



Heads welcome

Happy Christmas to all connected to Hawthorn Tree School.

After fifteen weeks of teaching and learning, everyone is certainly ready for a rest. It has been one of the longest Autumn Terms I have known in education and one in which we must reflect on and be pleased with. I'd like to thank the pupils and parents for their hard work in making the start of year settled and successful. Indeed, everyone's support at the performances, Carol services and in-house school events such as the workshops are important to us and to our pupils. Another thank you go to the entire staff team who have continued to 'magic weave' (please Google Sir John Jones – you will be inspired) with our pupils as they promote the love of learning, ensuring our discipline is to the schools exacting standard and for going that extra mile to ensure we achieved the best possible outcomes.

One final thank you must go to John Poucher, who stood down in November as the Chair of Governors. His commitment, passion, challenge and resilience during his three and a half years as Chair ensured that that the governance and leadership standards continued to improve and rise. John Ailsby has been chosen to succeed and we look forward to John continuing on his predecessor's good work.

As we enter our 50th year, it is important to reflect on how far the school has grown and developed. From starting out in 1968/69 as a four-class infant to a two-form entry all through primary, the school will certainly never stop growing and developing its core purpose – delivering a quality education for our community and giving our pupils the best foundations for learning. Finally, I hope to see everyone back on Monday 7th January 2019, refreshed and raring to attack the new year with vigour, enthusiasm and enjoyment.

Mr. Kelwick

Staff news

It is with sadness that we announce the departures of Mrs Jo Ball and Mrs Kylie Griffin at the end of this week. Mrs Ball is leaving us to embark on a new career in the NHS whilst Mrs Griffin is joining Swineshead School in January. All of us would like to wish them both all the very best for in their future endeavours.

We would like wish Miss Acton all the very best as she heads off on maternity leave at Christmas. Replacing Miss Acton is Mr Mitchell who is internally transferring from Reception class. Returning to school in January are Mrs Myers, Mrs Ferguson and Mrs Freiston. We are delighted to welcome them back to Hawthorn Tree School in time for the start of Term 3.



Mayoral visit and the start of our 50th birthday

On Monday 17th December, we were delighted to welcome Cllr Judith Skinner, the Mayor of Boston, into school, along with her husband, Cllr Paul Skinner and our previous head teacher, Mr Martin Lister, to start the schools 50th birthday celebrations for the year.

The Mayor planted a special Hawthorn Tree outside of the school entrance and unveiled a plaque to commemorate this as well as touring the school and staying to cut a special 50th cake and for an informal drinks' reception with staff and governors. A new bench, which has been donated by Mr. Lister and Mr. Kelwick now resides outside the entrance doors as a present to the school and for anyone to use it – we hope when the weather allows! Cllr Skinner attended the school when it first opened back in 1968/69 and it has been an important part of the Skinner's family life. Later in the year, we are looking forward to welcoming the Cllr's Skinner's back along with Matt Warman MP and Mr Lister for the schools 50th birthday week. To commemorate this special year, the school are selling limited edition 50th anniversary Hawthorn Tree teddy bears (see below, £6.50), PE bags (£3.70), Pens (1.00p) and Bookmarks (1.10p). These will go on sale in the New Year and will be located in the foyer.



School performance tables

On the 13th December, the 2017/18 school performance tables were released. Schools are compared like for like with regards to Attainment and Progress (how well pupils did in Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2) against other primaries and junior schools within Lincolnshire. The key highlights for HTS were; Top 10% for writing progress and top 20% for Maths progress.

The Christmas Fayre

We are delighted to report that the PFA raised £450 from the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 24th November. A huge thank you to Sonia, Paula and the volunteers who helped throughout the day. The atmosphere was lovely and the range in stalls were excellent. We would also like to thank the PFA for funding the bowling and play towers parties for Key Stage 2 and all EYFS and Key Stage 1 gifts. Don't forget the following events for 2019; Valentines Disco (Friday 8th February 2019) and Summer Fayre (Saturday 29th June 2019).

Unfortunately, Sonia and Paula will be leaving the PFA in July 2019 and we are yet to find any replacements. If anyone is interested, please contact the school and we can happily liaise with Mrs Scott and Mrs Ground who have prepared and organised everything connected to PFA for this and next academic year.



Sport

In girls football so far this season, the team sit top of the league with ten points from the first four games, an unbeaten start. At the girl's football tournament in early December, the A team came 5th and the B team came 10th, but the highlight of the day was the A team winning the sportsmanship award. A superb achievement and one we're proud of as a result of their amazing sportsmanship. Meanwhile, the boys have matched the girls with their unbeaten start, seven points from the first three games and have also booked a semi-final place in the Woodthorpe Cup against Wyberton. Football in 2019 promises to be nerve racking and exciting! A number of our Year 3's participated in the Change4Life event. The pupils were accompanied by Mrs. M. Smith and Mrs Sykes who were delighted to inform us at school that they represented the school superbly.

There are more sporting events in 2019 planned, these will be shared through our calendar platform on the website along with results of ongoing match and competition fixtures.

Uniform

In case you missed the announcement on the last newsletter, we have joined with Nationwide School Uniforms as another one of our 'official' uniform stockists alongside Oldrids. Visit website, <http://www.nationwide-schooluniforms.co.uk> to view the Hawthorn Tree uniform collection.



Traffic news

This is a polite reminder that the zig zag areas outside of school, the Community Centre and on Toot Lane and Clifton Road are there for a reason: to ensure access at busy times to these places. There have been a number of occasions this term where cars have been parked in prohibited places which has caused some near misses. Whilst it is not normally an offence in itself to park on the zigzag lines, drivers who do park there could commit an offence of causing an obstruction. In some areas the zigzag lines are accompanied by a traffic regulation order which does make it an offence to park there. Please can we ensure we continue to work together, as a community, in order to keep everyone safe outside of school.

Attendance Information

Please note, Parents must ask for permission in writing for any absence at least two weeks before the requested absence. Absence can only be authorised in 'exceptional circumstances'.

Appointments during the school

Please inform the school, as soon as possible, any upcoming medical or 'out of school' appointments which impacts on school attendance. This term has seen an increase in the number of 'last minute' appointment requests.

Selected upcoming term dates (please check the website for more events as dates added on a weekly basis)

7 th Jan 2019	School reopens for Term 3	25 th Feb	School reopens for Term 4
11 th Jan	Year 3/4 Sportshall Athletics	1 st Mar	Secondary school offers sent out
14 th Jan	School nurse visit for Reception and Year 6 pupils' height and weight measurements	7 th Mar	World Book Day
15 th Jan	Applications close for 2019 Reception intake	15 th Mar	Red Nose Day
18 th Jan	Sportshall Athletics Cup Final	19 th Mar	StarLincs Planetarium in school - Reception AM, Year 5 PM
5 th Feb	Chinese New Year Stay and Play in the EYFS	3 rd Apr	Class & Team Photographs (Wrates Photographers)
8 th Feb	PFA Valentines Disco	5 th Apr	School closes for Easter break
15 th Feb	School closes for February half term	23 rd Apr 2019	School reopen for Term 5

