With God's love we can fly



Newsletter

6th November 2026

HUXLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

DEAR PARENTS/CARERS...

Well, what a week it has been! I think it's fair to say that we are all looking forward to a rather quiet weekend and a good sleep!

The Call We Had Been Waiting For!

Monday morning started like any other... until my phone rang just as I had joined an online Trust Heads meeting. Yes, you guessed it — Ofsted! And, of course, because I was on screen, all my fellow headteachers got to witness my reaction live! Not quite how I had imagined receiving the call, but certainly a memorable moment!

As many of you know, we must be one of the only schools in the country that has actually been wanting Ofsted to come! We have been waiting for that call for some time, eager to share everything that makes our unique but truly wonderful school so special.
However, wanting an inspection and actually going through one are two very different things! It was an incredibly busy and intense two days, with so much to share and, as always, never quite enough hours in the day to share it all! Whilst I am unable to share any outcomes at this stage, what I can say is just how immensely proud I am of our staff, our pupils and our whole school community.

Being a predominantly flexi-school brings its own unique opportunities and challenges, and we were keen for the inspectors to understand what makes Huxley, well... Huxley! We were fortunate to have lovely inspectors who, throughout the process, were mindful of everyone's wellbeing and clearly wanted the very best for both pupils and staff. There were even some lovely lighter moments. At one point, an inspector joined in with a game of football, and another moment found themselves answering some of our children's wonderfully unexpected questions, including, 'What is your favourite Dutch cheese?' Much to the amusement of the staff! Only at Huxley!
But that really does sum up our children. They are curious, wonderfully individual, full of personality and have an incredible ability to bring joy to every single day. Huxley is one of those places that draws you in, and I feel incredibly privileged to be part of it.

I also want to say an enormous thank you to you, our parents. Your ongoing support has been nothing short of amazing. The lovely emails, thoughtful cards, kind words and wellbeing gifts that arrived throughout the inspection meant so much to us all. And those biscuits... well, let's just say the sugar was very much appreciated and helped keep us going! It is at times like these that you realise just how special a school community can be. Your support, trust and encouragement mean more than you probably realise.

As soon as I am able to share our Ofsted report, I absolutely will. Please bear with us, as reports have to go through various quality assurance processes before they can be published, and this can take some time. In the meantime, I simply want to say how proud I am of everyone.

A Few Changes to Plans!

I also want to apologise for the changes we had to make this week to accommodate the inspection activities. I know a few parents had arranged to meet with myself and Miss Lloyd, and unfortunately these meetings had to be rearranged. Our planned Come Talk with Me session also had to be cancelled. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.
We will rearrange these, and next week I will send out all our key dates for the coming weeks, including all of our Christmas events.

Yes, I know... it's only just November! But with our flexi children attending on only 3 days, we need to plan ahead, and we all know how quickly Christmas suddenly creeps up on us!
Talking of Christmas, I understand a few parents were slightly confused to see staff wearing Christmas jumpers this week!

Let me explain...

At the end of the inspection, I jokingly announced, 'Well, Christmas can start tomorrow now!'

Knowing just how much I love Christmas, our wonderful staff decided to surprise me by arriving in their Christmas jumpers the following day. What they didn't realise was that I had had exactly the same idea!



MRS RACHEL GOURLEY

HEADTEACHER

Chester Diocesan Academies Trust

Clearly, we are so in tune as a team that we are now thinking alike — which is either a wonderful thing or slightly worrying!
So, for anyone wondering whether they had missed Christmas Jumper Day, please don't panic
You haven't! That is still to come. Although, I can't promise the Christmas music won't make an appearance soon... the Nativity is ready to start next week...

A Very Special Team — and a Warm Welcome!

I couldn't finish this week's newsletter without saying a little more about our incredible staff team.
Inspections are intense, even when you are ready and prepared. They require everyone to pull together, adapt quickly, support one another and somehow keep everything running as normally as possible for the children.

And that is exactly what our team did.

I have always known how special our staff are, but this week reminded me just how fortunate we are to have such dedicated, caring, hardworking and genuinely lovely people at Huxley. There was teamwork, laughter, encouragement, plenty of cups of tea and, above all, an unwavering commitment to our children.

And speaking of teamwork, we welcomed a new member of staff on Monday — Miss Jones, who has joined us as a one-to-one Teaching Assistant supporting a new pupil. Now, imagine starting a brand-new job and, on your very first day, discovering that Ofsted are coming! Talk about being thrown in at the deep end! But Miss Jones has been absolutely brilliant. She has slotted into the team so naturally, supported everyone around her and even brought in fish and chips for the staff, as well as keeping everyone supplied with cups of tea and coffee throughout the inspection.
What an amazing team player, and what a first week! II am sure you will all join me in giving Miss Jones a very warm Huxley welcome. I also sincerely hope her second week is a little less eventful than her first!

Finally... Thank You, Team Huxley!

If this week has reminded me of anything, it is that a school is so much more than a building, a timetable or an inspection report. It is the people who make it what it is.

It is the children who arrive each day with their wonderful personalities, endless questions and ability to make us smile.

It is the staff who go above and beyond, not because they have to, but because they genuinely care.

It is the parents who trust us, support us, encourage us and stand alongside us, particularly during the busiest of weeks.

And it is the way we all come together, look after one another and celebrate what makes our school so unique.

Huxley may do things a little differently, but that is part of what makes us so special. We are a community that values every child, embraces individuality and believes that school should be a place where children feel happy, safe, secure and understood; a place where they are able to flourish as thier 'authentic selves'.

Whatever the week brings, the heart of Huxley remains the same — our children, our people and our wonderful community.

I couldn't be prouder to be your Headteacher.

Now, if you'll excuse us, I think we all deserve a very large cup of tea, a quiet weekend and possibly a few more biscuits!

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone.

Team Huxley — you really are something special!