

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been an incredibly busy and productive half term! We have had so many events and activities to celebrate and share with you. Thank you so much for all the support and commitment towards making Hackwood such a great place to learn.

We have had trips, performances, visitors, workshops, theatre production, craft day, as well as our annual Book Fair, all built on our INSPIRE curriculum which underpins all the work we do. I am very pleased with the progress the children are making across school and that is down to the hard work of everyone involved.

Children in every year group have demonstrated our school motto of believing in themselves, achieving their targets and succeeding. There have been so many successes for every child to feel proud of. The Autumn Term has been a very productive one and has set the foundation for a successful rest of the year. But it has also been a long one - everyone deserves a well-earned rest!

I hope you all have a wonderful festive holiday period with your family and loved ones. I encourage everyone to take the time to re-charge and reflect on what has been a very positive start to the year. I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 6th January ready for another successful term of learning.

On behalf of everyone at Hackwood, I wish you all a peaceful Christmas time and relaxing end of term break.

Thank you.

Mr Miah
Principal



We *believe* in ourselves, to *achieve* our goals and *succeed*.

READ - ACHIEVE - SUCCEED

At Hackwood we pride ourselves on how much we read and know that reading is a fundamental life skill! We also LOVE to read and promote reading for pleasure all the time! Thank you so much for coming to our Book Fair which was a resounding success! It was fantastic to see so many children have the chance to buy a book of their choice and enjoy reading!

We will be having more events during Spring Term to consolidate our love for reading! More details to follow in the new year!



A Huge Success: Our First-Ever Language Café!

We are thrilled to share the fantastic success of our very first Language Café event that took place this half term! The turnout exceeded all expectations, with students, parents, and staff coming together to celebrate the diverse languages and cultures that make our school community so unique.

One of the highlights of the event was the opportunity for families to read multilingual books together. It was heartwarming to see children and parents exploring stories in various languages, fostering curiosity, connection, and a love of diverse cultures.

The enthusiasm and participation from everyone made the Language Café a truly memorable occasion. Events like these highlight the strength of our diverse community and the importance of fostering connections through language and culture.



We believe in ourselves, to achieve our goals and succeed.

SEND Coffee Afternoon

Thank you to all the parents and carers who came to our SEND Coffee afternoon. We work hard to make sure the needs of all our pupils with SEND needs are met. Our SEND team is led by Mrs Manpreet Ubhie who is a senior Trust SEND leader. She will continue supporting children and families with SEND needs for the rest of the year with more events planned next term. If you have any SEND queries, please email:

send@hackwood.theharmonytrust.org

Thank you

Festive Performances

Well done to all Hackwood pupils for performing so confidently and enthusiastically in your festive performances! It was wonderful to see performances with the children performing on stage and even use the microphone for their speaking parts. Every year, the performances get better and better – Hackwood pupils are certainly fulfilling the Harmony Pledge ‘Be a Performer’!

It was fantastic to see so many parents, carers and family members in the audience at all of the performances – thank you for your support and for joining in with the singing!

This year, the children had the opportunity to perform on the stage which was funded by our incredible PTA team. Thank you to the PTA volunteers for serving refreshments before the performances, as well as organising and running events throughout the year which fundraise for all Hackwood pupils. Thank you to all parents and carers too for supporting the events – buying a coffee at the performances or paying for a ticket to the disco or film nights, all contribute towards fundraising for fantastic resources and experiences, such as the stage!



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INSPIRE Curriculum update

It's been another busy term, with lots of exciting learning happening in all year groups! We have had trips and visitors into school to enrich our learning and high-quality outcomes produced across the curriculum from all classes. What a super start to the year!

This half term in Nursery, the children have been learning about fruits and vegetables and naming food that are healthy or unhealthy. We have shared a variety of stories that have helped us to understand where food comes from. To conclude our topic, we went on a trip to the local Co-op to buy some ingredients. Over the next couple of days, we followed recipes to make rice krispie cakes and fruit kebabs. Then finally, we went to our very own 'Hackwood restaurant' and tasted some of the delicious treats.



We have had a very exciting Autumn Term 2 in Reception. Our topic of 'Night and', started with a visit from a falconer, we were very lucky to experience up close two owls and a beautiful falcon. Throughout the term we have asked the question 'What happens when I fall asleep?' We have looked at a range of celebrations and festivals. Celebrating, Bonfire Night, Diwali, Remembrance day and Hannukah. We will finish the term with the Christian story of the first Christmas, told through our Nativity 'The Innkeeper's breakfast.'

Year 1 have had a fantastic half term! This term, the children fulfilled the Harmony Pledge 'be a performer' through their learning about *The Great Fire of London* in History. They loved acting out the story during an engaging drama workshop and were incredibly creative using green screen technology to produce their own news report videos about the event! In Science, Y1 explored the seasons, observing changes in weather and understanding how summer has longer daylight hours. They were delighted that it snowed so we could talk about how the weather changes in Winter! In Maths they have learned about 2D and 3D shapes. They have also learned about how to count and represent numbers to 20. They are all MathMAGICIANS! The children have also made wonderful progress with their phonics skills and have worked hard to persevere with their writing. This term, they learned how to use their skills to create non-chronological reports about London and wrote simple diary entries inspired by Samuel Pepys.



In Autumn 1 in Year 4, we delved into the fascinating world of Ancient Greece - exploring its mythology, culture and historical significance. We wrote some fantastic stories based on the myth *Pegasus and Medusa*. During Autumn 2, our focus shifted to the continent of Europe, where we learned about various countries and their physical and human features. We also explored fairy tales written by the Brothers Grimm. In science, we investigated the states of matter, gaining a hands-on understanding of solids, liquids and gases.

