

Sun Hill Junior School Newsletter



Issue 13

Friday 20th December 2024

"Christmas isn't a season.

It's a feeling."

—Edna Ferber.



As we approach the close of the autumn term, I am delighted to reflect on the wonderful achievements and activities that have enriched our school community. The dedication of our children has been truly inspiring, and I am pleased to share some of the highlights.

Our Lower School children shone in their production of *When Sasha Came Down the Chimney*, showcasing their creativity and theatrical talent. The children were truly inspiring in the way they learnt all their lines and even those of different characters when they suddenly needed to cover due to illness. I am always so impressed with their confidence to stand up on a stage and perform in such a memorable way. A huge thank you to the Lower Phase staff who brought it all together.

The carol concert, led by Heron's class, filled the air with festive cheer, bringing our school together in joyful celebration. It was lovely to see all those who attended the event at St John's Church. The Upper School's end of topic exhibition demonstrated impressive academic and creative accomplishments linked to their History project, allowing our older children to share their knowledge with the community.

A highlight for all was our whole-school trip to the pantomime to see *Mother Goose*, fostering a sense of shared experience and fun across all year groups.

Looking ahead to the new term, we are excited to launch innovative VR workshops. The Lower School will explore 'stories within art', while the Upper School will focus on a geography project, 'Land of the Free', delving into

North America. These projects will spark curiosity and deepen our students' learning.

I extend my heartfelt thanks for your continued support this term. As we head into the festive season, I wish you all a joyful holiday and a happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for an exciting and rewarding new term.

Warm regards,
Sue Griffiths
Head Teacher





Making a Difference



Congratulations to all our stars for making a difference and therefore receiving head teachers awards this week!

	Felix M-C (Robins), Luka S (Kingfishers), Rory A (Woodpeckers)
	Molly A (Woodpeckers), Jasper T (Hérons), Arabella N (Swans)
	Matilda K (Robins), Felix A (Swans), Evelyn D (Kingfishers), Oscar F (Hérons)
	Hérons Class0
	Florence S (Cranes), Jaime Lee S (Cranes)

This week our school Make a Difference Star Mascots
Simon & Puff Puff were awarded to:

Florence S (Cranes)



*“Being an excellent class representative at
ALL times!”*

Congratulations to all our stars for achieving their first 25 stars certificates for their “Making a Difference Awards” this week!



Bea R-G (Robins)



Kilian k (Hérons)



Sophia B

(Robins), Juliette M (Robins), Kilian K (Hérons)

The Bingo Wellbeing Award



Ms Rhys Jones
(Cranes)

"For always seeing and helping others and being the best teacher ever!"

School Attendance Award



Whole School
Attendance- 93.09%
(results taken from Friday
to Friday)

House of the Week!

Arle

End of Autumn Term House
Point Totals...

Itchen: 1830

Arle: 1816

Candover: 1773

Meon: 1614



CHRISTMAS

Wellbeing Advent Calendar

Celebrate the countdown to Christmas with our 5 ways to wellbeing. Complete your advent calendar, ticking the stars as you go, and return to school on Wednesday 8th January to win a prize. Prizes and house points will be awarded to students who complete 12, 18 or all 24 days.

1 DONATE A TOY FOR ANOTHER CHILD TO ENJOY

2 SIT OR PLAY WITH SOMEONE NEW AT LUNCHTIME

5 LEAVE A HAPPY NOTE FOR SOMEONE TO FIND

4 MAKE A CHRISTMAS DECORATION

3 LEARN HOW TO SAY "HAPPY CHRISTMAS" IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE

2

NAME:

6 ENJOY THE SANTA FUN RUN!

7 PLAY A BOARD GAME WITH YOUR FAMILY

FEED THE BIRDS

9 DRAW YOUR FAMILY TREE



CLASS:

15 SCREEN FREE DAY!

14 MAKE AN OBSTACLE COURSE

13 DISCOVER A FACT ABOUT THE NORTH POLE

12 RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS!

11 SNUGGLE UP WITH A HOT CHOCOLATE

18 READ A CHRISTMAS STORY

17 ENJOY A FESTIVE SING-A-LONG

16 GIVE A CARD TO SOMEONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED YOU THIS YEAR

19 DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO YOU

20 TELL YOUR TEACHER A FESTIVE JOKE



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT SUN HILL JUNIOR SCHOOL!

24 ENJOY A COZY CHRISTMAS EVE WITH YOUR LOVED ONES

25 WALK AROUND YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD TO SEE THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

22 WRITE DOWN ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS YEAR

21 HELP AROUND THE HOUSE

SHJS School Notices

Support our School!

- **My Name Tags:** Order name tags for your child's uniform, water bottles, coats and shoes in many different designs: Please visit www.mynametags.com and enter the code: 21102. FOSHJ will receive 24% of the order value.
- **Easy fundraising** <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> just search for Friends of Sun Hill Junior School and everytime you access your online shops through this website a donation is made to FOSHJ at no cost to you!

Key Dates 2024-2025

The school will update families as soon as possible, but please note these dates are subject to change.

