



Newsletter 9 – Friday 10th January 2025

Welcome to our newsletter. We would like to wish all our families a very Happy New Year!

Year 4 go back to the Stone Age!

The Year 4 children had great fun with a hands-on Stone Age workshop on Wednesday.

They enjoyed interactive demonstrations involving looking at the fur on animal skins of some of the mammals that would have been in this part of Britain at the time. The children also explored the fascinating diets of our ancestors and they even got to handle different equipment and everyday items that archaeologists have dug up dating to the Stone Age period.

Real highlights included the shooting of the arrows on the academy field, doing cave paintings and dressing up Mrs Magee in Stone Age clothing! Ella (Year 4 Juniper) said, 'It was really interesting learning about how people in the Stone Age heated up cow skins to mould into things like bowls.'

What a great way to start the new topic in Year 4 this term!



Supporting Charity

We have been blown away by the continued generosity of our children, parents, staff and wider community. Through our Christmas Performances we are delighted to have raised **£380.44** for The Rockinghorse Children's Charity and Cancer Research UK.

We have also been informed we raised over **£200** for the Royal British Legion as part of our Remembrance poppy sale in November.

Thank you everyone for helping us support such worthy causes.

Unauthorised absence for term-time holidays

We wrote to parents and carers a few months ago outlining some changes made by the Department for Education in relation to schools applying for Fixed Penalty Notices when children are removed from education for family holidays.

As part of these changes, schools have been given the directive that, if a child is absent with reported illness immediately prior to, or after, a family holiday, and that this absence would otherwise result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued, the academy should ask parents for evidence of holiday dates to be satisfied the absence for illness is genuine. Parents are entitled to refuse to submit this evidence, but this will likely result in the entire period of absence being marked as unauthorised. It remains solely the Principal's decision on whether to authorise or unauthorise absence.

Should you have any questions about attendance and absence, please contact us via the Academy Office.

STAR of the Newsletter

Huge congratulations to Fleur Gunnell, Year 5 pupil, who entered a 'The Week Junior' competition to design the Christmas edition front cover. Fleur's design was one of only 5 commended entries and was printed in the magazine. Well done Fleur.



Reading Corner

According to some media sources and social media, 2025 is the year of the audiobook! Does listening to audiobooks have the same benefits as reading 'real' books though? Nothing will ever replace the benefits of reading, reading often and reading across a range of genres but listening to audiobooks does have amazing benefits:

Emotional intelligence: Listening to a human voice can create a stronger emotional response than reading or watching a film.

Engagement: Audiobooks can help engage children who are reluctant or struggling readers.

Access to a wider range of stories: Children can access stories that are beyond their reading level.

Vocabulary: Audiobooks expose children to a wider vocabulary, which can help with pronunciation and comprehension. It's also really good for children to hear grammatically accurate writing because writing in books is carefully edited and curated and this in turn will be beneficial for grammatically accurate writing.

Reading fluency: Hearing stories read accurately and at the right speed can help children develop their own reading fluency.

Speak to staff at the Haywards Heath library to find out about how you can access audiobooks for free through the library.

Remember that you can still send in photos of your child taking part in the Christmas Reading Challenge via Seesaw or email the office. Completed entries need to be back at school by Monday (13th January).

Happy New Year from the PTA

We hope you've had a lovely break from your PTA comms and are ready to get back to some fabulous fundraising in 2025!

Our next Committee Meeting is **Tuesday 21st January at 8pm in the Community Room**. If you are interested in seeing what we get up to or have some ideas to put forward then please come to the main gate and someone will meet you there.

Upcoming Events:

School Discos are coming up...

- **Friday 7th February, 5-6pm, Years 2 & 3**

- **Friday 14th March, 5-6pm, Years 4 & 5**
(Early Years and Year 6 will be in the summer term)

Role Model Week Commencing **10th February**:

Please look out for the application form on ParentMail. It would be wonderful to have as many people volunteer as possible.

NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service should mean that we can help children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as support parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

<u>Common condition</u>	<u>Patient eligibility</u>
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over

Designated Schools Team

Did you know that LPA benefits from having a specialist Designated Schools Team worker, Annie Rowland?

Annie is qualified to provide early support to families who face some difficulties in a range of areas. Perhaps you feel your child accesses too much screen time, or maybe they are defiant or even violent at home. It could be that they have trouble sleeping or find the transition to school challenging each day.

Whatever concern you have, Annie may be able to help. We can facilitate informal chats at school at a time that suits you. Contact the Senior Leadership Team if you think this offer may benefit your family.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 27th Jan: Year 5 Ancient Greece Workshop

Fri 31st Jan: CommuniTEA 9am

Fri 7th Feb: Year 2 & 3 PTA Disco (after school)

Mon 10th-Thurs 13th Feb: Role Model Week

Fri 14th Feb: INSET Day (School Closed to students)

Mon 17th-Fri 21st Feb: Half Term Holiday

Monday 24th Feb: INSET Day (School Closed to students)