Leamington Hastings C of E Academy

Plant, Grow, Flourish!

Newsletter number: 12

Date: 27.11.26

This week, the whole school took part in our Passport to World View afternoon, learning all about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. We discovered the story behind the festival and how it remembers the courage and faith of the Jewish people. We learnt about the miracle of the oil, which is said to have lasted for eight days when there was only enough for one, and explored how Jewish families celebrate Hanukkah today. The children enjoyed playing the traditional dreidel game, making their own menorahs and thinking about the things they are thankful for. Children also had the opportunity to carefully and respectfully handle a replica Torah, learn about its significance and listen to some of the blessings said when lighting the menorah. It was a wonderful opportunity to develop our understanding of different beliefs, traditions and celebrations, showing curiosity, respect and appreciation for the world around us.







The children are beginning to learn their songs and lines for our Christmas performance, which they are very excited about sharing with you! Tickets are now live to book, with a maximum of two tickets per child for each performance due to the capacity in the school hall. If you experience any difficulties booking your tickets, please speak to the school office, who will be happy to help.

There are lots of exciting events and activities planned in the run-up to Christmas, and we look forward to sharing these special moments with the children and families. Please do keep an eye on our diary dates and ClassDojo for reminders, further information and any updates so that you don't miss out on all the festive fun!

Thank you for your ongoing support, have a lovely weekend.

Suzanne Marson
Headteacher

FRIENDSHIP COURAGE FORGIVENESS GENEROSITY THANKFULNESS TRUTHFULNESS

Pupil achievements this week

Learner of the week

Eagle Owls (EYFS):	Freya	Snowy Owls (KS1):	James

Learning behaviour of the week (based on the half termly learning behaviour focus)

Eagle Owls (EYFS):	Jack	Snowy Owls (KS1):	Charlie

Presentation award

Eagle Owls (EYFS):	Mia	Snowy Owls (KS1):	Will

Five reads

Eagle Owls (EYFS):	Jack, Ruben	Snowy Owls (KS1):	Charlie, James, Joe, Autumn, Lucas, Isla D, Millie, Isaac, Lara, Ella, Arnie, Georgia, Zara, Isla N

Caught showing values slips

Courage:	Emily	Generosity:	Emily, Ava, James	Truthfulness:	
Friendship:	Jack, Emily, Zara, Isla N, Millie, Georgia, Archie, Corrin, Autumn, Freya	Forgiveness:		Thankfulness:	

Dojo award

Eagle Owls (EYFS):	Logan	Snowy Owls (KS1):	Millie

Home Achievements

This week the achievements include gymnastics



Spotlight on .....

Reading

In addition to using the 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' approach to teach phonics, we use this approach to teach reading throughout reception, year one and year two. All children read to an adult three times per week, taking part in a reading practise session within a group of children who are of a similar ability level. Each reading practise session has a key focus:

- Decoding – a focus on reading the words in the text, ensuring they make sense and applying phonics knowledge
- Prosody – learning to read with intonation and expression
- Comprehension – answering questions and demonstrating an understanding of what has been read. There is always a key focus for this session, such as retrieving information from the text or reading between the lines to make inferences.

The books that we use to teach reading in reception and year one are from the 'Big Cat Collins Little Wandle' range of books. These match our phonics programme and are fully decodable. Children take part in a six weekly informal phonics assessment with their class teacher, which is used to inform a reading level stage. When the children have read their reading practise book three times in school, they will bring them home to celebrate their reading with you. As children will already know these books really well, please do not worry if they can already read these books fluently – they are celebrating and practising their reading with you! Within these books, there are parental prompts and questions that you can ask the children on both the front page before reading, and on the back page after reading. There is also a story map within many of the books, which children can use to retell the key events of the story.

In year two, once the children are fluent readers, we have a further set of books that we use to teach children to read. Through these books, children have the opportunity to read texts containing increasingly complex sentence structures and ambitious vocabulary and develop further stamina for reading.

In addition to the children bringing home their school reading book, they will also bring home a weekly book from the library that they will have chosen independently. Some children are unlikely to be able to read this independently, especially in the younger year groups. This is a book for you to share together. We term these our 'sharing books'.

We take the approach that we want the children to read a wide range of texts and books, opening the children's eyes to the world around them and building their knowledge of vocabulary. Please do not feel that you only have to read school books with your child. Trips to the library, book shops and reading books from home have just as much value. It is also important that children continue to experience adults reading books to them, as well as practising their reading aloud with their phonetically decodable reading book.

