



HIPPINGS NEWS

As a family we do our best with God in our hearts

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me: Philippians 4 verse 13

Welcome to our **December** newsletter. How on earth have we got to Christmas already?!

We have had a wonderful couple of weeks starting with some of our Year 4 pupils singing at Oswaldtwistle library and followed by Christmas dinner for the whole school, a trip to the Empire Theatre to watch Beauty and the Beast and 3 Nativity performances. Our Worship group have also led a Christmas Worship, we have held a Nativity Pause Day and some of our KS2 pupils will be leading our worship on Wednesday.

This week we will be enjoying Christmas Parties!

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, Peaceful and Merry Christmas. Please remember that it is not all about the gifts that are wrapped under the tree, but about the quality time together, enjoying each others company.

Newsletters can also be found on the school website at:
www.hippings.lancs.sch.uk.

Christmas Fayre

Many thanks to everybody who supported the fayre. Thank you to FOHS for their continued support in organising the event. We raised a fantastic £1753.45. A fantastic amount! This will be used towards the purchase of a large History Timeline.

Payments

Please may we remind you that all payments for Toast, School Dinners, Breakfast Club or Stay and Play must be paid on Monday mornings for that week. Please pay using the Eduspot, school pay system. If debts are not paid we will have to refuse access to these until payments are made. If you are experiencing difficulties please speak to Mrs Westwell or Mrs Ingham in the office.

Adverse Weather Conditions

We do not anticipate having to close the school during the winter months. However, in the event of heavy snowfall any closures will be put on the text messaging service, School Website, BBC Radio Lancashire.

The decision to close school is never taken lightly, but we do have to consider the safety of pupils and staff (many of whom travel long distances to work).

Winter Weather

In the event of cold weather please can you ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor play, coats, hats, gloves, scarves, wellies etc..(all named)



Attendance & Punctuality

Please make every effort to get your child to school each day and on time – it makes so much difference to their learning and future achievements.

The Government have also made changes to the rulings on taking children out of school in term times. With this in mind please see our Attendance Policy on the school's website. Holidays **will not** be authorised and will be sent to the authority. This may mean you will be fined.

The holiday list for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 can also be found on the school website.

Food For Thought: If a child has a two week holiday in school time every year of their school life and has the average time off sick then they will miss a whole year of schooling. This is not good for their futures!

No Smoking Policy

Lancashire County Council schools are all no smoking zones. This includes E cigarettes. Please do not smoke in the school grounds. Thank you

Asthma

If your child is asthmatic please ensure a spare inhaler is in school and you have completed the asthma plan that is on the website.

Nut Allergies

We have a number of children and staff in school with nut allergies. Could I please ask that products containing nuts are not put in lunch boxes or bags. Thank you.



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Car Parking

We have had a number of 'near misses' where parents have reversed into the school gateways as others are walking past and where parents have refused to give way to each other almost causing an accident. Please be mindful of others and ensure cars are parked and driven safely on the roads around school. Please also be mindful of the local residents and do not park across their driveways etc. **Cars should not drive up Alice Street . This is a cul de sac and cars pulling up at the top are causing issues for people who are walking to school. The school car park is for staff only and must not be used by parents who are dropping off or picking up.**

National Online Safety

We are very concerned with the dangers that are present on the internet and so have joined up with National Online safety. This provides lots of advice for keeping children safe in a digital world when using tablets, phones, play stations, X boxes, computers etc.

To become a National online safety school we need parents to enrol on the site . Please follow the link below. And help us keep all pupils safe and achieve National online safety status.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/hippings-methodist-primary-school>

Mobile Phones

In the interest of safeguarding, mobile phones should not be used on school premises.

Your child looks forward to seeing you at the end of the day. Please greet them with a smile and give them your full attention without being on your phone.

Primary and Secondary School Admissions (September 2024)

For Lancashire resident families who will require a primary or secondary school place in September 2023 the means of application is via Lancashire's online system at:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

(then search "school admissions")

This went live on 1 September 2023. It is quick and easy to use and offers an e-mail receipt for all submitted applications. Please ensure that you hit the "submit" button when you are ready to send in your completed online application.

The closing dates for applications are:

31 October 2023 – Secondary

15 January 2024 – Primary

You must apply even if you already have siblings at your preferred school

Staffing

We would like to say a big Thank you to Miss Ainsworth in Year 2 who will be leaving us to take up a position outside of education. We wish her the best of luck in her new adventures. We welcome Mrs Hollinshead who will be teaching Year 2 for the rest of this academic year. We also say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Durkin, who has been covering in Year 1 on a Friday. Mrs Jenkins will be teaching on a Friday when we return in January.

Please continue to pray for Miss Hussain as she continues with her treatment. We hope to see her in school again soon.



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Important Diary Dates January 2024 (Further dates will follow)

Monday 8 January: Return to school at 8.45am

Tuesday 9 January: Life Education Workshops Years 4,5,6 (email already sent out)

Monday 15 January: Height and Weight Checks Reception and Year 6

Friday 19 January: First payment date for Tower Wood Residential (Year 5 pupils)

Oswaldtwistle Mugs and Bags

We still have a few mugs and bags left with the art work that the pupils did that is now on Church and Oswaldtwistle railway station. Buy both for £5. Come and get your last minute Christmas Pressies!



