



## December 2022 Newsletter



This month's Christian value is **Compassion**, which is linked to the 'Hackthorn Way' value of **Community**.

**'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.'**



### Dear Parents/Carers

The last few weeks have been incredibly busy. We were fortunate to have Reynold Banigo, the current Team GB long jump champion visiting us. He delivered a wonderfully inspirational and motivational presentation at the start of his visit and gave the children the opportunity to ask him questions about his life and career so far. The children were very inquisitive and amazed us with their questions about Reynold's favourite achievements and how he 'bounced back' after disappointments such as injuries, which prevented him competing in the Tokyo Olympics. Reynold then spent some time with the children in smaller groups teaching them about the importance of exercise and nutrition. He showed them his medals and led warming up and strengthening exercises. Many of the children were so inspired that they are now following him online, in the hope that he will get to Paris 2024.

Our FOHS have worked extremely hard to raise funds for the school. We are especially grateful for their efforts organising the Winter Fair, which was well attended. They transformed our reflection area into a cosy Santa's grotto. Our Year 6 pupils manned the traditional games stalls and there was a wide range of other stalls. The 'Guess the teachers' (who were dressed up in Christmas disguises) competition caused great amusement. The children sang enthusiastically at the end of the fair before the raffle took place. The event culminated with the announcement that FOHS would fund the Christmas panto trip (and provide refreshments!) resulting in hearty cheers!

Last week KS2 had their Christmas crafts week while enthusiastic singing resounded from the KS1 classroom as they practised for their Nativity performance of 'Superstar'.

Let's hope the children (and staff) can maintain their energy levels for the final week as we still have a Talent show, Christmas parties, a panto and the Christmas church service to fit in.

Thank you for your continued support during another busy term.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2023!

**Mrs K Appleby, Headteacher**

This term, the governing body have all visited the school as part of our role to monitor the school's clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction. Governors have met with staff to discuss the school's development priorities as well as having had the opportunity to spend some time in lessons. The atmosphere and behaviour in school has been fantastic and it is lovely that the school community has continued to thrive, despite the challenges of the past few Covid years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole school community for your dedication in supporting Hackthorn and of course to thank the staff who work tirelessly to provide so many opportunities for the pupils. We wish you all a lovely Christmas break and a Happy New Year.

**Mrs E Rowe, Chair of Governors**



## Christmas Jumper Day/Talent Show - 9 December

Children may wear their Christmas jumpers instead of their school jumpers with their usual uniform to school on 9 December and pay a donation to 'Save the children' if they wish. Those who have signed up to perform in the Talent show may bring their 'costume' with them and will be able to change during breaktime.

## Christmas Party - 12 December

Children may bring 'party clothes' for the afternoon if they wish. There will be no need for parents to provide any party food - a drink and biscuit will be provided during a brief respite from party games and dancing!



## Pre-School Christmas Arts Afternoon - 13 December (1.30-2.30pm)

Don't forget to spread the word about our Christmas Arts Afternoon to parents of pre-school children coming up to foundation stage age. This is always a popular event so it is important that you book a place.

## Attendance Monitoring

Attendance levels continue to be monitored on a termly basis. We will inform you, via a letter, at the start of each term if we have concerns about your child's attendance.



## Carol Service - 16 December (2pm)

The Carol Service will take place at 2.00pm on Friday 16th December in the village church.

Everyone is welcome! You will be able to collect your children from staff outside in the courtyard at the end of the service. For parents who are unable to attend, we will escort the children back to school after the service and they will remain in school until the normal home-time.

Please note that there will be NO Good Works Assembly on this day.



## Witham Hill Gymnastics (January - March 23)

We are looking forward to lessons at Witham Hill Gymnastics after Christmas. Reception and KS1 pupils will travel every Tuesday afternoon and be taught by qualified instructors from **10 Jan - 7 Feb** (inclusive). After half-term, arrangements will swap so that KS2 pupils will attend from **21 Feb - 21 March**. The cost of these sessions will be funded by Sports Premium but a contribution from parents will be required in order to meet transport costs.

**It is essential for the children to have their correct PE kit in school for these sessions.**

### Topics to be covered - Spring Term

#### KS1

Science:	Senses
History:	Events beyond living memory
Geography:	Locational Knowledge: World Maps
DT:	World Food
RE:	Thankfulness
Music:	Singing and using percussion
PE:	Dance / Gymnastics at Witham Hill
Art:	Colour
DIPSI:	Decision Making
SEAL:	Going for Goals
Computing:	Grouping Data

#### KS2

Science:	Sound (Y3/4) Light (Y3-6)
History:	An aspect of change in Britain since 1900
DT:	Pneumatics (Y3/4) Moving Toys (Y5/6)
PE:	Dance / Gymnastics at Witham Hill
Computing:	Sequencing Music (Y3/4) Spreadsheets (Y5/6)
RE:	Big Questions (Buddhist Belief)
Music:	Ukulele
Art:	Art in Different Cultures, Pattern
DIPSI:	Decision Making
SEAL:	Going for Goals/Good to be Me

### Dates to Remember

9 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
9 Dec	Talent show
9 Dec	FOHS Film night
12 Dec	Christmas Party
13 Dec	Pre-school Christmas craft afternoon
14 Dec	Trip to pantomime

16 Dec	NO Good works assembly
16 Dec	Carol Service in Church
4 Jan	First Day of Term
10 Jan - 7 Feb	KS1 Witham Hill Gymnastics
21 Feb - 21 Mar	KS2 Witham Hill Gymnastics
15 -17 Mar	Y5/6 Residential