



Headteacher News

Although it was two weeks ago, I hope you all enjoyed the October break and are looking forward to this very busy yet special second term. A highlight has to be the arrival of our new exercise equipment. Once again, with hard work, we have been successful in receiving a grant – this time from the Redhill Trust. This addition to our outdoor facilities not only promotes physical fitness and will support the children in being active but also offers a wonderful opportunity for social interaction. I am delighted to see their enjoyment in using it; what truly stands out is the sense of responsibility and care that the children consistently demonstrate especially when helping each other on the new fitness apparatus. It's a testament to the strong sense of community that thrives here, where nurturing and learning go hand in hand. It is wonderful when we receive positive appreciation from parents whether it be in an email or letter – thank you to the parent who did this and expressed how excited their child was to use the equipment. I would like to make it clear that we actively seek and work hard to gain grants. When we are successful in our bids the money donated to us has to be specifically used on what we have said will benefit our children.

The weather was unbelievably kind to us last Friday which meant we were eventually able to hold our special Vision and Values Day. The children lived 'life in all its fullness', *John 10:10*, challenged themselves and like Peter walking on water, strived outside of their comfort zone. Cooking on a fire, whittling sticks and building dens were some of the exciting adventures the children had in Hunton Woods, all organised by Hazel from Buckmore Park Forest School. An appreciation also goes to the Hunton staff who planned wonderful activities for each of our school values. Children 'persevered' building a marble run using masking tape and paper, showed 'compassion' by painting stones and found balloons for their friends. Daffodil bulbs were planted and 'respect' given to our beautiful grounds whilst 'joy' was created by the children composing and performing music.

This week we enjoyed showing round new families on our open day tours this week for little ones starting school in September 2024. Thank you to all our children who were proud to show Hunton at its best! The feedback from parents was extremely positive, with comments about our exciting learning opportunities and of course our wonderful children. There continues to be a real learning buzz at Hunton and it is great that so many visitors are impressed by the quality of provision across the school. As always, the children of Hunton were an absolute credit to their school. Thank you to the PTFA for organising and serving refreshments throughout the tours.

Finally, the school showed respect by holding a minute's silence to remember those who valiantly gave their lives in service for us. Poppies were worn and children stood silently after our Head Boy and Head Girl rang the bell to signify the start and end of this poignant moment. Poppies were laid at our memorial stone for Arthur Borton VC, who was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. We will have some children taking part and representing the school at the Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday.

Have a wonderful weekend.
Mrs Makey



Star of the Week and House points winners



Every week, each class nominates a pupil as 'star of the week' for an outstanding achievement or learning that has taken place. Their achievement will be linked to the Christian value they show. Look out for it on their certificate.

A huge well done to the children who got awarded star of the week! Congratulations for all their hard work.

Our house colours are named after people who reflect our vision of 'life in all its fullness' and we are sharing weekly results of house points.

	w/e 3 rd Nov	w/e 10 th Nov
Devas	-	Juliette
Bannerman	-	Finn & Louie
Porteous	-	Benjamin
Borton	-	Ruby
House points winner	Alessia Russo	Bear Grylls

Winter Weather Guidance

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. The Department for Education states, "Schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather. They play a key role in their communities and by staying open help both their pupils and parents."

We have sent a letter to you this week informing you of the procedure we will use should we ever have to close the school. Initially, you will hear via Teachers2Parents.

Dates



Please note that dates are subject to change. Where possible, we will always try to give as much notice as we can if we need to change a date.

Mondays 13 Nov	Porteous Swimming at Mote Park Leisure Centre
Mondays 13/20/27 Nov 4 Dec	Coding Club 3:20-4:20
Tuesdays 14/21/28 Nov 5 Dec	Christmas Crafts Club 3:20-4:20
Wednesdays 15/22/29 Nov 6 Dec	Tennis Club 3:15-4:15
Thursdays 16/23/30 Nov 7 Dec	Badminton Club 3:20-4:20
Wednesday 15 th November	Borton Cross Country at Mote Park
Friday 17 th November	Non-uniform day
Thursday 23 rd November	Reading cafe
Thursday 30 th November	Year 4 library visit
Friday 1 st December	Non-uniform day – "Bring a bottle" donation for the Christmas Fayre
Monday 4 th – Friday 8 th Dec	Chocolate competition
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Fayre 2pm – 3:45pm
Tuesday 12 th December	Christmas dinner day
Friday 15 th December	Last day of term 2
Wednesday 3 rd January	First day of term 3

On Friday 17th November we will have a non-uniform day where we will be collecting cash donations for the charity "Slide Away"
<https://www.slideaway.org/Support-Slide-Away/Where-does-your-money-go>

Slide Away offers support to children and young people in Kent who have been bereaved of a family member or friend and those who have a parent or sibling with a life limiting illness.



Attendance

Together with yourselves we are sure that you recognise that good attendance enables good learning and progress. It is important that your child is at school on time, ready for learning. Learning does start straight away and being late in class can mean that your child misses the essential start of a lesson and then finds it hard to engage.

