



Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

February 24th, 2026

Diary Dates

February

24th YR/Y6 class photos
26/27th Online Safety days

March

5th World Book Day
25/6th Wizard of Oz show
30th.1st Y4 residential

April

2nd Easter break (Thurs)
20th School re-opens

May

4th Bank Holiday
6-8th Y3 residential
11th Y6 SATs week
22nd INSET (pupils not in)
23rd Half-term break

June

1st School re-opens
Y4 Tables check (2 wks)
8th Y1 Phonics check wk
17th Nursery Sports (am)
17-19th Y6 residential
18th Infant Sports (am)
25th Junior Sports (am)
26th Class photos YN, 1-5
30th Class swaps (am)

July

14-16th Parents' Evenings
20th Y6 Leavers' show
22nd Summer Break/INSET

Healthy Living

I hope that you enjoyed some precious family time over the half-term break, despite the mediocre weather. Showing some prospective parents around our school yesterday, which is always a pleasure, I was able to reel off the many advantages of settling in the Chester area, with a beautiful and historic city at its heart, surrounded by the rural charm of the Cheshire plain, and the spectacular scenery of North Wales and the Lake District not too far away. We do live in a special part of the UK, and it is definitely worth getting out and about to explore it if you can. In search of a better environment to bring up a family, thirty years ago, I changed career (from TV to teaching) and location (west London to our lovely Chester) and have not once regretted it. As my time at the school draws to a close, after twenty four years (as deputy then head), I am looking forward to more walks along the mid-Cheshire ridge, by the banks of the Dee (see our school [website](#)) and high above the Llangollen valley (preferably with a coffee shop or pub along the way). I hope that our school's commitment to a healthy outdoor life, through our residential visits, PE curriculum, Forest School area and extensive opportunities for inter-school sport, will develop a love of the outdoors in your children, to set alongside the love of learning in all its forms that is encapsulated in our school motto: *Learn to Live, Live to Learn*.

Year 3 pupils recently enjoyed an exciting 4-week programme of lessons and activities delivered by Chester FC Community Trust. The GULP project (Give Up Loving Pop) focused on healthy lifestyle choices in a fun and engaging way, and covered oral hygiene, sugar detectives and hydration in class lessons, then lots of physical activity outside.



Chester FC women's team manager with Y3 for GULP

Allergy aware: nuts, eggs

As I am sure you are aware, we decided several years ago to reduce the risk of life-threatening reactions to nut products by becoming a **Nut-Free school**.

We ask you now, where feasible, not to provide your child with a packed lunch that features **egg items**, in recognition of a severe allergy experienced by some children. This would apply most obviously to boiled eggs, egg sandwiches or egg in salad, and does not refer to baked items (e.g. cakes). This is not a ban, but a request to increase the safety of vulnerable pupils: we thank you in anticipation for following this guidance.

Young Voices

After months of preparation, guided expertly by Mrs Caldecott, our school choir again took part in the fabulous *Young Voices* event at the Co-op Live Arena in Manchester. Our pupils enjoyed singing a range of popular songs with thousands of other school children, supported by professional musicians, and videos from the show are available on our Instagram (see Feb 5th). Special thanks are also due to Mrs Ashton for all the work that goes into organising the tickets and T-shirts for the show.



A sample of recent school activities



Nursery challenging themselves



Y2 Design & Technology



Y5 Art (seasons)



Y6 Science investigation



Mad Science Assembly



Author book club (Y3)

Behaviour Awards

The winners of the KS2 individual behaviour prizes for the last half term are as below - and well done to all the other children whose behaviour was excellent.

Y3 Birch: Lottie Whelan

Y3 Hazel: Daisy Jones

Y4 Hawthorn: James Harris

Y4 Lime: Lucy Smith

Y5 Larch: Scarlet Owen

Y5 Rowan: Samuel Armstrong

Y6 Alder: Jack Jeffs

Y6 Sycamore: Finlay Colville

New store opening

Over the half-term break, several of our pupils were lucky enough to take part in the opening of the new LIDL store. They received a private tour, including behind the scenes, before taking part in the official opening alongside manager Luke Harrison, with one lucky pupil cutting the ribbon. Goody bags full of middle aisle treats rounded off their exciting morning nicely!



SPORT

Football

Our Year 6 mixed football team competed in the County Finals at Crewe Alexandra's training facility in mid-January, having qualified as runners-up in the ESFA's Chester area tournament before Christmas. They remained undefeated by the end of the group stage, a considerable achievement against some of the best teams in the county, but their journey ended there. However, they should all be very proud of their performances and of reaching this tournament, which is the second time in three years that our Under 11 mixed team has done so.

Our team also played a league match just before the half-term break, securing a 5-0 win over Malpas (with four goals from Noa and one from Tabby, in a super performance featuring great passing throughout).