Diary Dates

Any new dates will be added in red

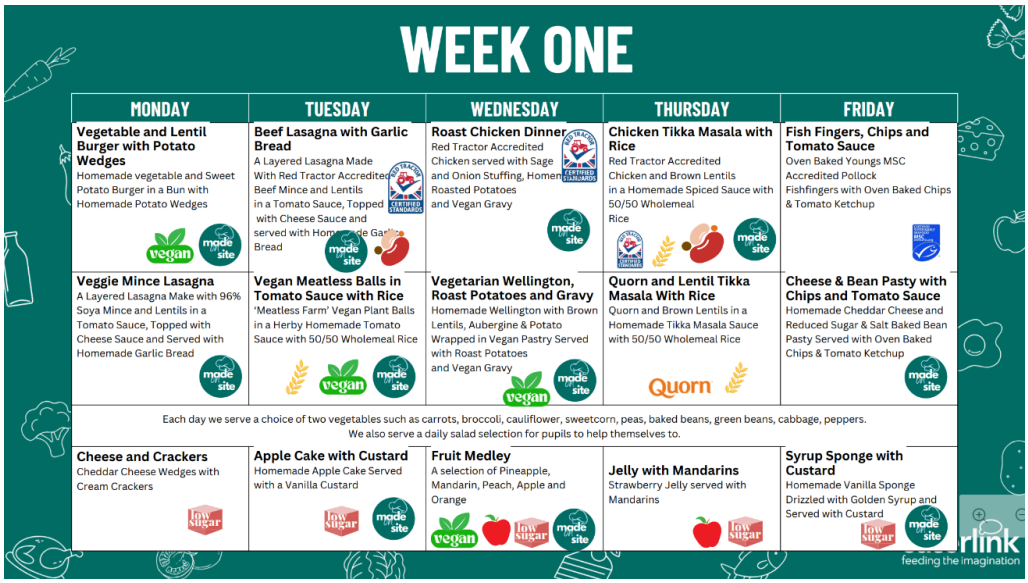
Saturday 28th November	**Christmas Wreath Making Workshop** **Friends of Leamington Hastings PTA fundraiser. Please see poster for further details.**
Monday 30th November	**Open afternoon for prospective reception and nursery** **If your child is due to start reception or nursery in September 2027, you are welcome to join us for a group tour around the school at 2pm. Please book via the school office.**
Wednesday 2nd December	**Open morning for prospective parents** **If your child is due to start reception or nursery in September 2027, you are welcome to join us for a group tour around the school at 9.30am. Please book via the school office.**
Wednesday 2nd December	**Christingle Service** **Parents are welcome to come into school to join the children for a Christingle service. Please arrive via the school office for a 2:30pm start.**
Wednesday 2nd December	**Dunchurch Boughton C E Junior Academy Open Morning** **Dunchurch Boughton C of E Junior Academy are running an open morning at 9.00 am for anyone whose child is due to start year three in September 2027. Individual tours can also be provided - please contact the school office at office.junior@dunchurch.covmat.org to book an individual tour.**
Thursday 10th December	**Christmas Jumper & Craft Day** **Children are welcome to come into school wearing non-uniform, including a Christmas jumper, for Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. Any voluntary donations are welcome. Children will take part in a Christmas craft day on this day.**
Thursday 10th December	**Cake and baked goods donations for the Christmas fair** **You are welcome to drop donations off at the school office from Thursday 10th December. Please refer to the poster for further details.**
Friday 11th December	**Christmas Fair** **Come and join our Christmas Fair straight after school. To be held in the school hall.**
Monday 14th December	**Christmas Performance 1** **The children across school will perform their Christmas play at 2:30pm. Each family will be allocated two tickets for the play, which are available to obtain via MCAS. Please enter and leave the school via the school office.**
Tuesday 15th December	**Christmas Performance 2** **The children across school will perform their Christmas play at 9:15am. Each family will be allocated two tickets for the play, which are available to obtain via MCAS. Please enter and leave the school via the school office.**

