

## What we are learning about:

Every fortnight, we will try to give you a snapshot of what we have been learning about and what we will be learning about in the coming weeks and ways you can support at home. This information will also be posted on google classroom.

### Fenstanton and Hilton Preschool

#### For the last two weeks we have been learning about:

Getting Ready...

We have been thinking about how we get ready for things, what do we have to do before we go to preschool, play in the garden, or go to bed. This has led nicely into Advent, what do we do to get ready for Christmas? We have been developing independence with putting on and taking off outdoor clothing, as well as learning new Christmas songs and beginning to create some Christmassy crafts to bring home at the end of term.

#### For the next two weeks we will be learning about:

We will continue to think about Christmas, making cards and decorations, listening to stories and sing some of our favourite Christmas songs.

#### You can help by:

Continue to develop your own child's independence when getting dressed or putting on their coats and shoes.

### Reception: Pine Class

#### For the last two weeks we have been learning about:

We have all really enjoyed the Superhero topic. We have written letters, made posters and learnt all about protecting the environment.

The Christmas play has been a big success, well done to everyone! We hope you enjoy watching it.

In maths we have been working on recognising coins. We have also been talking about adding and starting to write number sentences.

#### For the next two weeks we will be learning about:

We will be talking about the traditions around Christmas and how we celebrate.

We will continue to revise phase 2 phonics.

We will also be adding and subtracting in maths.

#### You can help by:

The children are all very tired, so keeping a bedtime routine is essential.  
Please keep reading as often as possible.

### Year 1 and 2: Ash, Birch and Elm Classes

#### For the last two weeks we have been learning about:

**In English** we have been reading The Snow Beast, learning about conjunctions to extend and link our ideas and sentences. **In Maths** we have been exploring multiplication as equal groups, arrays and as repeated addition and multiplication sentences. **In topic** we have been reviewing our learning about the Great Fire of London.

#### You can help by:

Talking with your child about time, noticing the hour, half hour and quarter hour and using time vocabulary such as : soon, after, meanwhile, when, while, a little later etc. Continue to read with your child every day, noting adjectives and expanded noun phrases that the writer uses to describe the story setting, and conjunctions to link ideas, phrases and sentences.

#### For the next two weeks we will be learning about:

We are continuing our snow scene descriptive work and using conjunctions to sequence and order events. We are going to be having lots of fun with Nativity themed English work, consolidating our understanding of adjectives and expanded noun phrases for setting description.

In Maths we are going to be looking at sequencing time chronologically (linking to our work in English on time conjunctions) and using clocks. We also have lots of Christmas themed Maths investigations and activities.

## Year 3 and 4: Sycamore, Chestnut and Cherry

### For the last two weeks we have been learning about:

**Maths:** we have revised efficient strategies to mentally add three single digit numbers. Ask your child which is their preferred strategy – finding ten, doubling or partitioning? What can your child tell you about 'The Bar Model' and the 'Part Whole Model'? Can they demonstrate this to you?

**English:** We are really enjoying 'How Santa Really Works' By Alan Snow. We have been working on using subordinating conjunctions in different places in our sentences to create a 'cause and effect' sentence just like Alan Snow. He also uses lots of technical vocabulary that we are identifying and emulating for our own explanation texts.

### For the next two weeks we will be learning:

To design, make and evaluate our own Christmas Card.  
To find patterns in the way that the size of shadows changes.

To become familiar with instruments in the percussion family and recognise them being played in a piece of music. As well as understanding between differences in pitch.

### You can help by:

Learning to instantly recall number bonds to 10, doubling numbers 1 to 20, multiples of 10 to 100. This is support mental calculations.

## Year 5: Willow

### For the last two weeks we have been learning about:

**English:** Written the story of the animated film advertising the Spanish Christmas lottery.

**Maths:** Developed our area and perimeter skills.

We have also been completing our PSHE Anti Bullying work (it didn't fit into one week). This week we have learnt to use a useful assertiveness technique called fogging.

### For the next two weeks we will be learning about:

Consolidating our Autumn term learning and completing end of term assessments in reading and maths.

### You can help by:

Continuing to support your child to resolve any friendship issues constructively.

## Year 6: Oak

### For the last two weeks we have been learning about:

Last week, we learnt about limericks and wrote some of our own. This week, we have been getting into the festive spirit with a look at the first 'Stave' of A Christmas Carol as the children will be writing their own narrative version.

In maths, we've continued to look at fractions. We have multiplied and divided them and begun to find fractions of amounts.

In science we have looked at how animals adapt or handle a change of conditions to their habitat in winter.

### For the next two weeks we will be learning about:

Writing our own version of the narrative of the first part of a Christmas Carol.

In maths we will look at using fractions in questions using the four operations and look at shape and space, translating and reflecting shapes on a one to four quadrant grid.

### You can help by:

Continuing to look through the arithmetic papers that are being sent home and reading regularly with the children at home.

## Other Events News and Information:

# STAR OF THE WEEK



Pine  
Birch  
Elm  
Ash  
Chestnut  
Cherry  
Sycamore  
Willow  
Oak

### W/e 27<sup>th</sup> Nov

Maya  
Max M  
Bella D  
Darcy  
Ethan C  
Lily A  
Sebastian C  
Rosie B  
Ruby E

### w/e 4<sup>th</sup> Dec

Frankie  
Ted  
Emily  
Anna  
Finley H  
Ryan A  
Joshua  
Evie R  
William W



### PTA News

We're all set for our **Christmas Movie Night**, which will be held in class bubbles straight after school on **Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December** (sorry, this doesn't include preschool). We'll be showing the funny, festive film 'Nativity' (certificate U), with the usual movie night snacks. Look out for a letter with the details. You can sign your children up here:

<https://forms.gle/eciomzWj23YSeAjX7>

There's still time to join the school lottery, before the first draw on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> January! For just £1 per week, you can support our fundraising and be in with a chance of winning! Get your tickets at:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/fenstanton-and-hilton-primary-school>.

