



HARTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

7th November 2025



Dear Parents, Carers and Families

Welcome back to Autumn 2, I hope you've all enjoyed the half term break and any Halloween and Bonfire Night events that you may have attended with your family. This next half term is always a busy one with the run up to Christmas and all that entails. I know the PTA are already busy preparing for their "Sparkles Over School" event on 28th November and of course the staff are planning for nativities and Christmas performances. Here's a round up of our news so far:

On Wednesday this week our Early Years and Year 3 children welcomed Rebecca Gaskell into school to enhance their learning about Hinduism and Diwali. As part of her visit she taught the children the art of Bollywood dancing. The children enjoyed listening to the music and learning some new moves, such as the crab mudra and the lion mudra. By the end of the session, they were able to put their moves together to perform a dance routine.

Instead of our usual Picture News assembly this week I talked to the children on Tuesday about the next module in the My Happy Mind Programme. We began to talk about:

- What Character Strengths are and why they matter.
- How to recognise Character Strengths in ourselves.
- How understanding Character Strengths can make us feel.

We will be continuing this work in class over the next half term.

Log onto the parent app for more information about the Celebrate module and how you can support your child at home. There are lots of activities you can do together including creating strength spotting glasses, listening to the story and song plus much more. There is a whole Kid's Zone for your child to enjoy with interactive games. As well as resources for grown-ups too.

Use this QR code to download the app if you haven't already



To access the materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email and authentication code 149663.

Odd Socks Day – Monday 10th November

Next week we will be celebrating the key messages of Anti Bullying Week by inviting all the children to wear their oddest and brightest socks to school on Monday. This is an opportunity to encourage everyone to express themselves and highlight that we are all unique and our individuality should be celebrated. All the children have to do is wear and celebrate their odd socks with pride.

We are asking for a voluntary donation of £1 a child on odd sock day. All of the money we raise will go towards the refurbishment of our "Emotional Support" room, which children can access to gain more support to help them with social or emotional challenges, such as managing anxiety, building self-esteem, improving social skills, or coping with difficult life changes. You can send £1 on the day or log into your ParentPay account and make the donation this way.

I cannot wait to see all the different colours, styles and patterns in the classroom and on the playground. Thank you in advance for your support.

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 7th November – Tuesday 11th November – Scholastic Book Fair

Tuesday 11th November – Zoolab Visitor Year 1

Thursday 13th November – Year 6 Hartford Geography Field Trip

Monday 24th November – Early Years visit to St. John's Church Hartford

Tuesday 25th November – Rabbi David from Bowden Synagogue visiting Year 4

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Thursday 27th November – Year 3 Trip to Beeston Castle
Monday 1st December – Academy Photography in school, individual and sibling photographs
Friday 5th December – Early Years visit to The Ice Cream Farm
Wednesday 10th December – KS1 Nativity 2pm
Thursday 11th December – KS1 Nativity 2pm
Friday 12th December – Early Years Nativity 10am and 2pm
Monday 15th December – KS2 Christmas Performance at St. John's – Years 3 & 5
Wednesday 17th December – Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 18th December – KS2 Christmas Party
Friday 19th December – KS2 Christmas Performance at St. John's – Year 4 & 6
Friday 19th December – Early Years & KS1 Christmas Party
Friday 19th December – School closes for the Christmas break

Attendance

Whole school attendance up until Friday 24th October was 97.22%. We had 34 children recorded as late the week before half term. I'm delighted to report however that this week we've only had 18 children recorded as late, which is a significant improvement. Thank you for your continued support in this area, it really does make such a difference to the children's day.

A Sporting Update from Mr Cairns

On Friday 17th October, two teams of Year 3 and 4 boys headed to Hartford High School for a non-competitive football event. Both teams had a great time playing against children at a similar level and learning new skills. They all showed amazing sporting values and scored some wonderful goals. Well done everyone!

