



HARTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

19th December 2025



Dear Parents, Carers and Families

Well, here we are, the final newsletter of 2025! Can you believe it? I'd like to start today by thanking all the staff, children and yourselves for the support I've received this term, it means such a lot. I like to think of us of one big family here at Hartford and this has been demonstrated many times over the last couple of weeks alone, what with our nativities, Christmas performances at church and Sparkles Over School event, and not forgetting Christmas Dinner on Wednesday and our Christmas parties yesterday and today. All events where we've come together to celebrate.

I'd also like to say a special thank you to all of our parent volunteers who accompany the children on our various visits and school trips, particularly those that have taken place this week. Some of you have been back and to school, church and the high school numerous times! We wouldn't be able to provide the experiences we do, for the children, without your support, so it is very much appreciated, thank you for giving up your time. Without further ado let's recap what's been happening over the last week.

Year 4 Deva Centre Trip – Friday 12th December

Year 4 had a fantastic trip to the Deva Roman Experience Centre in Chester last Friday. We all dressed up as Roman soldiers and marched around the Amphitheatre, learning some of the skills the soldiers learnt 2000 years ago. Back at the centre, we learnt about everyday life behind the walls of a Roman city. We even found out that going to the toilet was a very sociable experience for ancient Romans as they sat together and chatted and that one of their favourite things to eat were dormice!

Year 3 and 5 Christmas Performance at St. John's – Monday 15th December

Year 3 and Year 5 enjoyed a wonderful visit to church for their Christmas carol concert. Although we walked together in the rain, it certainly didn't dampen our spirits. Both year groups came together to sing a selection of beautiful Christmas songs, accompanied by Makaton, which made the performance even more special and inclusive.

For the finale, we were delighted to be joined by parents to sing *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, creating a truly festive atmosphere. The children performed brilliantly and made their teachers, their families, and themselves incredibly proud. I'm sure Year 4 and Year 6 parents and families will be in for a similar treat this afternoon.

Young Voices Choir Performance at Hartford High School's Carol Concert at St. John's

I was delighted to accompany Mrs Ovenden, Mrs Walker, Mrs Birtwistle and members of our Young Voices choir when they performed at St. John's this Wednesday as part of Hartford High School's carol concert. The children performed beautifully and were a real credit to school. I'm looking forward to accompanying them to the actual Young Voices concert in February – it promises to be an amazing experience for all concerned.

Thursday 18th December – Epic Christmas Singalong at Hartford High – Years 2 – 6

Yesterday we took all the children from Year 2 right up to Year 6 down to Hartford High School to take part in their first Epic Sing event. This was a lovely opportunity for all the schools in Hartford to come together. It was made particularly special as our former 2024/25 Year 6 (now Year 7) pupils joined us to sing some beautiful Christmas songs together. Our Young Voices choir also performed a song for everyone, which was fabulous. I'd like to thank Ms Philippou, from Hartford High School, for inviting us to this event. We're already looking forward to next year's get together!

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 19th December – School closes for the Christmas break

Monday 5th January – Inset Day – School Closed

Tuesday 6th January – School Reopens for Spring 1

Friday 9th January – Swimming lessons start for 3GR

Thursday 5th February – Young Voices Choir Performance At Co-Op Live Arena – Young Voices 2026

Attendance

Whole school attendance up until Friday 12th December was 97.04%. Unfortunately, we've had 63 children recorded as late this week, I think the bad weather we've been experiencing played a big part in this. Looking ahead to next half term, when I'm sure we'll be having colder icier mornings, please allow extra time for your journey, to enable your child to arrive for the start of the school day.

Early Years 2026 Applications

Just a reminder that the closing date for applications for Early Years 2026 places is 15th January 2026. Applications should be submitted online www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/admissions

RESPONSIBILITY – RESPECT – ASPIRATION – PRIDE



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RRAP Club – An Update From Our Club Leader Mrs Fox

That's a wrap for RRAP in 2025! It's been an amazing year— from launching RRAP Club, moving to the big hall as numbers grew, welcoming new families and staff, and seeing the children have so much fun in the club and at our special events. We enjoyed a fantastic Christmas party this week in RRAP Club and wish all our children and families a Merry Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

PTA News

What a great first term we have had, and we wanted to end it by giving you the final figures from the Sparkles event and the raffle. Once again thank you to all who helped, donated or spent their pennies!

In total, with match funding we made £2083.35 profit on the Christmas raffle towards school events

The Sparkles over School event itself had an overall profit of £4,456.08 which again is fantastic!

And what does this go towards you ask? Well this term, we used it for the whole school visit from Steel the gladiator, towards transport for the Early Years Christmas trip to the Ice Cream Farm, Year 2's "Wings and Things" visit into school just to name a few...

Myself, Rachael, Rachel and Charlotte wish you and your families a lovely Christmas and we'll see you all in the new year!

Chester Zoo Universal Credit Ticket Offer

The zoo are offering £1 tickets this Christmas to people receiving Universal Credit (including Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, ESA, Income Support, JSA and Housing Benefit, as well as DLA and PIP), helping more families enjoy time together and make festive memories at a time of year that can be challenging for many.

This offer is part of their long-running Community Connections Scheme, which aims to make days out more accessible for individuals, families and community groups who may otherwise struggle to make a visit happen.

The tickets are valid for visits 17th – 31st December for up to six people per household (children under 12 months and carers go free). Tickets must be booked online in advance – tickets are limited and not available at the gate. Proof of eligibility and photo ID required on arrival. Full details and booking www.chesterzoo.org/universalcredit

Free Online Drop In Session – Autism Family Support Service – 6th January

The Autism Family Support Service are running a **free** online support opportunity for parents and carers on 6th January 2026. Please find attached a leaflet which provides more information about the '**You Are Not Alone**' drop-ins that they offer parents.

Aladdin – Northwich Memorial Court – 7th – 31st December

Please find attached a flyer regarding the pantomime Aladdin which is running at Brio in Northwich up until 31st December.

Inset Day – Monday 5th January 2026

A reminder that school is closed for an Inset Day on Monday 5th January and we reopen on Tuesday 6th January.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards

S L Cade

Mrs L Cade
Acting Headteacher