



Open Session: thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came along to Open Session on Monday. We hope you found it a useful opportunity to chat with the teachers and look at your child's books. It was great to see so many families admiring the art exhibition too!

LOVE YOUR HEART

Class 5 took part in a fantastic workshop with the charity DIPPS – Defibrillators in Public Places – for 'Love your heart month'. They learned about important life saving techniques, CPR, the recovery position, how to use a defibrillator and how to respond to emergency situations. Thank you to Sporting Futures for funding this opportunity for our Year 5 children.



Badminton Festival

A big well done to all the children who took part in the SSFT Badminton Festival last week. They learned a lot of new skills and played a range of games alongside children from other schools. They were enthusiastic, determined and brilliantly behaved – well done!





Books needed for Kenya

One of our parents is working with a brilliant local charity called 'Just Be A Child', which sets up libraries in Kenya. They're currently boxing up books for the next shipment to Kenya in June and would love any books that you no longer need. Please bring any donations (baby, child or adult books) in after half term (w/c 20-24 Feb) - there will be a donation box in reception. Thank you!

WORLD BOOK DAY



Advance notice for costume planning purposes!

World Book Day is one of the highlights of the school year at St Ippolyts and this year takes place on **Thursday 2nd March**.

Everyone in school dresses up as a story character and the children take part in a fancy dress parade in the morning with prizes for the most inventive or original costumes. We spend the whole day on book-related activities, and it is always lots of fun.

The Book Fair is returning!
23rd and 24th February

To celebrate World Book Day, every child will be given a £1 book token which can be spent at the Book Fair.

Scholastic Book Fair



PTA Dates for your diary

23rd and 24th February: Book Fair before and after school

3rd March: Disco 5.30 -7pm Bookings open soon

10th March: Class 3 Cake Day

Thank you to Class 4 for supplying a wonderful selection of sweet treats for last week's Cake Day!

Thank you to everyone who supported our efforts at Christmas to collect wrapping paper and selection boxes for the hamper appeal. Read on to find out more about how much your contributions helped!

Hitchin Christmas Community Team 2022

A local collaborative approach to help people in our community

Hitchin Hampers 2022 - Our 8th Year!

Another amazing year of support from our community, schools, sponsors, contributors and team members has helped **175 families** at Christmas 2022.

The team starts planning early during the year, with the current cost of living crisis we were very concerned we may not be able to support the same number of people or provide meaningful amounts in supermarket vouchers for our recipients. We identify our hamper recipients through professionals; reasons can include: low income, have experienced a bereavement or trauma, have physical and or mental health difficulties. Our hampers provide support and what can be **a financially and emotionally difficult time**. They also say someone is thinking of you and **cares** about your needs.

Thankfully, with the efforts of the group and the generosity of our community we surpassed our achievements of 2021 increasing from helping 160 to 175 families.

175 families helped
including over 400 children



Thank you to the team involved

A local collaborative approach to help people in our community



- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hitchin Partnership CIO | Foodbank (Hitchin) |
| Rotary Club of Hitchin Tilehouse | Hitchin Round Table |
| Hitchin Youth Trust | Feed Up Warm Up |
| Zeo Church | Your Local Pantry (Hitchin) |
| Hitchin Volunteer Army | Hitchin Food Rescue |
| Salvation Army (Stotfold) | |

None of this is possible without support and collaboration



Our Amazon Gift List

Stotfold Salvation Army Captain Adrian and Captain Gemma put together the Amazon Gift Wish List for children aged up to 11 years old. They were on first name terms with the Amazon Drivers towards the end of the appeal! We had over 260 children 11 and under and all received a gift.

100 Toiletry Gift Bags

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Hitchin Tilehouse who kindly put together 100 toiletry bags filled with toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, flannel and extras.

Selection Boxes

Hitchin Boys School
Samuel Lucas JMI School
Ickleford Primary School
Highbury Infants and Nursery
William Ransom Primary School
Our Lady's Church
Churches Together

We had an abundance of selection boxes to give to all the children.



Activity Books & Pen Sets

Our gift bags were complemented with Activity Books and Pen Sets

Thank you to our schools
Wilshere-Dacre Junior Academy, St Andrews CofE Primary School, Oughton Primary & Nursery School, Wymondley JMI School, Purwell Primary School, Whitehill Junior School, Pirton School, Strathmore Infant & Nursery School

Gift Vouchers

We were able to give One For All Gift Vouchers to older teenagers with the donation of £1,000 from Hitchin Youth Trust.

Pyjamas

Thank you to Cosaraf Charitable Foundation who provided a grant of £1,000 to purchase pyjamas. With a little extra support from Hitchin Partnership we provided pyjamas to all children 6 and under, giving around 150 pairs of pyjamas in addition to the gifts.



Wrapping Paper and tape

Wrapping paper and tape is put in the bag with the presents enabling the parent carer to wrap the gifts for their children.

St Ippolyts
St Paul's Walden
Mary Exton
Rotary Club of Hitchin Tilehouse

Sleigh Rounds

We were very pleased to join Hitchin Round Table on their sleigh rounds. It was a particularly cold couple of weeks with snow and ice but this did not deter the team and the volunteers. So lovely to see the children (and grown-ups!) waiting to say hello to Santa.

