



HOWBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

Head's Half Termly Headlines!

We made it! Fabulous Team Effort!

Well done to everyone who is part of the Howbridge school community for your hard work and determination to keep the education of our children going this term, under such enormously challenging circumstances.

We have been able to deliver a full curriculum as well as many catch-up and booster groups right up until the last week of term.

I am really pleased with the attitude of the children who have applied themselves to learning and have simply gotten on with the job!

Over the past few weeks, we have enjoyed the hall being decorated for Christmas and lots of seasonal activities, including:

- Virtual Messy Church event (see below)
- Christmas assemblies by each year group
- Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day.... And much more!

Diary Dates

Provisional dates for the Spring Term have been published on the school website. Please note that these are subject to change and if we are able to add more events in, we will do so. We will update the diary dates in January.

Crossing Patrol

Our new crossing patrol person, Lauren, has told me how welcome she has felt since she started outside our school. Please do say hello to her on your way in and out of school!

Returning to School

Monday 4th Jan – NON-PUPIL DAY
Tuesday 5th Jan – REMOTE LEARNING DAY (Staff will upload work to Google Classroom)
Wednesday 6th Jan – All pupils return to school and learn on site

The staggered drop-off and collection times will remain the same.

Police visit and Parking

We had a visit from the police recently, informing us of further inconsiderate parking issues. We have also had more complaints from local residents. People have been parking on/over pavements and blocking disabled bays.

PLEASE PARK CONSIDERATELY.



Vine Passports

Hopefully, by now you will have seen the information about The Vine Trust Passports.

Lots of children have been really busy getting creative and ticking off the various challenges.

The passports run until the end of the academic year so you have plenty of time to get started.

Staffing Update

As I am sure you are aware, we are saying goodbye to Miss French and Miss Griffiths this week.

I am sure you will join me in thanking them both for their hard work and dedication to our school over so many years.

They are both going on to Deputy Headships so we wish them all the very best for the next phase of their careers.

I also wish them lots of luck, as starting in school leadership in the current circumstances is going to be a challenge. I know they will rise to it though!

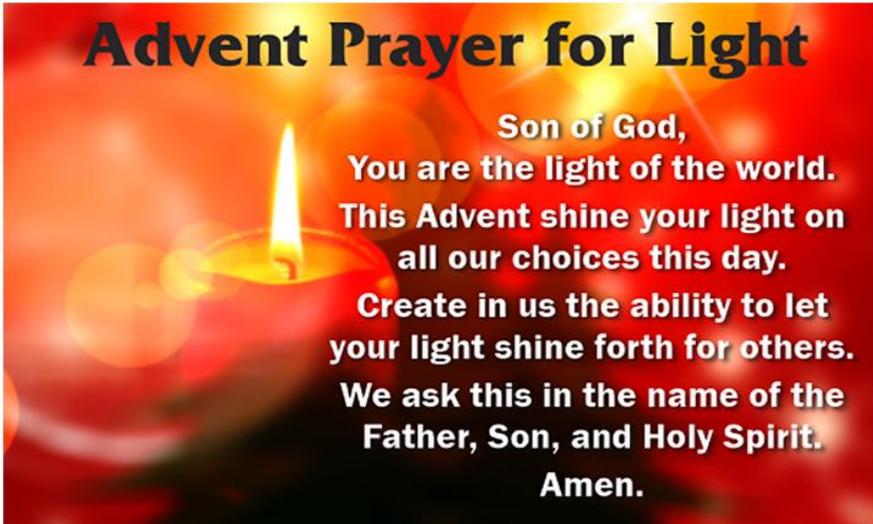
HUGE THANKS AND BEST WISHES



Church School Section...

This half term we have been exploring generosity and the significance of Advent.

Advent Prayer for Light



Son of God,
You are the light of the world.
This Advent shine your light on
all our choices this day.
Create in us the ability to let
your light shine forth for others.
We ask this in the name of the
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Advent Messy Church

On Dec 1st, we held our first virtual Messy Church event around the theme of Advent. It was a huge success! We are planning more such events for the spring term.

Watch this space!



School Kitchen Under New Management!

Huge thanks to Mrs Becker and the kitchen team for keeping the kitchen open and serving thousands of meals (including Christmas dinner to 2 schools!) since September.

We are really pleased to welcome a new Catering Manager – Mrs McDonald to the team from January.

We will be sending you information from the spring term onwards about new ideas for meals linked to our ongoing Enhanced Healthy Schools Status and based on pupil feedback.

Tier 3 Restrictions

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert>

You will hopefully be aware that parts of Essex are now operating under the higher tier 3 level restrictions – please click on the link above for the latest Government information.

Communicating any positive cases over the Christmas holiday

As per the letter sent last week, see instructions below:

If your child develops symptoms of COVID19 within 48 hours of being in school

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. You should let your school know that this has occurred.

The quickest way to obtain a test is to book a test at your local testing centre via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Please do not use postal tests unless absolutely necessary as these take longer.

If the test result is positive for COVID19, you must inform your school, who will identify if there are any other individuals within the school community who are impacted by this.

If the test result is negative, you should inform the school and you do not need to take any further action.

You should contact the school on covidcontact@howbridgejunior.co.uk **between the hours of 9.00am and 4.00pm.**

You must provide the following: name, date of symptoms starting.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID19 more than 48 hours after their last day in school

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned.

If the test result is positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, (Monday 21st Dec onwards) you must contact NHS Test and Trace and follow the advice given by them: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/

You should contact the school if your child will be absent, in time for the first day of the new term. Please leave a message on the school absence line.

I hope that you won't have any need to contact us or the NHS during the holidays and very much wish you and your families a lovely, safe, Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Mrs L Dale



Matthew 2: 10 “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.”