



We are fast approaching the end of term and we have a lot of excited children ready for the festive break! Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support during this term, we have a busy few weeks ahead.

Thank you also from the HSA for your support of Elfridges and the Name the Reindeer competition. All the money earned goes back into resources & activities to enhance the experience the children have at Hockliffe Lower School. Without the commitment of busy parents, some of these enhancements would not go ahead.

Mrs Aoife Greaves

Headteacher

### School Meals on Panto Day - 17th December

**Reminder - only sandwich options will be available for school meals on Tuesday 17th December as the children will not be back in school until around 1pm that day.**

#### Celebrating Attendance

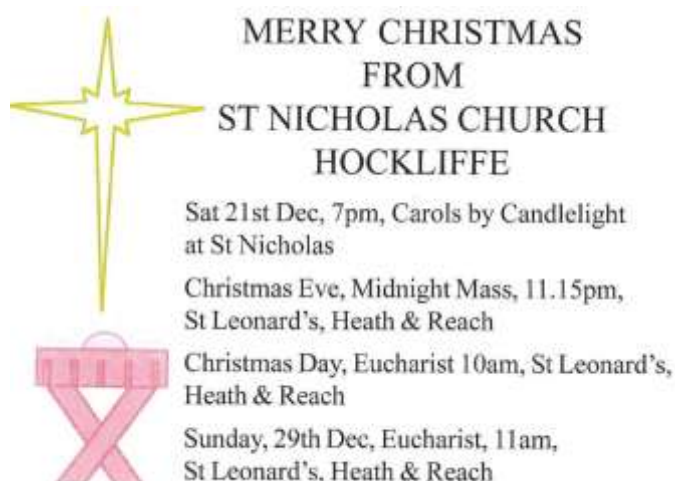
Attendance: 94%

20 pupils have not missed any time off school this term. Well done.



### Christmas at St Nicholas' Church

We have been invited to perform at St Nicholas's Church on Saturday 21st at 7pm. It would be great if some of the children could attend to sing the song we have been practising.



## Thank you

A huge thank you to Mr Stanbridge for all your hard work decorating our school for Christmas, we really appreciate your time and effort.



## Online Safety

Children deserve **a safe digital world**

I recently attended an online safety training course run by the Bedfordshire Police Education training Team. They have recommended the following website for supporting parents in answering questions and getting advice around online safety. I have spent some time looking at the website and would encourage you to use it.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

## Attendance & illness

**It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school.**

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone or email the school office. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

The link below gives further information on childhood illnesses.

[https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

## Values

In December we are revisiting our values from the last 18 months. These include: responsibility, happiness, honesty, hope, humility, love, patience, peace, respect, friendship and many more.

Through our focus on values we create a positive culture for playing, teaching and learning. We encourage the children to think about how their choices and behaviour impacts on others and to make positive choices.

## Rowan



The second half term has been just as busy as the first in Rowan Class! We had an amazing day at Celtic Harmony enhancing our history learning about the Stone Age. We sat in a roundhouse, watched Bran show us how to make a fire, went hunting for wild boar and woolly mammoth and went gathering in the woods looking for fruit, nuts, berries, herbs and mushrooms. We learnt about trading and then played a trading game. After that we went into the Stone Age cave and looked at all the amazing cave paintings like the ones we created back at school. Bran gave us a demonstration of flint knapping to show us how to make spears for hunting. He used the skin of a wild boar to protect his legs because the flint is extremely sharp. Finally, we learnt how to make a Stone Age stew with the herbs and wild cabbage we had gathered. We ground up the herbs and the cabbage and put them into a large pot to cook over the fire. Bran was amazed at our History knowledge because we answered so many of his questions.

At the Cluster Sports Event, we were lucky to take part in lots of different sporting events. Thank you to the Young Leaders at Gilbert Inglefield Academy who designed and ran a really fun, active afternoon.





Back in school we have been busy with 'No Pen Day' where all our learning for a day happened without any pens, pencils or crayons. Did you know, there is so much learning you can do without writing?