Y6 Mixed Football Squad (finals)

Archie Abraham, Oscar Cameron, Jaxon Foster-Lovell, Harry Freeman, Leo Griffiths, Rupert Hughes, Jack Jeffs, Lucas McKay, Noa Parsonage, Tabitha Stenning

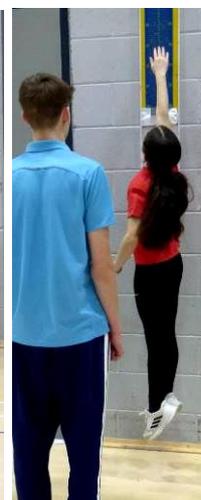
Girls' Football club

Girls from Years 4 and 5 have been enjoying a new girls-only football club provided by Chester FC, with women's team manager Calvin Williams working with the girls on their skills. Originally scheduled for the spring term only, the club will continue after the Easter break due to its popularity!



Sportshall Athletics

Fifteen Year 6 pupils represented the school in a Sportshall Athletics event at Ellesmore Port Sports Village in January, organised by the Chester School Sport Partnership. They took part in a wide range of indoor events, from javelin and standing long jump to relays and hurdles, and had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.



Y6 Sportshall Athletics team

Archie Abraham, Molly Callaghan, Oscar Cameron, Finlay Colville, Ruby Curzon, Harry Freeman, Ellie Hay, Rupert Hughes, Bhuti Majra, Lucas McKay, Noa Parsonage, Chloe Roberts, Tabitha Stenning, Isadora Kapps Sutter, Charlie Tate

Netball tournament

Our Y6 netball team took part in the area tournament at Blacon High School just before half term, and performed creditably despite the constant rain and high standard of the opposition in our group. Unfortunately the last thing on anybody's mind was taking a team photo in the terrible weather, but the squad are named below!

Y6 Netball Team

Isabelle Chadwick, Lilah Duncan, Elizabeth Hennessy, Sarah Hennessy, Bhuti Majra, Lucy McConnell, Lola McMillan, Elissa Price, Chloe Roberts, Hatty Seddon, Charlotte Sinclair, Isadora Kapps Sutter

Staff Training

Education never stands still, hence our commitment at Huntington to staff development. At the start of the spring term our teachers spent their January INSET day learning about ways to teach problem solving in mathematics from advisor Gareth Metcalfe of [I See Maths](#). These approaches have since been trialled in class with positive impact evident – thanks to KS2 Maths Lead Mr Cunnington for arranging this training.

Also on the January INSET day, some of our teaching assistants were invited to learn about Trauma Informed Practice from our SENDCo Mrs Kirkness who, together with Year 6 teacher Miss Avery, had qualified as a Trauma Informed Lead following completion of a course from the CWAC Virtual School during 2024-25.

The half-term was book-ended with another INSET day, during which the entire staff received their three-yearly safeguarding training update, which on this occasion we were fortunate to have delivered by practitioners from the CWAC Safeguarding Children in Education team.

Training during this half-term began yesterday with a fascinating presentation about the use of AI in education by a consultant from RoarTech, arranged by Computing Co-Lead Mrs Osholaja. The pace of change in this area is incredible, and continued professional development will be needed to keep up.

Notes from the Office

Some reminders, as below:

- *Leave of Absence* requests, for exceptional circumstances, need to be submitted using the [school form](#), with the appropriate notice (at least two weeks prior to absence). Term-time holidays cannot be approved.
- Please include your child's class name (e.g. Y2 Cedar) in emails to the office.
- Ensure name labelling is clear on uniforms, lunch boxes and water bottles.
- If collecting a child from school at the main entrance, please don't encourage them to use the button to let themselves out through the main door (there is a notice in place to support this guidance).

Family Holiday Support (CWAC update)

Financial support for lower income families is continuing, but from April 2026 the way help is provided will change.

The half term break just ended will be the final school holiday period where free school meals support is provided automatically in the form of a voucher. However, support will still be available: from April, families who need help will be supported to apply through the Crisis and Resilience Fund.

There is nothing families need to do at this stage. The Council will share clear information ahead of April about how to apply and what support is available.

If you need help now, cost of living advice and support is available through the [Council website](#).

These linked leaflets provide helpful information:

[Support for CWAC residents](#)

[Healthy Start](#)

[Benefits Calculator](#)

You may not be receiving all the financial support you're entitled to. CWAC's online benefits calculator can quickly show whether you could claim extra help.

Before you start make sure you have some accurate information to hand about your;

- savings
- income, including your partner's (from payslips, for example)
- existing benefits and pensions (including anyone living with you)
- outgoings (such as rent, mortgage, childcare payments)
- Council Tax bill

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Internet Safety Talk for Parents

We are again welcoming Andy Kevan, Detective Cyber Protect at Cheshire Police, into school for online safety presentations, for both pupils and parents. Last year's parent workshop was the most informative I have ever seen, and I highly recommend attendance – please use the online form previously sent out to indicate your attendance.

*Kind regards,
Mr Rose*

