



## END OF TERM NEWSLETTER FOR HELMINGHAM AND HENLEY PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**Ho Ho Ho! Merry Christmas to you all!**

Wow! It has been such a busy and challenging term but we have all made it through together. I want to start by thanking you all for your support over the last few weeks as I take on the new challenge of leading 2 schools. I have received many positive messages over the last few weeks and I am so grateful for these. I would also like to thank you for those that have challenged our thinking and encouraged us to review our process and systems in school. We do not always get it right in schools but we always have the children's best interests at heart.

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Look who paid us all a visit! We had personal messages to each of our schools from Father Christmas. With the kindness and generosity of the Friends groups, each child was given a little goody bag of gifts as a Christmas

memento. Even though he couldn't join us in our schools personally, a video message was the next best thing!

The Spring Term 2021 (How is that possible?) will bring about new challenges again. We will of course keep you up to date with any Covid related updates but there are also new positives too. We are saying a big **Hello** to a new teacher at Helmingham. Mr Phil Jones will be joining us to teach in the Owls class and Mrs Sam Cutler will be joining us as an interim Assistant Academy Head. At Henley, we are pleased to announce that Mrs Caroline Townshend has also agreed to take up the role of Assistant Academy Head so we send a massive congratulations to her too.

I would like to say a really big THANK YOU to the Friends of both schools. The team at Helmingham is a new team and are already working hard to raise money with a

very successful raffle and Christmas Card competition. Henley has also started their fundraising again with the Christmas card design and have completed a Bags4Schools collection.



FOHS would like to apologise for the severe delays experienced with the Rudolph cards fundraiser. Several orders were placed 2 weeks after the given deadline which held up the order. In hindsight, which is a wonderful thing, we could have sent an incomplete order and for this we apologise.

Although it has been a difficult year for everyone, it is great that we have been back in school and initiating some fun fundraising ideas, even if they are not the same as we would all be doing normally.

We are aiming to have a dress down day on the last day of each half term- to raise funds for each school and to purchase new playground equipment.

If any of you are interested in being part of the FOHS / FOHPS teams, please do not hesitate to get in touch- even if you don't want to be an official part of the committee. As they say 'More hands make light work' so please volunteer or chat to any of the team to see how you can help.

### ANOTHER HUGE THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who donated sweets and biscuits to support our Henley charity- MIND. Over 40 boxes and tubs were delivered to be distributed as part of the food parcels for families this Christmas.

Thank you to Mrs Cable who organized this for us.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Alex Chattell (Owls class) for being chosen as one of the top 20 designs in the country, for the Cool Milk Competition- an amazing design so well done!

**CONGRATULATIONS** also to Florence Dodd, Grace Harrison and Poppy Thurlow who won the Henley Christmas Card Competition this year. 3 fabulous designs!





### HELMINGHAM HALL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS-

For all those at Helmingham, this was a real treat. Thank you to Sophie for allowing us all to attend the light trail and for your amazing hospitality. We all really enjoyed this experience and felt very lucky to be part of it! If anyone hasn't yet been, it is well worth a visit.



Please remember to take a look at our Christmas singing and Nativity performances on the Google Classroom (and/or Tapestry at Helmingham). Although we couldn't have our traditional Nativity or performances, the children were able to join in their bubbles to perform some Christmas bits for you to enjoy. Well done and Thank you to all who took part in any way- the preparations, the recording, the organisation and of course the performers themselves!

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On Wednesday, at Helmingham we said our Goodbyes to Mrs Salmon after 15 years of teaching at the school. We heard lots of silly stories and shared lots of memories of activities completed with the children. We wish her every success for her next adventure.

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### TERM DATES:

We have a PD Day on 4<sup>th</sup> January

Children start back on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January!**

Please refer to the table that was sent out earlier in the week should you have any Covid symptoms or contacts over the holidays. The school emergency phone numbers have been given, and are available on the school websites, should you need to report any cases in the run up to Christmas.

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I am always keen to hear your views! I always say that if I don't know about a problem, I cannot try to solve it. As with any schools there are a few

grumbings. We are human and make mistakes. We don't always get things right but we do like to work with you for the absolute very best for all our children.

**Ideas, Suggestions and Comments-** there is a box in the entrance hall near the main office for you to add any comments you may wish to share.

*If you have any worries, concerns or problems, please do not hesitate to get in touch, firstly with your child's teacher and then with myself if this persists.*

*Enjoy the Christmas holiday! Relax and stay safe!*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!*



*Miss Stephanie Hawes*

**THANK YOU for all your Christmas wishes, cards and gifts to all the staff in our schools. We are very lucky to work with such fabulous families- Thank You!**