A special visitor from Hazard Alley came to teach us about how to stay safe on the internet.



In our Design Technology lessons, we have been designing and making our own cushions. We have learned how to use running stitch, blanket stitch and applique. Our finished cushions are amazing.



Everyone in Rowan Class wishes you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy New Year.

## **Maple**

### **The Great Fire of London**

We have been learning all about The Great Fire of London in Maple Class this month. We started by exploring what modern London is like and about some of the many landmarks found there. Our literacy books 'The Hackney Martian', 'The Queen's Hat' and 'Katie in London' really helped with that too! Then we learnt all about how The Great Fire of London started, why it spread so much and how much of London was destroyed. We have even started to build our own paper London so we can recreate the fire in miniature form (look out for that in the next newsletter!).

### **No pen day**

We had an amazing no pen day in Maple Class. We completed lots of practical maths activities and challenges, shared books and completed a story scavenger hunt in literacy and had music in the afternoon. It was nice giving our hands a rest but our brains still got a very good work out!

### **New books**

Earlier this month we had lots of books donated to our classroom which we have loved sharing and exploring together. Our class library has expanded wonderfully and we are very thankful to Annabel and Isabelle for donating them.

### **Diwali and Hanukkah**

Many of us are looking forward to celebrating Christmas in a few weeks, but we have been taking time in RE to learn about other festivals celebrating light triumphing over darkness at this time of year. We learnt all about the story of Rama and Sita, and why light is an important symbol for Hindus during Diwali. We also learnt about the Maccabee Brothers and why Menorah candles are important to Jewish people during Hanukkah.

### **Alien dancing**

In PE we have been thinking about the night skies in dance. We began by imagining we were on a space adventure as astronauts, flying around in our spaceship, floating around in space and landing on distant planets. We enjoyed imagining how strange it would be to eat, drink, brush our teeth and sleep in zero gravity! Then we read Aliens Love Underpants and thought of lots of different alien shapes we could make with our bodies. We also made our own alien hello dances and celebrations.



## Willow

In Willow Class this half term we have been learning about shapes in Maths and colour mixing in Art. We used a painting by Fiona Rae, Untitled (green with circles) as inspiration for our paintings. We found lots of different sized circles and drew around them for the design of our work, we then mixed different greens using the primary colours yellow and blue.





Mrs Houghton came into school to show us how we could make clay trees by using a lollipop stick to cut the clay and mark out the branches. Some of us made leaves to decorate our trees. We chose whether to paint the leaves green for summer or oranges for autumn.



We read the story of The Three Little Pigs and had great fun re-enacting the story with masks and stick puppets. We found out that bricks are made from clay that is dug from the ground in quarries. It is mixed with cement and water and shaped into bricks and then dried in kiln.



In RE we are looking at how Christmas is celebrated in the UK and we are reading the Christian Christmas story about the birth of Jesus. We are busy practising songs for our nativity performance and "Carols on the Playground" in a couple of weeks.

We have also had a go at using glockenspiels to accompany songs in Music.

In PE we are learning to control balls of different sizes, by kicking, rolling and throwing them

 <b>WINTER TIMETABLE</b> <small>Talks are delivered online via zoom 7pm to 9pm - £24 each              If you can't make the date ask for the link to the recording, available for 48 hours afterwards.              Book online at <a href="https://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk">facefamilyadvice.co.uk</a>              go to the PARENT page</small>	
<b>FREE - Decreasing Depression</b>	<b>25 NOV</b>
<b>FREE - Anxiety Explained</b>	<b>20 JAN</b>
What is ACT?	26 NOV, 21 JAN
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	26 NOV
Supporting a Child with ADHD	5 DEC, 2 JAN
Understanding Anger	10 DEC, 13 JAN
Facing Defiance	17 DEC, 14 JAN
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	19 DEC, 16 JAN
Anxiety-Based School Avoidance	7 JAN
AUTISM: Improving Communication	9 JAN
Raising Self-Esteem	27 JAN
Supporting Healthy Sleep	28 JAN
Improving Family Communication	4 FEB
Introduction to OCD	18 FEB
<a href="https://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk">facefamilyadvice.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk">info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk</a>	

Targeted at ADHD and ODD  
as well as Regular Challenging Behaviour



## Facing Defiance

Are you struggling with your child's defiant behaviour?

