

Dates for the diary

December

Friday 11th

Christmas Lunch
Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 18th

Last day of term

Monday 21st - Friday 1st

January

Christmas Holidays

January

Monday 4th

Children return to school



This week seems to have flown by! The Year 2 classes have been really fortunate with the weather this past week as they have taken part in their outdoor learning day and we hope this continues for the other classes next week. Our outdoor learning area really is a fabulous resource and one that all the children enjoy and brings added variety to their learning. The teaching staff and Mr Bailey work hard to plan and support each session.

A reminder to please let the school office know as soon as you have any concern about a pupil, their family members or close contacts being unwell with Covid symptoms or if anyone in a pupils household or close contacts is having a Covid test. A message can be left on the school answer phone or email the office. Thank you.

Sneak peek at our week

Year N - Nursery

This week we have been learning about light and dark. We have read the story 'Good Day, Good Night' and have been discussing the difference between the things we would do in the day, to what we would do at night time. The children have had fun painting and drawing pictures of the sun and moon and have begun to learn the name of the shapes the moon makes.

In Maths we have been learning to take away different amounts to make the total 1.

This week was also Friendship week, we have been talking about how important it is to treat our friends with kindness and telling each other who we are friends with.

Makaton signs this week are: Good morning, good evening, sit, toilet, more, help and friend

REMINDER: Your children will be able to bring in Christmas cards for their friends. To ensure that they have been isolated we need all Christmas cards handed in by Dec 4th.

Year R - Reception

In Reception this week we have been learning about Diwali being the festival of light. We have explored this by watching different videos, reading stories and creating our very own clay Diva lamps and paper lanterns. We have also begun to look at the first Christmas Story and how this compares to the story of Rama and Sita. We continue to develop our RWInc skills which everyone is working so hard on. As well as exploring our outside area within our classes.

REMINDER: A quick reminder to please bring in your child's book bag every day, especially Monday, Wednesday and Friday as we change their books. Each class has printed and shared a Christmas card list that was sent home this week, a little reminder that all cards should be in by Dec 4th, to enable them to isolate before being handed out



Children in Need Appeal

Thank you for all your donations to this amazing appeal.

We have been able to send off **£279.00** to them this week.

Christmas Card Project

If you have placed orders for your child's artwork you should have received all the items this week. With the exception of any mugs or fridge magnets – we are still waiting for the delivery of these two items. Once they are received we will send them home with your child.

Outdoor learning

Monday 23rd

Heron

Tuesday 24th

Duck

Wednesday 25th

Dragonfly

Thursday 26th

Frog

Friday 27th

Newt

Christmas Post

Our Christmas post box is open for business with just a few changes. The post box will be open **until Friday 4th December**. If your child would like to send a Christmas card to their classmates or teachers these can be brought in to class – **please remember to put the name and class of the person the card should be sent to clearly on each envelope.**

Tempest Photos

The deadline for the photograph proofs to be back to school has now passed. However, Tempest have advised that if you would like free delivery of your prints back to the school then you can make an [online](#) purchase directly on their website up until Sunday 22nd November. Any purchases made after this date will be subject to delivery charges.

Data Collection Forms

Year 1 & Year 2

If you have not yet returned the data collection form for your child, please check and complete this and return it to the school office asap.

Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed continuing to use the text 'The Bog Baby' by Jeanne Willis, the children have put themselves into the characters shoes to write a diary entry about the day they found The Bog Baby in the Bluebell woods. In Design and Technology the children have been finding out differences between fruits and vegetables and exploring where they grow and come from.

Next Week:

Outdoor Learning. Please wear appropriate clothing for cold and / or wet weather. Don't forget your wellies!

Year 2

Year 2 have really enjoyed our week in the Wildlife Area! We have pulled a big sledge with our friends on across the playground, trying to imagine what it would have been like for Scott and his team to pull a heavy load. We have also made bird feeders with apple and raisins, planted bulbs ready for the spring and built a shelter. In Literacy we have started exploring the text 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers and have been writing 'Found' posters, as the little boy finds a penguin at his door. In Maths we have started our unit on multiplication and have started with learning about repeated addition, equal groups and the two times tables. We have also been finding out more about Antarctica as a continent and what is like there.

REMINDER:

Have you completed your application for a Year 3 place for your child? It is time to apply for your child's place for September 2021. Although Hamstel Junior School is just next door, you must still apply through Southend Council's Admissions service. The link to the online application is [here](#). Or a paper application can be downloaded from [here](#).

Dinner menu

Monday

R - Beef lasagne with garlic bread

G - Roasted squash & basil risotto

P - Jacket potato with a choice of toppings

Carrots & mixed beans

Chocolate & beetroot sponge

Tuesday

R - Chicken tikka masala with rice

G - Chargrilled vegetable quesadilla with rice

P - Pasta with a choice of toppings

Lentil Dhal & broccoli

Courgette & orange cake

Wednesday

R - Gammon with orange & herb glaze served with roasted potatoes & gravy

G - Spiced Moroccan chickpea curry with lemon couscous

P - Jacket potato with a choice of toppings

Green cabbage & carrots

Ice cream with fruit

Thursday

R - Beef burger in a bun

G - Crispy chickpea burger in a bun

P - Pasta with a choice of toppings

Sweetcorn & coleslaw

Apple & oat crumble

Friday

R - Fish fingers with homemade tomato ketchup & chips

G - Mexican sweetcorn, carrot & courgette fritter with chargrilled tortilla & chips

P - Jacket potato with a choice of toppings

Baked beans & garden peas

Chocolate & carrot brownie

Freshly baked bread is available each day.