

December  
2025

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

December 2025



Jacqueline Clearkin  
Headteacher

**Dear Families  
& the Heritage House School community.**

We are delighted to provide you with a snapshot of just some of the many activities our learners have experienced at this festive time of year.

A highlight this year has been the class concerts, attended by so many families & friends over the course of a two week period. A special thank you goes out to Kath and Betty, our very talented musicians who facilitated the concerts. The amount of work involved in each magical event was very evident and made for the most amazing experience for all. I spoke to many parents who were delighted with the opportunity to share a Christmas experience with the school community. I feel our Christmas school song will be Feliz Navidad for many years!



Our school theme for decorations has been Nordic; natural and white, with decorations in the dining halls, café, classrooms and corridors.

December  
2025



HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS

December 2025



The Pop Up shop continues to thrive, with over 100 learners purchasing gifts for family members. I hear from the Pop Up shop staff that learners have a challenge to choose just one gift per person and often want to buy the shop. Thanks to our staff and learners who are on hand to support learners in choosing each special gift & help in the wrapping! I hope you receive a gift you will treasure.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December a scrumptious Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by learners across the school.

By popular demand, the Rotary Club joined us again this year. The Leys participated in the sleigh visit by cheering from the windows. Seeing a line of learners and staff in Santa hats, waving flags and singing was a most memorable experience.



### Learning Journals

Learning Journals have been issued to all families celebrating the achievements and ambitions of learners. I have already received feedback from parents on how the informative the journals are containing photographs and observations of your child's progress over this term Thank you for this – you will receive a feedback form in January do please complete this as feedback is important.

December  
2025



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December 2025



Jacqueline Cleary  
Teacher

## Annual Reviews

Thank you to all who attended the recent TEAMS launch of the Annual Review process. It was lovely to see over 50 families at the meeting. During the meeting Lou, a mum of learner in YP3 discussed her involvement in the project and the impact of watching films and photographs of her son progressing at school. We discussed how we review EHCP outcomes in the presentation. The responses were overwhelming in favour of this review of the meeting. Learners will be present for parts of the meeting and will be presenting their progress



I am sure you will enjoy the many photographs and information in this special edition of our newsletter. I wish to thank all the staff and our school community for their continued enthusiasm and dedication. Thanks also to all our families for your wonderful support in making this time such a positive experience for our learners.

Finally, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Jacqueline*

2026  
Happy New Year!

December  
2025

December 2024



## Firefly Class

### Santa & Christmas Music

Firefly enjoyed a classroom visit from Santa Sarka, dashing around the playground in Santa hats - and making Christmas music in class with parents



December  
2025

December 2024



## Grasshopper Class

Christmas merry making!

Grasshopper enjoyed making merry Christmas music with parents in class and a playground dash with Santa Sarka!



December  
2025

December 2024



## Bumblebee Class

### Santa Dash!

Bumblebee enjoyed dashing around the playground with Santa Sarka! We also enjoyed a special Jack and the Beanstalk panto in class from Head2Head Sensory Theatre.



December  
2025

December 2024



## Ladybird Class

### Christmas wrapping and dashing

Ladybird enjoyed lots of Christmas fun, wrapping presents and making snow in class!



December  
2025

December 2024



## Dragonfly Class

Ready for the concert...!

Dragonfly enjoyed a special concert in class, with lots of participating in Christmas songs, wearing fabulously festive hats!



December  
2025

December 2024



## Foxglove Class

### Christmas dashing & shopping!!

Foxglove enjoyed Christmas shopping for family and friends in the Pop Up Shop - and dashing around the playground in festive hats!



December  
2025

December 2024



## Buttercup Class

### Christmas Crafts and Panto!

Buttercup make super-sparkly Christmas cards and enjoyed an in class Panto from Head2Head sensory theatre!



December  
2025

December 2024



## Clover Class

### Christmas crafts & music

Clover enjoyed Christmas crafts, an indoor dash with Santa Sarka - and some lovely festive music with Betty.



December  
2025

December 2024



## Bramble Class

### Panto, Crafts and Santa Dash

Bramble had fun dashing around the playground with Sarka Santa and musical fun with a special in-class Panto from Head2Head Sensory Theatre!



December  
2025

December 2024



## Maple Class

### Santa Dash & Panto!

Maple had a wonderful time at the Panto from Head2Head sensory theatre - and dashing around the playground in Santa hats!