**17 December 7- 9pm**

Recording link available

A two hour online session with Jane Keyworth, Lead Facilitator at FACE

to improve the relationship between you and your child (Ages 5 -12)

**Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](https://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk) - PARENT page £24**

Booking - <https://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk/>

## Coping Over Christmas

The cooler weather, darker evenings, social gatherings and the busyness of school and work as the year comes to an end can all have huge impacts on our mood. Please find some information [here](#) about Coping Over Christmas which you might find helpful.

## Parking at school

It has been highlighted to school that there is some poor parent parking, on Woburn Road.

## Safety tips for parking outside schools

When picking up or dropping off your children at schools, you should do the following:

- Allow yourself plenty of time as the area is likely to be busy.
- Do not park on yellow zigzag lines and avoid parking opposite them.
- Do not park on pathways blocking them for pedestrians.
- If you decide to park further away, please be considerate of local residents and avoid blocking driveways or access ways.
- Please be mindful of local residents who do have the right to complain to the council and the police about dangerous or illegal parking.





**Children's catch-up  
vaccination walk in  
clinics for Central  
Bedfordshire in  
December 2024**

**Shefford Children Centre,  
Shefford Lower School,  
School Lane, Shefford,  
SG17 5XA**

**14/12/2024 (9.30-  
14.30)**

**Please scan for further  
information**



Month & school events	Other important dates
<b>Forest School</b>  Due to the flooding we do not know when we will be able to start Forest School again. It will definitely not happen in the autumn term.	

<b>December</b>  13 <sup>th</sup> Rocksteady Concert 2.30 - 3.00 Parents of Rocksteady children invited  17 <sup>th</sup> Pantomime 10.30am children only (children require a packed lunch)  18 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Carols on playground 3.15 - 3.30pm Parents invited  18 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner & Jumpers children only  19 <sup>th</sup> Willow Nativity 2.30 - 3.00 parents of Willow invited  20 <sup>th</sup> Break up for Christmas – Early close  21st Carols by Candlelight at Hockliffe Church 7pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> International Day of Disabled Persons
<b>January</b>  6 <sup>th</sup> Return to school  13 <sup>th</sup> Week Beg SEND Parent Meetings	4 <sup>th</sup> World Braille Day  6 <sup>th</sup> Epiphany  13 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Energy Saving Week  16 <sup>th</sup> World religion Day  29 <sup>th</sup> Chinese New Year  29 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb Lunar New Year

<p><b>February</b></p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> International Day of Women &amp; girls in Science</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> Break up for half term (HSA Mufti pay into HSA bank account £2)</p> <p>24<sup>th</sup> Maple &amp; Rowan Parent Evening 1.30 start</p> <p>27<sup>th</sup> Willow Parent Evening 2.00 start</p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> BASH Yr 1 &amp; 2 9.30 – 11.30 PE kit</p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> Top Up Young Leader Yr 4 lunchtime PE kit</p>	<p>29<sup>th</sup> Jan – 12<sup>th</sup> Lunar New Year</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Children's Mental Health Week</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> International Day of Women &amp; girls in Science</p>
<p><b>March</b></p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> BASH Yr 1 &amp; 2 PE kit</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Top Up Young Leader Yr 4 lunchtime PE kit</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> Reading Afternoon 2.30 - 3.05 Parents invited</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Celebration of World Book Day &amp; Poetry Workshop children only</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> British Science Week</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> BASH Yr 1 &amp; 2 PE kit</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> Sports Leader Festival Yr 4 lunchtime PE kit</p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> Parent and child maths time parents invited 8.55 - 9.30</p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> Enterprise Afternoon children only £1 in change required</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> Sports Festival (Middle School children run event for Hockliffe Lower onsite children only) PE kit required</p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> Rowan Stockwood Park visit (packed lunch required children only)</p> <p>28<sup>th</sup> Rocksteady Concert 2.30 - 3.00 Parents of Rocksteady children invited</p>	<p>Women's History Month</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> St David's Day</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday</p> <p>8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> &amp; 15<sup>th</sup> Holi Festival</p> <p>17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick's Day</p> <p>Shakespeare Week 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> March</p> <p>30<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day</p>



