



Christmas has been delightful at Hawthorn Tree School. Each year we revisit and find out more about Christmas as a major Christian festival. We have retold the Christmas story and thought about the symbolism of candles and lights and the coming of Advent progress as we get ready for Christmas. The whole school ate Christmas lunch together and our Year 5 and 6 children went to St Nicholas Church for their Christingle Service with Father Paul Noble. The KS1 Production 'Starlight', was a much loved traditional nativity play. Reception Christmas Carols were delightful presentations well supported by Parents and our school choir has been to sing in local Nursing Homes to the delight of the residents. Our **Parent and Friends Association (PFA)** have been a fantastic support, Year 3 to Year 6 visits to Boston Bowl and Play towers are all provided by our PFA. The PFA Christmas Fayre was a great and success raised £500. Thank you to our PFA for all their support over 2017. Father Christmas has visited our Reception and Year 1 and 2 children at the end of each party.

School website - our website is compatible with mobiles, tablets and all Apps based systems. We have reorganised the site to make it quicker and easier to find information and constantly update with information about your child's learning, school policies, newsletters and lots more. Our **Facebook page** is also a source of information - our page name is 'Hawthorn Tree Primary School'.

Staff changes for January

We will be saying thank you and goodbye to our Year 6 Intervention teacher Mrs Green who has supported our older children each year. We will be saying thank you and goodbye to our Learning Mentor Mrs Nixon who has worked hard with individual children and families. Congratulations to Miss Docherty who will be married over the Christmas holidays and return as Mrs Wright, we wish her all the best for a terrific wedding day and every happiness for the future.

As you will be aware Mr Blissett our school crossing patrol officer retires at the end of this term, we thank him for his dedication and commitment and wish him all the best for his well-earned retirement. We will welcome Mr Walker as our replacement school crossing patrol officer on January 3rd.



E-safety

New phones or tablets for Christmas are an opportunity to remind children about e-safety.

Dan Hawbrook LCC e-safety Officer says,

- Illegal activity should **always** be reported to the Police
- Visit **ceop.gov.uk** or **thinkuknow.co.uk** to report abuse or sexual behaviour online, also offers advice on cyberbullying, viruses and mobile phones via the reporting button
- **Thinkuknow.co.uk** is a great website with areas for 5 to 7s, 8 to 10s and 11 to 13 years olds.
- **A magazine** is being sent out to all families (Digital Parenting – the Vodafone Foundation), to support parents in ensuring e-safety at home.

E-Safety Advice for Parents: Live Streaming: The BBC announced recently that the police have warned that Live Streaming is an 'urgent threat' to the exploitation of children. Live streaming is a live visual broadcast over the internet. All you need to be able to live stream is an internet enabled device, like a smart phone or tablet, and a platform (such as website or app) to broadcast on. At the click of a button, you can be streaming to hundreds, or thousands, of viewers.

With the popularity of live streaming ever increasing and with children and adults both taking part, it is important as a parent or carer to understand what risks children and young people may face when live streaming and the practical steps that you can take to make your child's online experience safer. You can find some excellent advice at:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/live-streaming-responding-to-the-risks/>
or <https://tinyurl.com/yaev2t6b>

Sport – lots of events and successes this term in Netball including High Fives Netball tournament, cross country event, sports hall Athletics, 7 aside football tournament, Y5/6 Tag Rugby, Cheerleading and Football league and Cup matches.

Thank you to parents for supporting our **Art Gallery** this term and attending the reading and maths workshops. **Dance**; Mrs Smith's Y6 class have been involved in a national dance project around the Nutcracker ballet.

Lost Property

Lots of children will receive new hats, scarves, gloves, coats and other items for Christmas. Do ensure that everything has your child(rens) name clearly and permanently on it. We have lots of items with no names on them which are almost impossible to return to their owners. Do check your child's uniform at home in case they have brought another child's uniform home by mistake.

Our school always supports the **Year 6 11plus exam**. This year of the children who took the tests, 42% of boys were successful in gaining a place at The Grammar School and 32% of girls who took the test were successful in gaining a place at the High School. Our overall pass rate was 37%. Current Year 5 parents may be thinking now about their preparation for the September 2018 11+ test.

Assessments in school: this week we have completed an assessment week in school using external tests to check on our children's progress. The children have managed this very well and we have ensured they have not come under undue pressure. This will enable us to have an accurate judgement of where the children are at in their learning and assist in planning to enable children to reach their full potential.

Dates for Terms 3 and 4 2018 *(more events will follow)*

Fri 15 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day – children to come to school in their uniform and Christmas jumpers Years Reception, 1, 2 and 3 to watch Aladdin Panto
Tues 19th Dec	Last Day of Term 2
Wed 3rd Jan 2018	Start of Term 3
Tues 9 th Jan	NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe Assemblies
Thurs 11 th Jan	12-2:30pm Y3/4 Sportshall Athletics Competition at Peter Paine
Mon 15 th Jan	Closing date for Reception 2018 Intake
Thurs 25 th Jan	12-2:30pm Sportshall Athletics Final at Peter Paine
Fri 2 nd Feb	12-3pm Y3/4 Gymnastics Development Day at Boston High School
Thurs 8 th Feb	3:30pm Football Match vs Sibsey Primary School at Hawthorn Tree
Fri 9th Feb	Last Day of Term 3
Mon 19th Feb	Start of Term 4
Tues 20 th Feb	3-5:30pm Netball Tournament at Peter Paine
Fri 23 rd Feb	3:30pm Football & Netball Matches vs St Mary's at Hawthorn Tree
Thurs 1 st March	World Book Day 11am-12:30pm Cross Country Competition at William Lovell Academy
Fri 2 nd March	Football Match vs Old Leake at Old Leake
Thurs 15 th March	Y3/4 Tennis Development Day at Boston Tennis Club
Fri 23 rd March	Y4/5 Basketball Development Day at Thomas Middlecott Academy
Wed 28 th March	Year 6 China Day Last Day of Term 4

Reception children September 2018. Applications opened on 13th Nov. and close 12:00 15th Jan 2018. We have run 12 tours of the school, if you know of family and friends who have not yet applied for a Reception place for next September please ask them to contact school. If you have a sibling already in our school **you do still need** to apply for a place.

Happy Christmas to all our children and families, we will look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Wednesday 3rd January 2018**. Best wishes for the New Year.