On Tuesday 21st October, two Year 5 and 6 boys football teams went to Hartford High. This was an Inspire competition which means the organisers keep score, announce the winners and there is progression to the next round of the competition. The B team found the start of the tournament tricky as the standard was high. They lost their first few games but once they got their first goal that all changed. They won the next two games and then grabbed a draw to finish very strongly. The A team won every game at the tournament and only conceded one goal, meaning they will go to the next round on Friday 7th November. Well done to all the boys who took part.

The first tournament of the year run by the Create Learning Trust for Year 3 and 4 boys was held at Hartford Primary School on Thursday 23rd October. Sandiway, Cuddington and Little Leigh Schools all came along and played some lovely passing football. Great values were shown by all the players, especially Jackson who even played for Little Leigh for one half to help them out. The refereeing from the Year 6 children was of the highest quality and they didn't even have VAR! Our team won all three matches and won the tournament, well done boys!

The first tournament for November was a Year 5 and 6 basketball event which took place this Tuesday. The children at Hartford High School put on some excellent basketball skills sessions for the team when they were not playing a match to improve their skills. On court, the team were brilliant. They defended aggressively, shot like they were in the NBA and made the right choices with their passes. They won every match and will now play in the second round in December. Well done everyone!

Scholastic Book Fair – Friday 7th November – Tuesday 11th November

As you know we're holding a book fair after school from 3.30pm – 4.30pm, under the canopy outside the Year 3 and 4 classrooms, on the above dates. There will be a wide range of books available to choose from and payment can be made by card. We earn commission from our book sales which we can use to purchase new books for our school library, so I'd like to thank you in advance for supporting the fair.



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PTA News

“SPARKLES OVER SCHOOL” Event – Friday 28th November 2025

In case you missed the communication sent by school yesterday here are details of our Christmas event this year:

We are very excited to provide you with all the details you need for our winter event **“Sparkles Over School”**, which will be held on Friday 28th November! Gates will be open at 5pm, and the evening will end with a child friendly Firework display at 7pm. We will have a variety of external stalls, school games and stalls. Vincent Van Dough Pizza Van and Layer Treats will be providing food, alongside a bar.

Event Ticket Cost

After last year's fireworks were postponed due to the poor weather, those who purchased tickets will be carried over. We would still like to raise some money for school so this year we are inviting attendees to make a voluntary donation to support the event and ongoing PTA school fundraising. Whilst there is no obligation for those who did purchase tickets, any contribution would be greatly appreciated and we suggest between **£1 and £5 per person** on ParentPay or on the door.

Stall Token Payments

Payment for school stalls will be via pre-bought tokens, which can be bought at a couple of pop-up sales on some mornings and afternoons leading up to the event, and also on the night. More details will be shared nearer the time.

Tombola Prize Donations

We will be running the ever-popular chocolate and bottle tombola stalls and would appreciate any donations from families for this. To support this, we will be running a Non-Uniform Day on the day of the event (Friday 28th November), with donations as follows:

- EY, Year 1 and Year 2: Chocolate Donation
- Years 3,4,5 and 6: Bottle donation (any bottle, could be bubble bath, perfume, wine; your choice)

Please do not bring any donations into school before Friday 28th November as we don't have space to store them, just drop them off in the small hall on the morning. Thank you so much for your support with this.

Raffle

We will be sending raffle tickets home within the next couple of weeks and already have an impressive array of prizes. If you, or the company your work for are able to donate any prizes, please get in touch.

Volunteers

The success of the event is solely based on volunteers, so please can you spare 30 minutes of your time on the day, either during the day to get us ready, or on a stall during the event. Please contact us directly on pta@hartfordprimary.cheshire.sch.uk if you are able to help. With over 250 families in school, we are really relying on a good volunteer turnout.

Match Funding

If anyone does work for any organisation who offers match funding please do let us know - we can work with you on an activity that means we can fund more amazing things for the pupils - trips, workshops, another gladiator trip just by as little as 1 hour of your time!!!!

