



## ARTS DAYS 2024

It has been a great week for creativity! Each class has spent this week focussing on their art topic for this half term; it has been a wonderful opportunity for children to be fully absorbed in their learning and skills development. We will upload a full set of photos onto the school website soon so you can see the children in action.

Each class will be displaying their work in the main entrance of school, showcasing the journey of their learning from initial ideas, experimenting with new skills, through to their final piece. You will be able to see the exhibition if you come to Open Session on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February.



# The return of Covid... 😞

Unfortunately, we have had a lot of children with Covid symptoms in school recently. Whilst the 'rules' are no longer in place like they used to be, we are still trying to keep everyone safe and well. We continue to have well-ventilated classrooms and shared spaces and continue to promote regular handwashing with the children.

We are following the NHS guidance on Covid: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do/>

## **COVID-19 symptoms can include:**

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

## **What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19**

Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you or your child have symptoms and either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to work, school, childcare, or do your normal activities

You can go back to your normal activities when you feel better or do not have a high temperature.

If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can go to school or childcare.

## **What to do if you have tested positive**

If you or your child have tested positive for COVID-19:

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day the test was taken if you or your child are under 18 years old – children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults
- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days after the day you took your test if you are 18 years old or over
- avoid meeting people who are more likely to get seriously ill from viruses, such as people with a weakened immune system, for 10 days after the day you took your test



## IMPORTANT: Sickness and illness reminders.

**We have had a lot of poorly children over the last week. Please help us to contain the spread of illness amongst the children and staff.**

**Sickness and diarrhoea:** Children need to stay off school for **48 hours** after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea to avoid the spread of tummy bugs.

**Covid:** If your child's illness is confirmed as Covid (see previous page) please do let us know so we can be extra thorough with cleaning.

**Coughs and colds:** If your child has a light cold and is otherwise ok to be at school, please remind them about good hand hygiene and ensure they have tissues in their bookbag.

**Thank you for your vital cooperation to help us keep everyone fit and well this winter.**

## LONG HAIR (AND HEADLICE...)

**We have had a few cases of headlice reported in school recently** so please do check your child's hair regularly and treat where necessary. Hair that is tied back properly helps to prevent the spread of headlice.

There is useful advice and information about headlice on the NHS website:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

## YEAR 6 PARENT CONSULTATIONS

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 9.15am – 5.00pm**

Bookings will open soon for Year 6 parent and child meetings with Miss Walker. They are taking place across the whole day and there will be a mix of face to face or online meetings. *Please be aware that Miss Walker will only be offering meetings on this day and alternative dates will not be available. Many thanks.*

## Open Session ~ Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 3.30–5.30pm

We do hope you can come along to the next Open Session and that you will enjoy seeing your child's classroom, their books and teacher. A reminder that these are informal 'drop ins' and you do not need a set appointment.

**Classes 3, 5, and 6: Use the Class 5/6 doors**

**Classes 1, 2 and 4: Use the main entrance**

*Please be aware that buggies and prams cannot be brought into the building.*

## Class 5 Assembly Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 9.15am

Please note that Class 5's assembly will take place in St Ippolyts Church. Parents of Class 5 children are very welcome to come along to hear all about their learning.

# Can you help?

We are looking for a kind volunteer with accounts or bookkeeping experience to look over the Governing Body bank accounts.

The funds that Governors control are modest, but we still need independent scrutiny to ensure that everything is above board. We do not necessarily need anyone with an accountancy qualification, just a competent person with some accounting knowledge to check that our income and expenditure balance with the bank accounts.

We anticipate that the task should take no more than a 2-3 of hours. If you are able to help, please contact the school office.

Many thanks.

