National Numeracy Day

**05.02– 09.02.2024** – Children’s Mental Health Week

**06.02.2024** – Safer Internet Day

**09.02.2024** – Child of Excellence  
School closes 3pm



## News from Home

We love to hear what you’ve been up to at home.



Keep us posted on twitter  
[@halewoodcofe](https://twitter.com/halewoodcofe)



**Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year**