Thank you so much for your ongoing support, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

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Secondhand Children's Book Stall

Miss Crouch will be running a secondhand children's book stall at the PTA event on 28th November and is looking for donations of good quality preloved books. Please send these in either directly to 2EC or via the office. Thank you for your support. (Children's books only please.)

Parents' Coffee Morning at Sandiway Primary School – Thursday 13th November 9.15am

Sandiway Primary School are delighted to welcome Kathryn Alexander from **SPOTSS** (Sensory Processing Occupational Therapy Support Service) to their upcoming parents' coffee morning on Thursday 13th November at 9.15am.

The SPOTSS team provides training, signposting, and resources for schools across Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) and Cheshire East (CE). Their aim is to help introduce sensory processing approaches and offer practical tools for working with parents and young people to identify and implement effective sensory strategies that support children's regulation in school.

Kathryn will be able to share information and also answer questions and give advice.

If you would like to join her for the coffee morning, please email senco@sandiway.cheshire.sch.uk so that they can plan and organise the event.

Hartford Parish Council Community Events

Hartford Parish Council have asked us to advertise the following events on their behalf:

Tuesday Art Club for 11 to 16 year olds

Get creative and make new friends at this art club for 11 to 16 year olds. It takes place on selected Tuesdays, from 4 to 5pm, at Hartford Village Hall on Chester Road. Try water colours, clay-modelling and more.

Places are limited so book your place now: contact Linda on 07813 662654. The cost is £3 per session, with free refreshments. Concessions are available – contact us to discuss. All proceeds go to NSPCC. Hartford NSPCC event supported by Hartford Parish Council.

Let's Play, Sunday 16th November

Calling all children in Hartford... want to make new friends and have fun? Come along with your parents or carers to Let's Play from 2 to 4pm on [Hartford's Green Field](#) (near the allotments, behind the Chester Road shops)

At Let's Play, you will find lots of games and activities on offer, like football, giant jenga, chess, art, construction blocks and more. The aim of the sessions is to help children feel more at home in Hartford, make new friends and have fun. Please note, children are the responsibility of their parents / carers and must be supervised at all times.

Hartford Christmas Light Up 2025, Saturday 22nd November

Celebrate Hartford's Christmas lights switch on with free mince pies and refreshments... plus meet Santa Claus! Join us at this free event on Hartford's Chester Road car park opposite the Co-op from 5.15pm. There will also be music from Hartford Church of England High School and St John's Church. Please note, the Chester Road car park will be closed to vehicles from 2.30pm until after the event.

Hartford Christmas Fayre, Saturday 29th November

Hartford's Christmas Elves look forward to welcoming you to the 2025 Christmas Fayre. It takes place from 11am to 3pm at [St John's Church and the Church Centre](#). Many local shops and businesses join in with the festive spirit too, so we highly recommend a visit to the village.

Entrance to the Fayre is free for visitors. Come along to browse unique Christmas gifts, enjoy free live music and performances, and buy hot food and sweet treats. Best of all... meet Santa Claus for free in his Grotto!

HPS have been asked to perform at this event so you may well spot a familiar face or two.



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Try A New Hobby! Hartford's Community Clubs

Ever fancied trying dance, yoga, drama, or cricket? How about joining a group hike, volunteering at a nature reserve or martial arts? In Hartford, there are so many community clubs for children, teens, and adults, where you can make new friends, try out new hobbies and have fun. Many are free of charge or low cost.

On the Hartford Parish Council website, we have put together a directory of local clubs - see [Community clubs and societies](#). The directory lists clubs based in Hartford that are run by local charities, societies, and other organisations. If you know of any clubs we can add to this directory, or if you spot any information that we need to update, please [contact us](#).

Find out more about Hartford's [community events](#)

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Kind regards

L Cade

Mrs L Cade
Acting Headteacher