**Mrs Luxton, Chair of Governors**

## STAFF UPDATE: CLASS 2

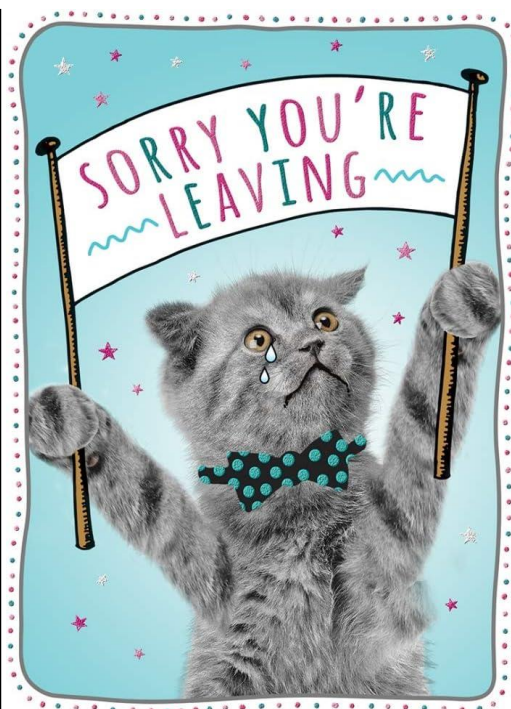
Next week will be Mrs Niven's last week with us; she is moving house with her family to Cambridgeshire. We are SO grateful for all Mrs Niven has done for our school over the last year, covering Miss Ingle's maternity leave so brilliantly. Her last day will be Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January.

Up until half term, Mrs Niven's usual days (Mon, Tues, Weds) will be covered by Mrs Keech, one of our stand-in teachers who knows our school very well. After half term, Miss Ingle will be returning, and the job share days will be as follows:

Miss Ingle: Mon/Thurs/Fri

Mrs Hoar: Tues/Weds

**Good luck for the house move, Mrs Niven ~ we will miss you very much!**



## Sports activities this week

Well done to all the children who took part in sporting events this week. A group of children from Year 2 took part in the SSFT Festival on Monday, and the Y3/4 boys footballers braved the cold to play in the rural schools rally. Well done to you all!





# A thank you from Link to Hope

Thank you so much for all your shoeboxes and donations!

The final total was 26,417 Family & Elderly Shoeboxes.

Through your generosity, not only were we able to send thousands of shoeboxes to Ukraine we were also able to fund several short-term projects over the Christmas period. We are very aware of the continued plight of IDF (internally displaced people) who remain as refugees in their own country without homes or belongings. We funded a soup project, Christmas meals, food parcels for families with disabled children, support of injured soldiers and mothers and families living in a safe house.

This Winter between November - March, Link to Hope has been funding a soup kitchen in Chirpan, a very poor village in Bulgaria. When we visited in April last year, we were very aware of the situation of the children and the elderly. Although we visited in the Spring the Winter is particularly challenging due to low winter temperatures, inadequate housing, poor clothing and general lack of food. During these months we have been able to feed around 40 children twice a week in the local community centre. Food is also taken to the most vulnerable elderly in the village.





# Bag2School Fundraiser

Thank you for all your  
donations to the Bag2School  
collection yesterday!



# CLASS 4 CAKE DAY!

FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY

Dear Class 4 parents,

The PTA are holding a cake sale on 2<sup>nd</sup> February to raise funds for school. This time it is the turn of Class 4 to each supply small cakes or biscuits to sell on the day. Please make sure that any tins, plates or containers are clearly named.

We would be very grateful if you could **donate 15 cakes for cake day**, to ensure that we have enough to go around & the children are not left disappointed. These cakes /biscuits can be either homemade or bought. You may want to plan some kitchen time to make or decorate the cakes with your child! **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CAKES MUST BE NUT-FREE.**

The cakes will be sold during the morning break to the whole of the school, any remaining cakes will be sold outside school at home time. We hope that you will be able to support us with this event, and we thank you in anticipation.

Thank you from The PTA





# LEARNING



Class 4 have been investigating polygons, sides and angles in maths. They used a range of practical resources for their problem solving.



In Science, Year 6 made a blood model to learn about red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and plasma.



Class 1 enjoying PE at the village hall.



Class 2 began their science topic on plants by investigating different kinds of seeds.



### Art

This week, our annual Arts days will begin! This could be hugely exciting for many students, especially those of you who love art, as well as Class 1, who will be experiencing their very first one. Finally, we can break free from our usual timetable and escape from all of our Maths and English, only to paint, draw and be free! All classes will be focusing on a different area of art, from sketching to abstract. Read on to find out more about The Amazing World of Art!