<p><b>April</b></p> <p>Spring Term Rowan Trip to Discovery Centre (TBC)</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Break up for Easter – Early close</p> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> April Return to school</p> <p>Ukulele Rowan class Tuesday mornings</p> <p>28<sup>th</sup> Week beg SEND Parent Meetings</p>	<p>Mathematics Awareness Month</p> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day</p> <p>23<sup>rd</sup> St George's Day</p> <p>29<sup>th</sup> International Dance Day</p>
<p><b>May</b></p> <p>Ukulele Rowan Class Tuesday 9am</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday</p> <p>11th HSA Colour Run am Parents and Children invited 10am - 12pm</p> <p>23<sup>rd</sup> Break up for half term (HSA mufti pay into HSA bank account £2)</p>	<p>8<sup>th</sup> VE Day</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Mental Health Awareness week</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> World Day for Cultural Diversity</p>
<p><b>June</b></p> <p>Rowan Gurdwara and Hazard Ally (TBC)</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> Girls Active &amp; Boys to Move Rowan PE kit</p> <p>17<sup>th</sup> Girls Active &amp; Boys to Move Rowan PE kit</p> <p>24<sup>th</sup> Girls Active &amp; Boys to Move Rowan PE Kit</p> <p>26th Willow &amp; Maple trip to Forest Centre (packed lunch required, children only)</p> <p>27th Rowan Activity Day (PE Kit required, children only)</p>	<p>5<sup>th</sup> World Environment Day</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> D Day</p> <p>8<sup>th</sup> World Oceans Day</p> <p>16<sup>th</sup> Father's Day</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> Summer Solstice</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> World Music Day</p>

## July

1<sup>st</sup> Girls Active & Boys to Move Rowan PE kit

7<sup>th</sup> Sports Day 1.15 - 3.00 parents welcome (as long as it is not raining)

8<sup>th</sup> Girls Active & Boys to Move Rowan PE kit

10<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultation re reports 3.30 – 5.00 (if you wish to discuss your child's report)

9<sup>th</sup> Leavers Assembly - Rowan class parents invited 2.30 - 3.00

10<sup>th</sup> Little City in school visit Willow & Maple (children only)

11<sup>th</sup> Rocksteady Concert 2.30 - 3.00 Parents of Rocksteady children invited

18<sup>th</sup> Break up for summer – Early close

## September

1st Professional Development Day - staff only

2nd Professional Development Day - staff only

Week beginning 15th September - New Parents Evening time and specific dates TBC

**HSA Events 2024 2025**

Account Name	Hockliffe School Association	
Account number	72738481	
Sort Code	403333	
Reference	EVENT NAME e.g. Elfridges	
Do not pay for events until asked to do so by the HSA		
Event	Date	Cost
Valentines Roses	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	£2
HSA Non Uniform	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	£2
Carer’s Afternoon	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March  Willow & Rowan 2 – 2.30  Maple 2.35 – 3.05	£5 per family
HSA Colour Run	Sunday 11th May 10 - 12	TBC
HSA Non Uniform	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	£2
Carer’s Afternoon	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June (PM)  Maple 2.00 – 2.30  Willow & Rowan 2.35 – 3.05	£5 per family
Disco	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July (timings to be confirmed)	£5 per child