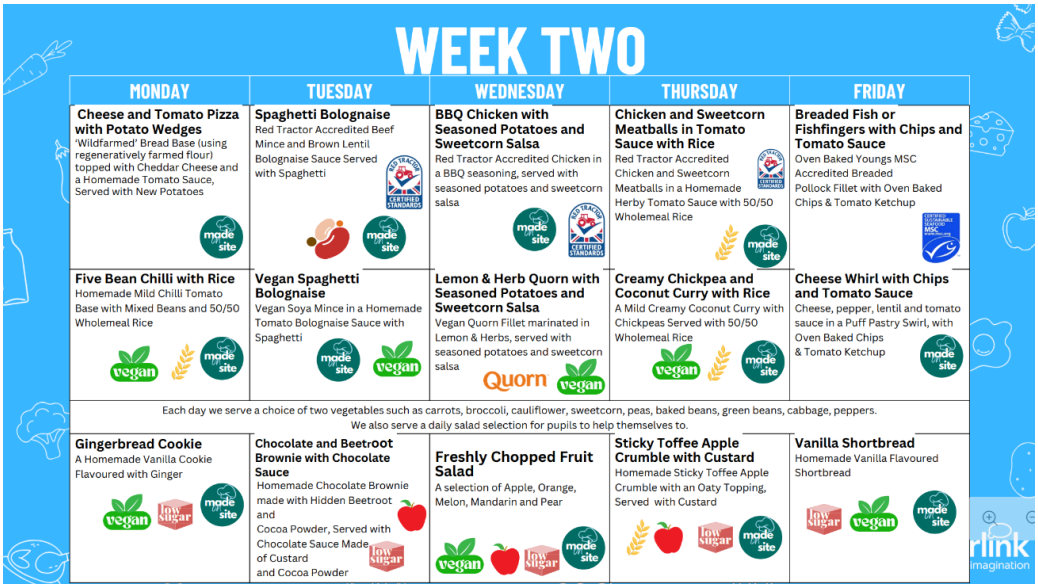
Wednesday 16th December 2026	**Warwick Arts Centre Theatre Visit – The Gruffalo Child** **The whole school will visit the Warwick Arts Centre in the morning to see The Gruffalo's Child as a theatre performance. Kindly funded by the PTA. We will need parental helpers for the trip, please let the school office know if you are able to help.**
Thursday 17th December 2026	**Christmas Church Service - All Saints Church, Leamington Hastings** **The whole school will travel by coach to All Saints Church. All parents are welcome to join us in All Saints Church for a Christmas church service to start at 1:45pm. We will need parental helpers for the trip, please let the school office know if you are able to help.**
Friday 18th December 2026	**Signing Club Performance** **Signing club are joining in with this year's festive 'Sign Up to Sing' event, raising funds for Speech and Language UK. We will be performing 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' at 3.00pm on the final day of term. All are welcome to come along to watch the signing club children perform. The rest of the school will also be cheering them on!**
Friday 8th January 2027	**PTA – Hot chocolate pop up shop located in the playground at 3.15pm.**
Tuesday 12th January 2027	**CBSO Reception and KS1 Schools Concert – Reception, Year 1 and Year2 pupils will be attending a concert at the CBSO Centre, Birmingham. Please refer to the letter for further details.**
Tuesday 2nd March 2027	**Oxford Natural History Museum KS1 Trip – Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will have the opportunity to visit Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Please refer to the letter for further details.**