December  
2025

December 2024



## Chestnut Class

### Panto and Playground dash!

Chestnut had fun watching the in-school Panto from Head2Head sensory theatre - and dashing around the playground in festive hats!



December  
2025

December 2024



## YYP1 Class

### Santa Dash & Christmas Music



YYP1 enjoyed making Christmas music in class with parents and a festive dash around the playground with Santa Sarka!



December  
2025

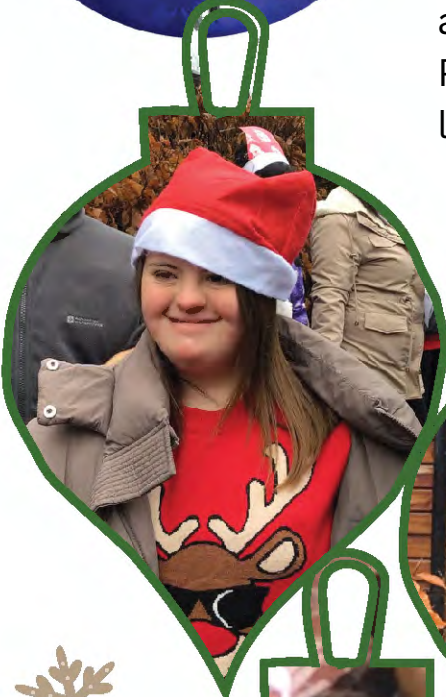
December 2024



## YP2 Class

### Christmas Crafts & Santa's Parade

YP2 enjoyed lots of Christmas crafts and watching the Rotary Club Santa Parade in our very own little street!



December  
2025

December 2024



## YP3 Class

### Christmas crafts & Santa in the playground

YP3 enjoyed making festive cards and crafts and fun and games in the playground with Santa Sarka!



December  
2025

December 2024



## YP4 Class

### Santa Dash & Christmas Parade

YP4 had so much fun on their playground Santa dash and watching the Rotary Club Santa Parade



December  
2025

December 2024



## Wheelpower Festival

**What a great day!**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December a small group of learners attended a WHEELPOWER SPORTS FESTIVAL in Stoke Mandeville Stadium. This was a very special day, giving an excellent opportunity to try sports never experienced before, like badminton and archery. The festival kept us very busy, working hard on hand-eye coordination, timed response, aiming, grasping, pressing, reaching over a middle line and many other skills. Thank you to Sumya's mum for helping with transport!



December  
2025

December 2024



## Horticulture

### Harvesting and planting...

Our learners have been very busy harvesting the last of the summer vegetables - and planting winter crops such as broad beans and garlic. We've also planted 240 hedgelings donated by the Woodland Trust, creating new wildlife habitats for the future. Our new Natural Thinkers area in the lower school has become a popular discover area for our younger learners.



December  
2025

December 2024



## Santa Parade

**Santa comes to town!**

Lining the road, learners and staff waited for Santa to appear. On time and in his sleigh he came, singing, waving and spreading his good cheer across Heritage House school and The Leys care home. We waved back, we sang and even danced for Santa! What a highlight of the festivities for 2025.



A big thank you to Chesham Rotary members and most of all for booking Santa at such a busy time of year. Please come back next year!

December  
2025

December 2024



## Pantomime!

Panto time at The  
Elgiva Theatre



The annual trip to the Elgiva theatre is a real festive treat for our older learners in Leaf.

While our younger learners enjoy a special in-school panto by the Head2Head sensory theatre.

# IT'S BEHIND YOU...



# OH NO IT'S NOT!



December  
2025

December 2024



## Family Advocate News



### Supporting our Families

It's been another busy half term! Please do get in touch if you would like my support. I can be contacted via email ([familyadvocate@hhschool.org.uk](mailto:familyadvocate@hhschool.org.uk)) or by calling the school office.



### Workshops



We plan to start the New Year with sessions that focus on supporting carer well-being. With this in mind our first workshop sessions of the year will look at practical ways in which family carers can support their own well-being and resilience. I have scheduled the following sessions- please do join Amy and I if you can:

#### JANUARY

January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026 from 10am- 11.30am for families and carers of learners in the Main School Building (for primary aged learners)

January 28<sup>th</sup> 2026 from 10-11.30am for families and carers of learners in the LEAF Building (for secondary aged learners)

Further workshop dates will be shared in the New Year.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas break.