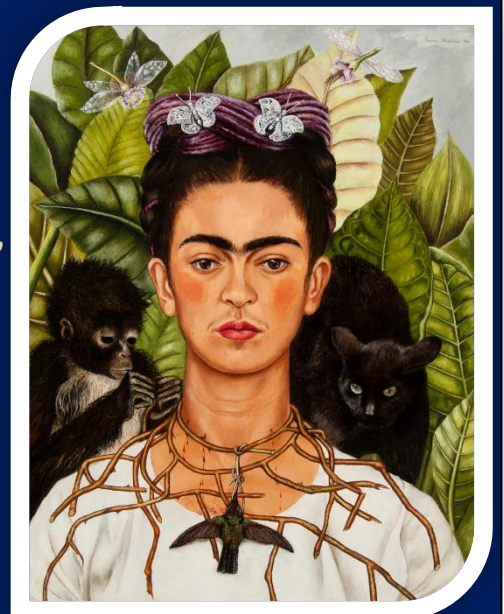
As well as being super fun and allowing your mind to wander free, art can also be quite beneficial for our mental and physical health. Drawing, painting or even just doodling can help us find our way when injured or unwell, get us through hard emotional times and motivate us to recover. Letting our creative spark spread can relieve stress, as well as fuelling our creativity.

### Artists

There have been so many amazing and very famous artists over the years, as well as so many amazing pieces of art. Here are some bizarre facts about incredible artists:

Frida Kahlo was a remarkable artist, famous for her self-portraits.

In 1925, when Kahlo was 18, she was traveling by bus when it was involved in a severe accident. This caused her life-changing injuries. As the bus crashed, all her golden paint that she had with her covered her body, as well as some golden flakes another passenger was holding, getting Frida the nickname "The Golden Ballerina".

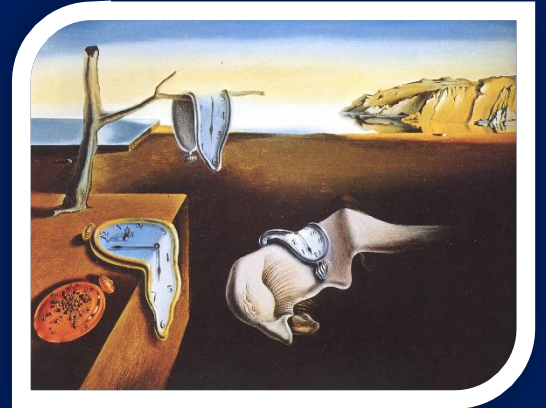




Vincent Van Gogh is an extremely famous artist, known for many paintings, although his most well known ones are "The Starry Night" and "Sunflowers". However, there is one jaw dropping story about Van Gogh, and it will definitely surprise you. In 1888, Van Gogh had got into a large argument with his partner, Paul Gauguin, and during an attack, Van Gogh cut off his own ear!



Salvador Dali was famous for his art with the theme of death and decay, however, he is most famous for his "Persistence of Memory", an image of three melting clocks. This strange yet incredible piece of art was created in a very bizarre way. When Dali was having a dinner party with his friends, he started to feel unwell and decided not to go to the movies with them. Earlier during the party, they had been eating camembert cheese, and Dali found himself staring at the leftovers. The cheese then started to melt, and an amazing idea sparked in his mind. This melted cheese inspired him to create the melting clocks!



I'm sure everyone will really enjoy Art Days and learn a lot about art!

#### Reminders

- The work on the leaky roof has finally started! If there are no interferences, the roof should be done by February half term.
- After School Clubs will start this week, and remember that handball and rapid fire cricket will be held in the village hall.
- The Class 5 assembly will take place on the 26th January.

#### Quote of the Week

"If you hear a voice within you say 'You cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced."

-Vincent Van Gogh



We have several children in school who have severe nut allergies. Please help us to keep them safe by ensuring packed lunches do not have any nut-based products. This includes Nutella spread. Many thanks for your cooperation.

**PLAY**

**NETBALL**



**WELCOMING YEAR 3 IN SUMMER 2024**

**Introduce your child to the world of netball,  
make new friends and have lots of fun!**

● Training will be on Tuesdays 5-6pm (term time) at The Priory School, Hitchin



**BOOK ONTO OUR FREE TASTER SESSION 16TH APRIL**

Visit: [www.hitchinnetballclub.co.uk/registration](http://www.hitchinnetballclub.co.uk/registration)

Email: [contact@hitchinnetballclub.co.uk](mailto:contact@hitchinnetballclub.co.uk)