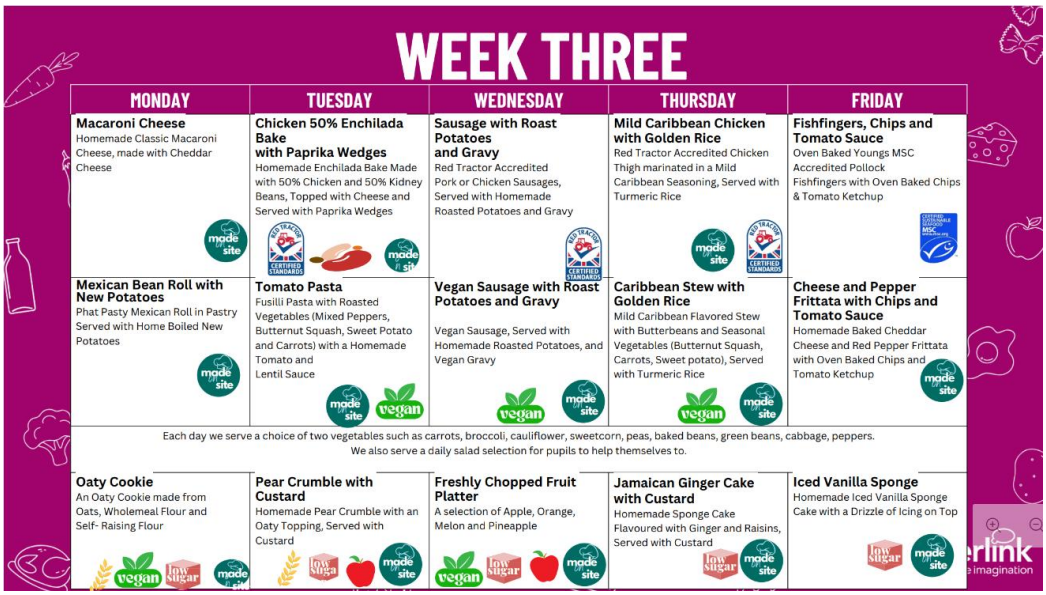




Current Lunch Menu



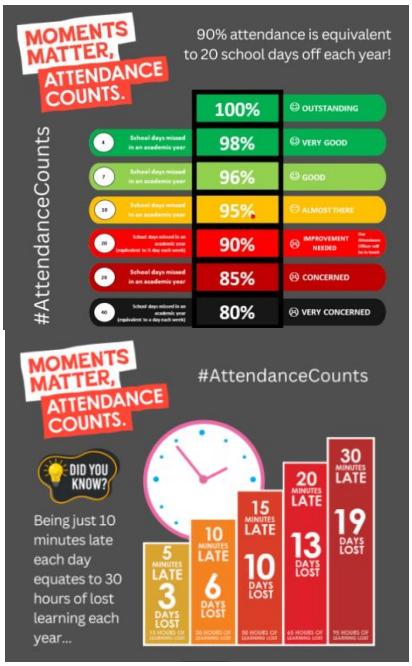




Attendance Weekly Summary

Whole School: 96.45% (Target 97%)

		
Reception	Year 1	Year 2
100%	90%	100%



PE Days

Children should wear their P.E. kits to school on the following days. On other days, normal school uniform should be worn.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reception KS1				Reception KS1

After-School Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Arts & Crafts	Drama	Football	Cheerleading	Multi Sport (excluding 18th December)

To book a place in an after-school club, please book via the MCAS app.

Term Dates

Academic Year 2026/2027

Autumn term 2026

End of term: Friday 18th December

Christmas holiday: Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January

Spring term 2027

Training day: Monday 4th January

Start of term for children: Tuesday 5th January

Half term: Monday 15th to Friday 19th February

Training day: Monday 22nd February

End of term: Thursday 25th March

Easter holiday: Friday 26th March to Friday 9th April

Summer term 2027

Start of term: Monday 12th April

Bank holiday: Monday 3rd May

Half term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

Training day: Monday 7th June

End of term: Wednesday 21st July

Summer holiday: Thursday 22nd July to Wednesday 1st September

Autumn term 2027

Start of term - Wednesday 1 September - this is a teacher training day

Half term – Monday 25th to 29th October

End of Term - Friday 17th December

Christmas holiday – Monday 20th December to 4th January 2028

For Warwickshire school term dates please click here.

* School and nursery are closed to all children during bank holidays, training days and holiday periods.

In Collective Worship this week …

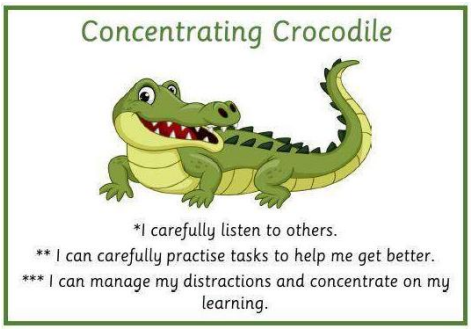
During collective worship this week, we have explored our value of generosity. We used two stories based on the Bible – The Widow's Offering and a story based on Zaccheus. Both stories helped us to consider what it means to be generous and how generosity is not simply about how much we give, but the thought, kindness and love behind our actions.

We also used the John Lewis advert to help us think about gifts and talked about how gifts can be more than buying presents in a shop but can be things that we do for people to make them smile.