Gifts

In addition to the Salvation Army Appeal, Zeo Church donated gifts for children aged 12 to 14. We also had a donations of gifts from members of the public.



Volunteers

Many of those involved in the planning and organisation are volunteers providing expertise and time to help us provide this support. Thank you to Anne and Suzanne our volunteers on the planning team. Thank you to Anne for Christmas Cards. We have many volunteers who help on the day, picking and pack and then deliver to the families.

Our Sponsors



Special Thanks

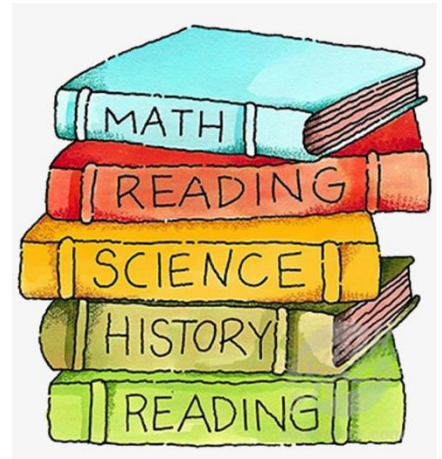
The Valiant Charitable Trust
Lottery Community Fund
North Herts District Council
The Late Councillor Judi Billing
Councillor Keith Hoskins
Members of Rotary Club Hitchin Tilehouse
Members of the public for donating and buying gifts.
Hitchin Art Club.

This week's article from our Pupil Journalists, Annie & Lily

On Monday, parents and carers were given the opportunity to come in after school at 15:30 to look at what their children have been up to in class. They could even pop into the corridor to have a closer look at the artwork displayed.

Class five had a lesson on DIPPS and DRS ABCD. DIPPS stands for Defibrillator In Public Places, DRS ABCD represents: Dangers - do not put yourself or others in danger. Response - Shake gently and shout loudly. Shout - Shout for help, call 999. Airways - Check if the airways are clear, carefully tilt the head back. Breathing - Look if they are still and feel for normal breathing. Compression - two rescue breaths and thirty chest compression, continue this until emergency arrives. Defibrillator - If a defibrillator is available, open and follow the instructions on the machine as well as the voice prompts.

Last Friday, class four children brought many different cakes, brownies, cookies and more. The cakes were absolutely delicious and class four had done an excellent job baking and bringing in the deserts. Thank you, class four and the adults and parents who helped, organize and helped with the lovely goodies.





Hertfordshire
**Family Centre
Service**



Want to know more about the Public Health School Nursing team in Hertfordshire?

Check out our platforms:



<https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/info-and-advice/parents-and-mums-to-be/school-nurses.aspx#>

www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing



07480 635 050

Confidential text message service ran by the school nursing team for 11-19 year olds. Text in any health and wellbeing concerns



@hct_schoolnursing

@teenhealth.hct



@HCT_SchoolNurse



🔍 Hct SchoolNursing



www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire



www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire



School nursing duty number

0300 123 7572

9am – 5pm Monday to Friday
(excluding bank holidays)



Welcome to the February 2023 Half- Term Craft Events at the British Schools Museum!

This February half-term and beyond we have:

- We have Valentines & other Crafts for school-age children over the Half-Term in our historic Monitorial Schoolroom,
- Traditional Maypole dancing,
- Crafts for pre-schoolers in our Stay & Play Café, and
- Hitchin Children's Book Festival @ the British Schools Museum

February Half-Term Crafts

Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th February @ 10am-12noon.

Come to our historic Monitorial Schoolroom and make crafts, from woven heart-baskets to pop-up puppets, valentines baubles to family cards, there's something for everyone.

£7 per child taking part (younger children welcome to come and play with the toys provided whilst their paying sibling crafts!)



See <https://bsmevents.yapsody.com/> for ticket booking

Dancing for Fun!

Wednesday 15th February @ 10am – 12noon

Welcome in Spring with traditional English Country dancing, including around our historic Maypole!

Suitable for children age 6+, no prior experience is necessary.

Refreshments provided for the dancers at break time, come and learn a wonderful new skill.

See <https://bsmevents.yapsody.com/event/index/723255/dancing-for-fun> for ticket booking



Valentines Crafts for Pre-Schoolers at our Stay & Play Café

Weekdays Tuesday 7th February – Tuesday 14th February, 10am – 2.30 pm
£4 per child

Come to our Stay & Play Café for pre-schooler Valentines Crafts, from pop-up cards to hand-print hearts. For accompanying parents there is a special £4.50 offer on a coffee and special heart-shaped biscuit cake.

See <https://bsmevents.yapsody.com/event/index/759005/all-day-valentines-crafts-in-the-caf> for ticket booking.



Hitchin Children's Book Festival

Saturday 4th March at the British Schools Museum in partnership with Next Page Books:

Morning: 10am – 12noon

Afternoon: 1pm-3pm

Come to the Museum to join us in celebrating all things Book! With talks from celebrated Children's authors including Harry Woodgate, Camila Chester, and Chloe Savage, as well as story telling sessions and book-related crafts.

Book for a morning session or an afternoon, or get an all-day ticket and join us in our love of all things literary.



See <https://bsmevents.yapsody.com/event/index/759007/hitchin-childrens-book-festival> for ticket booking.