In order to ensure that the children have a settled start to the day, we would ask all parents to make sure that their children arrive before their start times.

Borton and Porteous – 8:40am

Bannerman and Devas – 8:45am

Days off school add up to lost learning			
175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, household jobs and other appointments			
0	6	15	19
DAYS ABSENCE (190 school days)	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE
100%	96%	92%	Below 90%
EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE	SATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE	REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT	Persistent Absentee
Best chance of SUCCESS	Harder to make good progress	Less chance of success	CAUSE FOR CONCERN
			Serious concern Possible court action

Every School Day Counts

Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve.

For the past 2 weeks these were the class attendance totals:

Devas: 98% Bannerman: 96%

Porteous: 94% Borton: 92%

Well done to **DEVAS** who achieved the highest attendance for 31st October – 10th November 2023.

Twitter



@huntonceprimary

Remember to check out our Twitter page which is updated on a daily basis with information and photos about what the children have been up to.



PTFA News & Events

pta@hunton.kent.sch.uk

FB: [HuntonPrimaryPTA](#)

Help needed tomorrow 9am-1pm

It's been a long time coming but the PTFA plans for a new shed to store all our fayre equipment etc are finally happening.

If you are free tomorrow morning, please pop along to the school with your spade/fork to help us to flatten the area for our shed base.

You will need to access the school using the staff car park gate, on Bishops Lane.

Any help you can give will be most appreciated.

At the beginning of December we will have our usual annual chocolate competition, whereby we ask for donations of chocolate and then the class who donate the most amount of chocolate (based on weight) will win a non-uniform day in the new year! The results will be pro-rated so the smaller classes (Devas & Borton) won't miss out. Therefore if you see any chocolate on offer over the next few weeks, check the weight and stock up! More information will be sent out soon!

We are still collecting donations of:

Good quality toys and games and new gift sets,

bath bombs, candles, socks or anything new that we can sell in our Christmas shop – "Elfridges". And also any Christmas jumpers/clothing.



Please drop any donations off to the School office, anytime before 9am on 8th December. Thank you in advance for your support.



New playground equipment

Playtimes are important to them and have a significant impact on their social and physical skills. We were extremely fortunate to receive a grant which has gone towards new playground equipment, and we are delighted that the children will have the opportunity to explore as well as keep fit during play times. It is very important to note that this equipment is only for use during school hours, and by children who attend our school. Please ensure that your children do not climb on or use the equipment at pick up and drop off times.

All correspondence that you are sent can be found here: <https://hunton.kent.sch.uk/parents/parent-correspondence/>

If you have mislaid a letter from school or forgotten details about an upcoming school trip, please check the website.

Kent Teacher of the Year Awards

Shine a spotlight on your School's Heroes. Kent Teacher of the Year nominations are now open.

SEK believe that everyone working in the education system plays a vital role in shaping the future of our children. Whether it's a teacher who has gone above and beyond to support their students, support staff who keep everything running smoothly or a volunteer who has made a significant impact on their school community.... SEK want to hear about it!

<https://sekgroup.org.uk/community-support/awards-and-competitions/awards/>

Coats and PE kit for cold weather

Please make sure that your child is suitably attired for school now the weather has turned colder. They do need a coat for break and lunch times as they will, of course, normally be outside for a period of time.

Can you please also ensure that your child brings in a tracksuit or 'old' sweater and jogging bottoms for outdoor games lessons. Trainers are also best for outside PE. They can be left in school in your child's PE bag. It is important that all children take full part in PE and games lessons and are suitably clothed for outdoor sessions so that they can enjoy them without getting too cold. We are sure you will support us in trying to encourage them to adopt healthy lifestyles now and in the future.

Cauliflower Cards

Thank you to everyone who took the time to draw their lovely designs. We placed 33 orders and we received commission of £49.50, which is an amazing result for a small school like Hunton. We can't wait to receive the items and see the children's artwork turned into Christmas cards, labels, notebooks, gift tags and mugs! We will send you a message when your order is ready to collect from the school office.

Contract Dining – staff required



The Contract Dining Company are looking to recruit in all areas for kitchen assistants and cook managers, to work within their primary schools. Hours are term time only, so if you would be interested in joining a great team, please contact our office manager for more details: Petra Thorpe - 01622 890922



Hunton Church of England Primary School Newsletter



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Maidstone, Kent
ME15 6LP
Telephone: 01622 674064

Homeless Care Limited. Registered office: 15 Knightrider Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6LP
Telephone: 01622 674064. manager@homelesscare.org.uk. www.homelesscare.org.uk

Dear Friends at Hunton C of E Primary School,

23/10/2023

Thank you for your very kind donation to Homeless Care, we solely rely on the kindness and generosity of our community, so we can improve the lives and prospects of our homeless and vulnerable clients in our Borough. In these difficult times, it is heart-warming to know that there are people, such as yourselves, on whom we can rely on to keep our services operational, which allows us to provide the right support to those who need it.

On behalf of Homeless Care, we thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Louth'.

Mike Louth – Homeless Care Manager, Staff, Volunteers and Trustees.