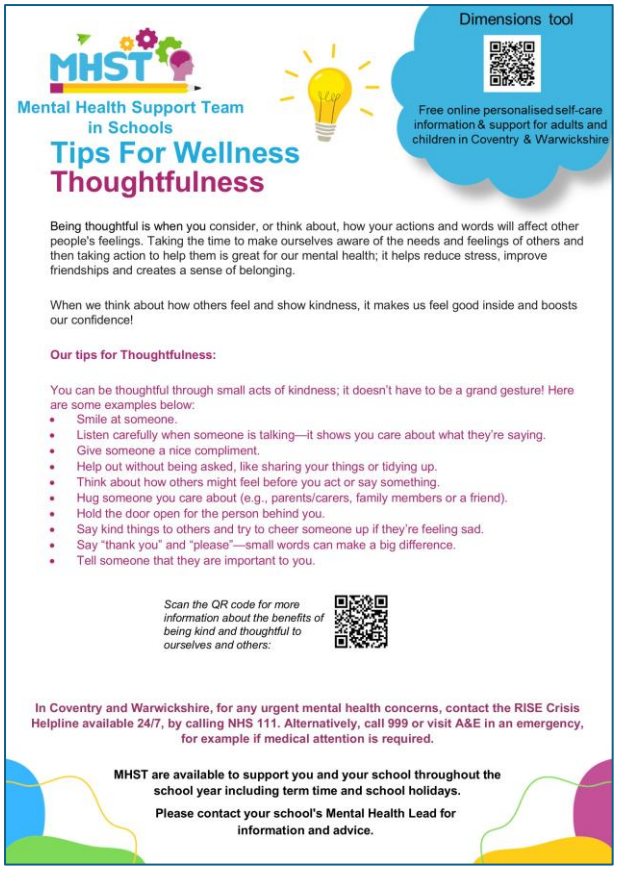
Christian Value this half term



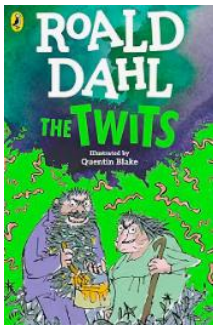
Learning Behaviour this half term



Mental Health Support



Book of the week



Title: The Twits

Author: Roald Dahl

Recommended by: Isla N

Isla enjoys reading the Twits which includes the foul and smelly Mr Twit and the sly Mrs Twit. Both characters play pranks, Mrs Twit makes worm spaghetti for lunch and Mr Twit puts a frog into the bed.

E-Safety tip of the week

Childnet

This week's top tip for parents to keep children safe online.

Please find the link to the online safety tips.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The Warwickshire Local Authority monthly SEND newsletter can be found here. Click link

The Warwickshire SEND local offer can be found here. Click link

Families can request free advice and support through Warwickshire SENDIASS Click link

BEST START IN LIFE

Early Years Funding

Click on the link to find out more about it, who qualifies and how to apply.

Family Support

Families can access free parenting courses through Eventbrite here.

Click on Family Information Service for a wide range of information to support families, or to request support.



DISCOVER

DUNCHURCH BOUGHTON

CE Junior Academy



Vision: Encourage one another and build each other up
Motto: Together we are stronger

Why Choose Dunchurch Boughton CE Junior Academy?

- Ambitious curriculum and strong outcomes
- Caring Christian ethos
- Strong pastoral support
- Sports, music and arts enrichment opportunities
- Pupil leadership opportunities
- Children known, valued and supported to flourish
- Wonderful facilities, including extensive grounds and outdoor learning spaces

Scan to visit our website

OPEN MORNINGS

Thursday 12 November
Wednesday 2 December

Pupil-led tours
Meet the Headteacher

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

To book your slot:
01788 811028
office.juniors@dunchurch.covmat.org

MEET THE HEADTEACHER

Mrs Emma Darragh
DBIA
Monday 16 November, 9:00am

Find out more about life at
Dunchurch Boughton CE Junior Academy

No booking required
Just turn up!

Apply through the Local Authority by 15 January 2027

SAVE THE DATE FOR
THE LEAMINGTON HASTINGS

Christmas FAIR

STALLS, GAMES
AND LOTS OF
FESTIVE FUN

Friday 11th December after school

ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TO SUPPORTING SCHOOL RESOURCES

Get festive...

Create something special...

CHRISTMAS
Wreath Making
WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER
AT 10 AM

GRANDBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL
CV23 8DN

ALL MATERIALS & DECORATIONS SUPPLIED

£30 INCLUDES MULLED WINE & NIBBLES

£10 DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO SECURE A PLACE & CASH ON ARRIVAL

SPACES AVAILABLE FROM Hannah Mawby
07738 147195

Reception and Junior entry

When can your child start school?

- **Children can start school (Reception) in the September after their fourth birthday.**

You need to apply for September 2027 if your child:

- was born between **1 September 2022** and **31 August 2023** (for a place in Reception).
- If your child will be in Year 2 at an infant school in September 2027 (for a place in a junior school).

1 November	15 January	1 February	16 April	30 April	14 May
Application opens	Closing date for applications	Extended closing date for house moves	National offer day	Waiting list positions published	Deadline for submitting appeals

RUGBY & SURROUNDING VILLAGES
allsorts
17 YEARS
Nov 26/Jan 27
for parents and children

Please find the link to the Nov/Jan issue

https://bit.ly/ALLSORTS-MAG_NOVJAN

WARWICKSHIRE PARENT CARER VOICE

Dear parents,

Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice (WPCV) is running a survey to find out how inclusive you think your child's school is. This survey is anonymous and can be filled in by parents of children with or without Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). They will use this information to help develop the support for schools as part of the SEND reforms.

This is the link to the survey: https://forms.gle/QL91UCf6NPzxXtwC9