Monday 6th January- First Day of Spring Term

Wednesday 8th January- Wellbeing Advent Challenge Deadline*

Thursday 9th January- PrimeVR Workshop*

Monday 13th January- SHJS Sports Clubs begin*

Wednesday 29th January - SEND Parents Evening

Monday 10th February- Sponsored Read Launch

Tuesday 11th February- Parents Evening

Thursday 13th February- Parents Evening

Friday 14th February- INSET DAY

Monday 17th-Friday 21st February- Half Term

Monday 24th February-Monday 24th March- Year 5 Swimming Sessions

Thursday 27th February- Bag2School Fundraiser

Thursday 6th March- World Book Day
Friday 7th March- Lower School Paultons Park Trip
Thursday 3rd April- Easter Service at St. John's
Monday 7th-Monday 21st April- Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22nd April- INSET DAY
Wednesday 23rd April- First Day of Summer Term
Monday 12th May-Thursday 15th May- SATS Week
Monday 26th-Friday 30th May- Half Term
Friday 27th June- INSET DAY
Tuesday 22nd July- Last day of academic year (1pm finish)

*a letter has been communicated about this event.

Academic year 2025/26**

Wednesday 3rd September- First Day of Autumn Term
Monday 20th October- Friday 31st October- Half Term
Friday 19th December- Last Day of Autumn Term
Monday 5th January- First day of Spring Term
Monday 16th February- Friday 20th February- Spring Half Term
Friday 27th March- Last day of Spring Term
Monday 30th March-Friday 10th April- Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April- First Day of Spring Term
Monday 4th May- Bank Holiday
Monday 25th May- Friday 29th May- Summer Half Term
Wednesday 22nd July- Last day of Summer Term

***Inset Days for the academic year 2025/26 will be confirmed by the school's board of trustees in due course. These will be shared with families as soon as possible.*

JUNIOR CRICKET@
TICHBORNE
PARK CC

COLTS TRAINING - WINTER

PERINS SPORTS HALL

WEEKLY ON FRIDAYS
FROM 7TH FEBRUARY

UNDER 9S, 11S, 13S AND
15S

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT DAN:
TPCCCOLTS@HOTMAIL.COM

JOIN
TODAY





Picture News For Parents



December 2024

Hello!

Welcome to Picture News for Parents! Receiving this newsletter means your child's school uses Picture News weekly resources, to help young people explore and learn from the world around them. This newsletter reflects on the autumn term for Picture News schools, and shares some handy prompts for productive news-based conversations at home.

Recent News Focuses

Continuing conversations at home...

Picture News schools have explored a variety of news stories this term. Here's a summary of just some of them, along with prompts to continue discussions at home.



How can communities help each other in times of difficulty?

2nd September 2024

Following unrest in parts of the UK over the summer, this pack explored clean-up efforts in Middlesbrough, after the town was affected by damage from protests that turned violent. Children discussed the significance of their communities and considered how they can support others.



Conversation starter:

Who belongs to our community?
How can we support members of our community?

How important are human interactions?

7th October 2024

With this pack, children discussed e-commerce company Amazon's decision to end remote working for its employees. This news inspired conversations about flexible working, and the impact that spending time with other people can have on us.



Conversation starter:

Do you agree with remote working?
Would working remotely interest you in the future?

How can our hopes and dreams help us to succeed?

4th November 2024

This resource highlighted the successes of 23-year-old climber, Adriana Brownlee, who has become the youngest woman to summit the world's fourteen highest mountains. Adriana's achievements led to wider discussions about goal setting and resilience.



Conversation starter:

What's your dream?
What steps can you take to achieve your goal?

Should everyone have the opportunity to be a star?

9th December 2024

Following the popularity of the newly-released Wicked, this pack focused on 10-year-old Karis Musongole from Manchester, who featured in the film as a younger Elphaba. Children thought about how we are all stars in different ways, and the skills we can learn from performances.



Conversation starter:

What makes you a star?
How can everyone be stars in different ways?

What have Picture News schools done this term?

Big assemblies!

This term we've welcomed hundreds of thousands of children online for live assemblies, including:



September's **Welcome Back Assembly** to celebrate our differences and overcome adversity following unrest over the summer. Over 500,000 children joined in to share the importance of their communities, and it even caught the attention of BBC News!

October's **Black History Month** Assembly with BBC Radio 1 presenter Swarzy Macaly, to celebrate Black history. Swarzy shared a positive reminder that we can all claim our own stories and lift each other up.



There will be more big assemblies to come in 2025, to continue inspiring children with current affairs!

Exploring the News



It's so inspiring to see schools bringing Picture News resources to life. Here are some examples from this term! Keep reading for three reasons why children should explore the news...

1 Develop empathy and understanding for others' experiences

The news sheds light on experiences and perspectives, helping children to discover, relate to, and empathise with other people's stories.



St Paul's Catholic Primary School

2 They can build awareness for what's happening now – and get involved!

Children can make an impact, whether it's writing letters, starting petitions, or having meaningful conversations, to act on current issues and events.



Holy Spirit Catholic Primary

3 Grow communication skills to discuss thoughts and responses to news events

Conversations inspired by the news can support children to develop their communication skills, by sharing their own responses and listening to (and respecting) others' views on a topic.



Allington Primary School

Take Home

Within each Picture News pack sent to schools is the 'Take Home' resource, which encourages you to continue conversations about the news story and big question at home.

This is a great chance to stay up-to-date with the topics we cover, and think about the issues and events impacting our world.



Stay in touch!

I hope this newsletter has been useful! Any feedback or ideas for future editions are welcome.

Be sure to follow us on social media to see regular updates on our news coverage and the fabulous work our schools share!



We wish you a peaceful Christmas and New Year – take care!

Katie N, Editor
katie.n@picture-news.co.uk