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed our INSPIRE Curriculum learning this half term. Over the course of the term, we have enjoyed using practical skills to design and build bridges linking with our learning about UK geography as well as landing crafts to limit the effects of gravity on a falling egg. The children have also become historians by investigating The Stone Age and used this knowledge to reflect which period of the Stone Age Skara Brae was built and why. Year 3 have also been nurturing their skills of being a scientist by investigating light and how it is affected by different materials and surfaces.



Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about *The Space Race* in their History lessons. They have learnt about all the animals and people who were sent into space and have created historical timelines marking significant events. In DT, Year 2 have made moon buggies. They explored new skills, learnt how to use mechanisms and evaluated their finished toys. Year 2 also enjoyed reading 'Man on the Moon' and have recreated their own version of the story with a twist!



Over the course of the Autumn term, Year 5 have studied both the Tudors, a history topic, and Viva Espana, a geography topic all about Spain. They showed fantastic investigation skills in trying to identify different Tudor punishments and were fascinated when learning all about the life of Henry VIII. They also demonstrated great artistic skills when painting portraits in the style of Tudor miniatures. In our work on Spain, they have identified both human and physical features of the country and have also begun to consider why people might like to travel there on their holidays.

Year 6 have enjoyed learning all about World War Two in their history lessons. They fulfilled the Harmony Pledge 'be respectful' on our school trip to the National Memorial Arboretum, where they learned what life was like in WW2 and participated in an act of remembrance. In art, Year 6 made wire poppy sculptures, they learnt new sculpture skills and reflected on their finished pieces. Year 6 enjoyed reading our class novel 'Letters from the Lighthouse' and have written diary entries, postcards and playscripts about the story, using their history knowledge in their writing. Falcons Class also made excellent model Anderson Shelters in DT lessons!



Here are some of the highlights of our children fulfilling
The Harmony Pledge over the Autumn Term

With the new school year 2024 - 2025, we have appointed our new
Pledge Parliament.

Each class has voted for their representatives.

We now have special purple 'Pledge Parliament,' badges and meet
regularly to discuss how we can highlight the importance of The
Pledge through school.

As well as working on all the 10 pledges, we have also identified one
of the pledges to focus on this year and are already putting plans in
place to support this.



Be an Eco-Warrior

We are
looking at as
many ways
as possible
to re-cycle
in school.

The children decided that they want to do
as much as they can for the environment.
They made a list of ideas and suggestions to
support this in school.

The Pledge Parliament then fed this back to
their classes.



**Please turn
off the lights
Save energy
and save the
environment**

Each class
has
appointed
a light
monitor to
turn out the
lights when
the class
leaves.



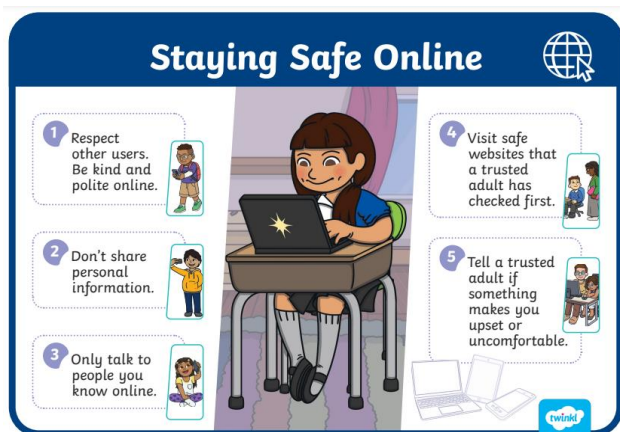
Pledge Parliament

We have bought litter picking equipment
to keep our school clean and look after the
local wildlife.

Eco - Warrior

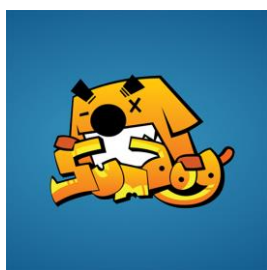
Computing and Online Safety

Over the holiday period, we hope the children continue to use their iPads and other electronic devices, but we want to give some ideas for how to keep them safe while they are using them.



These posters remind the children how they should behave when they are online and what they should do if something goes wrong or they are worried about anything they see.

What can the children do on their devices?



As well as using these apps, we love to see what the children have been up to, so if they would like to share some items on Seesaw then we would love to see them!



2024-2025 - Dates for the Diary

Please note diary dates may be changed and not all dates are on the calendar yet. Any changes and additions will always be communicated to parents via Spider or in subsequent newsletters with as much notice as possible.

Friday 20th December INSPIRE Open Afternoon for parents and carers from 1.30pm
Friday 20th December Last day of term

END OF AUTUMN TERM

Monday 6th January Children return to school - start of Spring Term
Thursday 13th February Last day of Spring Term 1
Friday 14th February INSET Day - school closed for pupils

Monday 24th February Children return to school
Tuesday 18th March School Class group photos
Friday 4th April Last day of Spring Term

END OF SPRING TERM

Monday 21st April Easter Monday - School closed
Tuesday 22nd April Summer Term begins - children return to school
Monday 5th May May Day Bank Holiday - school closed
Monday 12th May KS2 SATS Week for all Year 6 pupils
Friday 23rd May Break up for half-term

Monday 2nd June INSET Day - School closed for pupils
Tuesday 3rd June Summer Term 2 begins - children return to school
Wednesday 23rd July Last day of school - break up for Summer

Happy Holidays and
Happy New Year!