



Newsletter

Autumn 1: 2023



St. James' 190th Birthday and news of our new Reverend!

On Sunday 8th October, I had the pleasure of attending the service of Holy Communion with Thanksgiving for the 190th anniversary of the dedication of the Parish Church of St. James the Great, led by the right Reverend Smitha Prasadam, Bishop of Huddersfield. It was a lovely service, attended by ex-Reverends of St James' & St. Thomas', there was an excellent turn out from the local community too. During this celebratory service, I met our new Reverend, Reverend Ruthi Gibbons (*stood to my right in the green dress*). Since Reverend Marshall's retirement our link with the church has suffered somewhat. Now that Reverend Gibbons is in post, she will be able to visit the school to deliver weekly assemblies, have groups of children over to church and lead our church services with the school community.

I am sure you will give Reverend Gibbons a warm welcome when you see her around church or school.



What's been happening this half-term?

It's been another busy half-term of learning. Usually, autumn 1 feels like it goes on forever but it's flown by!

Year 1/2 and Year 3/4 have been having a whale of a time on the field at Forest School, making dens, learning how to make fires and covering themselves in mud. A few weeks ago, the infants were so filthy that I had to hose them down in the front yard!

In design and technology, Year 1/2 made some fantastic moving vehicles (*linking this to their learning in history about transport through the ages*) they even got to test them in a race in the front yard. For their Egyptian topic in Year 3/4, the children have been making some rather fabulous Egyptian collars and finding out about how the Egyptians lived and the impact they've had on the world today. Reception and Nursery have done a lot of baking this half-term, making buns and soup with Ms. Hayter, the soup was made using leek and potatoes grown in our school garden.

Year 5/6 have been learning about Alfred the Great, King of the Anglo-Saxons. They have been using their research and learning in history to write a biography of King Alfred for their English work. It's certainly been a fun-filled half-term with lots of exciting learning taking place.



Please check your child's class page on our [website](#) to find out about all the wonderful learning they will be engaging with next half-term:

[EYFS](#) [YEAR 1/2](#)
[YEAR 3/4](#) [YEAR 5/6](#)

GOODBYE Mrs. Butterworth



On Friday 20th October, we said our goodbyes to our longest serving member of staff. Mrs. Butterworth retired after 25 years service at Hebden Royd School; during her time here she served as a Lunchtime Supervisor, Teaching Assistant, Playgroup Leader, she ran Breakfast Club and she was a playworker at After-School Club when it was run by our parent committee in the upper room at church. It was lovely to be able to celebrate her service in Friday assembly and give her a well-deserved round of applause. We wish her a happy & healthy retirement up tops!

Headteacher Awards

EYFS: Etta

YEAR 3/4: Megan

KS1: Ralph

YEAR 5/6: Walter

PTFA NEWS:



At the recent **PTFA AGM** we pencilled in some very exciting events for this academic year: The important dates for next term can be found in '**Dates for the Diary**' section of this Newsletter.

Last year was an extremely successful year of fundraising by our dedicated PTFA members, and I'm pleased to say we have a few new recruits joining us this year to help with all the wonderful events we have planned. However, we would still love more parents to jump on board or offer their help with organisation. Any help would go a really long way. Thank you.

COMING SOON: NEW LOGO & SCHOOL SIGNAGE



In the last Newsletter of academic year 2022-23, I informed our school community that we were looking at updating our school logo and motto. I'm pleased to announce that with the help of Joelle McNichol & Jenny Stansfield, our new logo is complete! We have also made a decision on our new motto, which will replace 'Aiming High Together' - we wanted something to resonate with our locality and our children's interests around environment and community. After much deliberation and discussion our motto will be '**From deep roots, grow healthy hearts and minds**' - the logo has been designed to reflect this vision. Together with our new motto we have decided on 4 values which will act as pillars for our children: **Commitment, Curiosity, Courage & Compassion.**

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

OUR NEW OFFICE TEAM

Mrs. Rhodes is leaving us, she will be popping in next term for a few Monday afternoons before starting her new role. Heptonstall Primary School is set to become part of Family Learning Trust and therefore, she will be working full-time as part of the trust's central services team. Mrs. Rhodes joined our school on a temporary basis in 2018 and ended up staying with us for 5 years! We wish her well in her new role and thank her for all that she has done at Hebden Royd over the years.

I am pleased to introduce our new Office Manager—Gayle Gothard. Mrs. Gothard has been with us since late September getting to grips with our school systems. From November 6th, our office team will be **Mrs. Gothard (who will be with us Monday—Thursday)** and **Mrs. Stanley (who will be with us Wednesday—Friday)**. This increases our capacity in the office to deal with enquiries and any uniform/dinner/trip queries or payment. Please be kind to Mrs. Gothard as she finds her feet and gets to know our school community.

HARVEST LOTTERY & POPPIES

Our Harvest Raffle/Lottery is open and you can buy numbers at the school office (you are able to select your chosen numbers and pay online if this helps). We are hoping to raise as much as possible for the children at Mount Kenya Tree Nursery as part of the Global Citizenship strand of our Eco-School award, the **raffle closes on Thursday 23rd November**. The winner will be selected at random and receive a beautiful Bettys Hamper worth £50! Please support this worthwhile cause.

Poppies and various other items for Remembrance Day will be in the main office area from November 6th, any donation welcome. Thank you.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- ◆ **School nurse drop-in 9th November 8:50 – 10am — this is for parents if you have any concerns regarding your child: sleep, toileting, eating etc**
- ◆ **Multi-Skills, Writing, Yoga & Singing Clubs will start week beginning 13th November— letters will be sent out in the first week back. Karate will restart on Thursday 9th**
- ◆ **Children In Need: Friday 17th November—come to school in something spotty & with a dash of yellow, or if it's easier just choose one or the other!**
- ◆ **Parent Consultations week beginning 20th November— letters to book an appointment will be sent out early next term.**
- ◆ **Wednesday 29th November—SEMH parent drop-in with Mrs. Hulme 1:30pm—4:30pm (please see or contact Mrs. Hulme via Dojo if you would like to discuss any issues/ concerns regarding your child).**
- ◆ **EYFS & Key Stage 1 Nativity: 9:30am Thursday 14th December in church. All welcome.**
- ◆ **PTFA Christmas Fair: Friday 15th December 2:30pm — 4:30pm school hall.**
- ◆ **Christmas Dinner: Wednesday 20th December, Main Meal: Roast Turkey with Gravy & roast potatoes. Veggies include carrots, peas and sprouts. A vegetarian meat substitute will be provided for vegetarian pupils. Pudding: Chocolate arctic roll. Please order by 8th December**
- ◆ **PTFA Christmas Disco: Wednesday 20th December EYFS & KS1 2:00pm—3:00pm, Key Stage 2 3:00pm—4:00pm.**

Have a restful half-term break, we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 6th November