Sarah



December  
2025

December 2024



## Family Advocate News

### A message from Amy Critoph

It was lovely to come into school to hear the Christmas music concerts, meet some of the learners and more parents and carers. I'm looking forward to our events in the new year with a focus on looking after your own wellbeing.

If you would like a little individual support do get in touch with me through Sarah, the Family Advocate.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable festive time!

Sarah

Dr Amy Critoph  
(Clinical Psychologist)

FOR  
YOU

There is a wealth of information and useful links on our website for parents and carers - click on the link below:

 [CLICK HERE](#)



December  
2025

December 2024



## Encounters Week



Our Pre- Supported Internship initiative was launched in October 2025 with learners meeting with Kathryn (Deputy head teacher) to understand what was on offer as an encounter to the world of work. Parents met on TEAMS to learn of the initiative and Encounters week was launched.



Judging from the photographs of learners working across the school from site to office to therapy horticulture, café and in classes encounters week was successful. So much so we will be incorporating learners work choices into timetables for YP2 & YP4 in the spring term.



**Families of those learners who completed encounters week are invited to a celebration assembly on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January; 9:15-10:15am.**

December  
2025

December 2024



## The Potting Shed Cafe



### Learners as Customers.

Our wonderful café is open to the public and to learners here at school. For learners we have a special mid-morning meal deal ( £1) for a drink and a small snack. The meal deal menu is created with learners preferences in mind.

Next term ( Spring term) the following classes will be have an opportunity to visit the café as customers and to practice vital life skills such as understanding a public space, ordering refreshments and spending time with both familiar and unfamiliar customers.

### January 2026 – Investigators Phase:

Foxglove, Buttercup and Clover Bramble classes.



It would support this learning opportunity if learners had a wallet or purse and £1 coin or credit card (such as Monzo). This would be brought into school by the learners each Tuesday in preparation for the visit during the week. Learners must purchase refreshments from the café as only food bought in the café can be consumed.



**OPEN**  
Wednesday – Friday  
9.30am – 2.30pm  
*term time only*

December  
2025

December 2024



## Wraparound Care

### Sports & Swimming

You will have received information regarding the wrap around care we provide Thank you for your responses. It is clear there is a need to extend the wrap around care we offer and we will work to further extend the current offer.

Wrap around care has been extended to a Youth Club on Fridays, currently the take up has been low so we will review this in January 2026. I will keep you informed of all the wrap around care initiatives under consideration for the spring and summer term

The number of places sought is greater than places available. We are also aware that there are barriers such as transport arrangements and we will liaise with Bucks transport to raise this issue.

**Wrap around care will now begin on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

You will not be charged for the Monday. Apologies for the slight delay.



December  
2025

December 2024



## Reminders

DON'T FORGET



### **Heating Food**

Please note the Handling Food Safety guidelines prohibit us from re-heating food in school.

### **Learner Absences**

Please inform the school office on the first day of any learner absence as early as possible, as well as Transport. Transport are not obligated to pass messages to the school.

### **School Uniform**

Please could you ensure all of your child's uniform, swimming clothes and personal items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Uniform is mandatory - school sweatshirt only.

If your child needs them, please also send in clearly labelled spare clothing along with any other personal care items.

### **Punctuality**

School opens at 8:50am, please note that arrivals any time after 9am are recorded as late.

### **Appointments**

When possible, medical appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours. If your child will be absent due to a medical appointment, you must inform the office and provide a copy of the letter/screenshot of appointment confirmation for our records.

December  
2025

December 2024



## Reminders



### Diarrhoea & Vomiting

Following the Health Protection Agency advice, if your child is sick with diarrhoea and/or vomiting, please keep them at home for at least 48 hours following the last bout of either. They will not be able to swim for two weeks following sickness.



·See some useful links below on staying healthy this winter...

- **Education Hub Blog:** Reducing the spread of illness this winter: Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance – a helpful blog for parents and staff.
- **HS Guidance for Parents:** Is my child too ill for school? – a useful resource to help parents decide when children should stay at home.
- **Preventing and Controlling Infections Guidance:** Includes advice on vaccination, ventilation, and good respiratory hygiene.
- **A-Z of managing Infectious Diseases:** Practical guidance on managing specific illnesses.