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Dear Parents and Carers,

The first week of term has gone well with the children settling back into our school routines. A very warm welcome to our new families who have joined us this term.

This is a good opportunity to remind our parents and share with our new parents about Hipsburn's website. This is a real window into our school and when I meet new parents and prospective parents I make many references to it. The office staff work hard to keep the information up to date and they are constantly adding photos and information to the class areas. Please continue to access it and for those who have not looked please take a few minutes exploring what is on our website.

To give you a flavour of the website content, each class has its own area which details recent news, curriculum overviews (what is being taught this half term) and photos of activities within school.

There is a section with the most relevant information for parents and there is a curriculum area where teachers have produced progression grids across the school for each subject area. Progression grids show the skills that are being taught, learnt and developed as your child moves through the school and they cover every subject.

At the moment teachers are writing vocabulary lists and these too are being uploaded to the curriculum area of the website. Everything from school menus, calendar events, weekly awards, copies of parent letters and how to buy school uniform to a wide range of school policies can be found on the website as well as information about staff responsibilities and governor activities.

Please take a look - there are a few links below to take you to some popular website areas - and if you can't find something, please let us know!

Finally, a huge thank you for your support leading up to Christmas. The performances and the carols around the tree were lovely experiences and it was great to hear your comments as you left the building.

Thank you for your donations at these events and for attending the Christmas Fair and supporting our school PTA. The gifts, cards, messages and emails at Christmas were greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all the staff. Once again, THANKYOU!

Kevin Moloney, Headteacher



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[Calendar](#)
[Uniform](#)
[Policies](#)
[Class pages](#)



Some Upcoming Events

- ◆ Clubs this half term:
Mondays, Trident Soccer, All Mondays, Cookery, Ford Breakfast Club, Every Day, All Tues/Weds Homework, All Tuesdays, Coding, Duns Weds, Guitar, Years 3-6 Thursdays, Gardening, Bamburgh Thursdays, SATs, Yr 6 Fridays, Lego, All
- ◆ Northumberland Zoo, Friday 27th January, Bamburgh
- ◆ Dukeshouse Wood/London instalments due by Monday, 30th January
- ◆ Skipping Festival, Ford Thursday 9th February (tbc)
- ◆ Etal Beach Day Friday 10th February
- ◆ Alnwick Class Assembly - parents welcome Friday 10th February, 9.15-9.45am
- ◆ Alnwick Beach Day Tuesday 14th February
- ◆ Ford Beach Day Friday 17th February
- ◆ Break up for Half Term Friday 17th February
- ◆ Teacher Training Day Monday 27th February
- ◆ Back to school Tuesday 28th February

Please keep checking the calendar on the school website for more events

It was on a snowy night...

Snö is the Swedish name for snow and the children in Ford Class have tried to capture the beauty of the Swedish landscape with its ancient forests, lakes and wildlife under dark, starry, night skies.

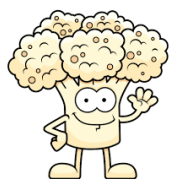
Their work took inspiration from the illustrator Eva Melhuish, after enjoying a new page of her flip postcard-advent calendar each morning at school. The children experimented with oil and chalk pastels, blending to create the perfect, magical, winter scene.

Bra gjort!



The children in Ford loved sharing their knowledge, songs, stories and creative work in front of their family and friends last term for their class assembly on Ancient Greece. They all looked amazing in the costumes and did themselves proud remembering all their lines.

Well done everyone and a big thank you to family and friends who provided the costumes.



A big thank you to everyone who bought products from Cauliflower Cards last term – you helped raise a tremendous £82 for the PTA funds. That's the most ever raised for school!



We seem to say thank you a lot in our newsletter and here's an especially heartfelt one to all of you who responded to Sunflower Sisters' appeal for Christmas Bags last term. These gift bags were given to children orphaned by the war in Ukraine. Here's the write-up of how the trip went...

[Sunflower Sisters in Ukraine](#)



A big thank you from Pudsey and Save the Children for your generous donations to Children in Need and Christmas Jumper days last term. You raised £345.50 for these great causes - a spotacular sum -you're all officially amazing! Here are some memories from the events...



Festive fun...

Thanks also to Cherie, Wendy and Ann who made Christmas lunch happen without a hitch - everyone agreed it was delicious!



A big thank you to Hilary Waugh and Jeanette Watt - every year they generously donate the crackers for the tables and provide delicious cakes for the Christmas Fair. You are very much appreciated.



A run around after lunch was perfect - we even had a flurry of snow to make it even more festive!



Ho, ho, how fantastic you all looked during the Santa dash in between the snow showers - well done!

Starry, starry night...

The stage was set for our Fireside Nativity performances back in December - the camp was set up with the fire burning, the stars were shining brightly in the night sky and the children were raring to go!

It was lovely to see so many of you attend the nativity over the 2 days - we hope you enjoyed it. Here's to next time, but in the meantime, here are a few memories....



A big well done to everyone involved in making the nativity a success, however a special mention goes to our year 6 pupils - our incredible cast of campers - who performed brilliantly!





As a small school the support we receive from parents and members of the community means so much to us. Your help and generosity with your time and expertise enables us to not only enrich our learning but also our physical environment!

The list is by no means exhaustive, but thank you to everyone who has helped in making the nativity, made role play areas, created art, listened to readers, helped with library, baked goodies and assembled outdoor equipment. You are all superstars, thank you.



Bird workshop...



Is it a bird? Is it a plane?



After taking part in the mammal and insect workshops last year, Year 6 became expert bird watchers with Alex from the British Ecological Society. We learned about the diversity of our local bird life and used binoculars and identification guides to see how many species we could spot.

We can't wait to use our identification guides on our next beach days!

News round-up...



We have lots of keen musicians here at Hipsburn Primary School. We were very proud to share certificates from Music Partnership North in our whole school singing assembly to celebrate the effort and enthusiasm they have been making whilst practising their instruments.

We always enjoy celebrating our musical achievements in and out of school, please do let us know if you have one to share!



The children of Hipsburn school were invited to produce some designs for St. John The Baptist Church's Christmas card which was distributed in the local area.

What super artwork! They had a really tough job deciding on 4 designs to appear on the card.

Well done everyone, thank you for your hard work and creativity!



Congratulations to our superstar writers for autumn term whose amazing writing is being displayed on our whole-school writing display! The display showcases the wonderful work from reception through to year 6 and ranges from mark-making to historical reports and narrative poetry.



ParentPay

If your child is having milk this term or taking part in after school clubs, then payment is now due.

We appreciate you keeping on top of payments as they become active. If you are falling behind with payments, please don't be offended if we contact you for settlement. If you are having difficulties paying, please speak to us - we are very understanding! Thankyou.



A reminder that we have a small number of pupils in school with severe nut allergies. Exposure to nuts and nut products can cause a rapid and serious reaction for these individuals. We ask for your co-operation in not sending any nut product in to school, either as a snack or in packed lunches. Thank you.