If you're using Amazon for **Christmas shopping**, don't forget to use **Amazon Smile**, which raises funds for school, at no cost to you. Go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>. Then, directly under the main search bar, click on the 'Amazon Smile' tab. Once there, you can choose or change your selected charity. Simply pop '**Fenstanton & Hilton School P.T.A.**' into the search and select us for your fundraising. Remember to sign in with Amazon Smile every time you shop.



# Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School

## Message from the Headteachers:

Christmas is coming and we are all getting excited in school! This week the staff and children have been busy pulling together a virtual Christmas performance to share with you all. Christmas will be different in school this year; instead of you coming into school we hope you will enjoy being able to view our Christmas celebrations from your sofa.

Please do not forget to complete the parent questionnaire sent out by governors. Only 14 parents had responded by yesterday! We will keep the questionnaire open for another two weeks to give as many parents as possible an opportunity to respond.

Mrs Gore-Rowe our new Deputy Head will be taking up her post in January. She has already been working in the school and knows many of the children. This will provide increased leadership capacity within the school. Shortlisting for the Headteacher post took place earlier this week.

## What we have been working on this term:

This term Ms Roberts, Mrs Calverley and I have been getting to know the school, staff and children. We have developed a new school improvement plan which is focussed on addressing the issues identified in the OFSTED inspection. We have provided training for teachers on English and Maths and reviewed the curriculum to ensure that it meets National curriculum expectations.

We have implemented changes to our behaviour policy which the children have responded well too and implemented the three core rights. The children understand these rights and are responding well to the class discussions about rights and responsibilities. We have been out visiting classrooms and on duty at lunchtimes on a weekly basis and the behaviour of the children is extremely good. They play co-operatively and do understand the importance of staying in their bubble groups and are always eager to share what they are learning about.

This week, we completed the phonics checks with the children in Year 2 who missed these in Year 1 and we were delighted by how well the children did with 92% of children achieving the expected standard. A significant improvement on previous years and a credit to the hard work of the team in KS1.

We would like to thank all the staff for their support and making us feel so welcome at Fenstanton and Hilton. We are currently finalising staffing for next term and will be providing you with an update on some changes we hope to be implementing in January so watch this space. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the New Year and continuing to support the team in ensuring that Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School continues to improve and becomes a school we can all be proud of.

## The Hilton Bus:

Can we please remind parents that the three core rights we have in school also apply when children are on the Hilton Bus. Where behaviour does not meet our high standards and expectations, we may have to ask parents to transport their child/ren to school themselves to ensure the safety and well-being of others. We will of course liaise with parents and ensure that where the behaviour of a child is a cause for concern that you are informed of the possible consequence.

Events happening over the next fortnight:

Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Flu Immunisations

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> Dec – Movie Night

Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Lunch *(for those who have signed up)*

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December – Last Day of Term

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Spring Term Starts: 5th Jan  
Half Term: 15th-19th Feb  
Spring Term Ends: 26th March

Summer Term Starts: 12th Apr  
May Day: 3rd May (school closed)  
Half Term: 31st May-4th June  
Summer Term Ends: 16th July

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# Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School

## *Other Messages/Information*

### **Message from the Governors:**

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the 'Parent View' Google form questionnaire. Your feedback is vital to help support the work of the school and to help shape changes to improve the school for all children. Therefore, if you have not yet completed it, we would be really grateful if you could spare a few moments of your time to do so using the link below, entitled 'Parent View'. <https://forms.gle/yPyZi3KB3ZStpnJP7>

The advert for the Headteacher post has now closed and applicants are being scrutinised and invited in for interviews. Our aim is to ensure that we appoint the right person for Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School, someone who can drive the school forward to continue our rapid improvement journey. Therefore, if we do not feel we have found the right candidate we will re-advertise for the role to make sure we get the right fit for the school, as this is the key priority.

Finally, as we move out of a national lockdown, we would also like to acknowledge and thank all the school staff for the way they have adapted to the changes enforced by COVID and their efforts in managing to keep the school open for all class bubbles.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> December is Christmas Jumper Day. If your child would like to take part, please wear your favourite festive top on Friday. No donations required.

### **Guitar**

Looking for that special Christmas gift? Our resident guitar teacher, Mr Cory, may have some available slots for the forthcoming school term. If your child is interested in learning the guitar, please contact Mr Cory via email at [jimmypagefans@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmypagefans@hotmail.com) with your child's name, parent/guardian name, school name, class teacher's name, lesson duration requirements (15min - £8.25 per session or 30min - £16.50 per session) & mobile phone number.

Please note that if you have already joined a waiting list, then your child will be the first to be offered lessons, and that these lessons are available to children aged 7 and above. Needless to say that all lessons are taught in line with COVID secure regulations, and a distance of 2m+ is maintained at all times.

### **Message from the Fenstanton Village Hall Trust:**

This year the Fenstanton Village Hall Trust are putting a special box in Ash's Shop between 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December, so children can drop off their Christmas Letters and they will get a reply if they include a name and address. If your child would like to write Santa a letter, it will be there until 14<sup>th</sup> December. Don't forget to put your full name and address on it if you would like a reply.