

Happy New Year to everyone and let's hope it is a happy and healthy one for our whole school community.

We are pleased to welcome back all the children from the Christmas break and we hope everyone has recovered from all the coughs, colds and sickness bugs. We are looking forward to a busy half term. Please remember to look at the class pages on the website to find out about your child's class topic for this half term. Each class will also display these on the classroom windows. The website is continually being updated and it is a good source of information about all aspects of school life.

Congratulations

Huge congratulations go to Freya (Y4) for winning the Peveril Homes Christmas bauble design competition and to Erin (F2) for being the runner up. Peveril Homes were overwhelmed by the number and quality of the entries and said it was extremely difficult to decide on the winners.



Here are just a few of the excellent entries we received. Thank you to everyone who took part in this competition.

Christmas 2025

It was lovely to watch the children in Y1–6 performing in their various Christmas concerts and we were delighted to see so many parents and grandparents attend. F1 and F2 will be doing something later in the year. Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets for the luxury hampers and attended the Christmas Fair.



Thank you to our 'festive elf', Miss Bennett, for ensuring that Santa managed to see all the children in school and everyone received a gift. Santa even managed to drop in and see the Y5/6 children rehearsing for their concert. He was so impressed by their singing of 'Run, Run Rudolph' that he joined in with a dance! It was a special moment and very much enjoyed by the children and staff.



We raised just over £1,300 which is incredible! Funds will be used to subsidise events, theatre companies, visiting authors and to help provide all the little extras which help enhance the children's experiences at school.

Year 6 children confidently delivered our annual retell of the Christmas story, 'Travelling to Bethlehem'. Due to the unpredictable weather, we moved the event indoors and the children enjoyed visiting the stable and watching the performance.



Children in Year 1 and Year 2 visited St Patrick's Church to see how Christians prepare and decorate the church for Christmas. They also spent a lovely morning at Bulwell Forest Gardens' 'Winter Wonderland' event. They watched a show in the woods and each child received a special gift from Santa at the end of the morning. Please note, Bulwell Forest Gardens run many different community events throughout the year which are open to families.



F1 enjoyed a trip to Sundown Adventure Land to meet Santa; they had a magical day.



Well done to Lottie in Year 4 for designing and making a beautiful Christmas card for Alex Norris's (MP) competition. Lottie won the 'best in school' prize.

The finale to a busy term was the school talent show which was organised and judged by the Primary Parliament. The whole school enjoyed watching twenty amazing acts. These included dancing, gymnastics, singing, magic, comedy, piano, violin and drum performances. Hempshill Hall truly does have talent! Each act was given a score out of 10. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for

everyone. Well done to the winners and to everyone who was brave enough to put themselves forward. Here are a few of the acts.



Congratulations to Maddison who won the event with an amazing clapping sequence. Ryah and Kiara came second, having sung a popular Kpop song beautifully, and Bonnie and Amelia performed a festive dance routine to come third.



Christmas lunch and party day were a great success and we send special thanks to all the catering and midday staff who have worked so hard providing hot lunches and supervising the children on a daily basis.

Raising money for Charity

Our non-uniform day for Children in Need raised over £240.00 and we donated £119 to the anti-bullying alliance to support the excellent work they do.

Remembrance Day

The whole school Remembrance service provided an opportunity for the children to learn about the armed forces and the contributions brave men and women still make to ensure we remain safe. Primary Parliament read a poem and children wore club uniforms as a mark of respect. Merchandise provided by the British Legion was sold across school. All monies raised are to be used to support ex service men and women.



Last half term's learning

Each week, F1 and F2 children work with Rachel, who is a creative practitioner funded through 'Ignite'. She provides the children with a wide range of creative activities which they can engage in and develop their skills. Before Christmas, the children had great fun using natural and man-made materials to make some wonderful decorations. The children were very proud of their final products.



Textiles is a key component of the Design and Technology curriculum, and children are taught how to sew and work with different materials. As they move through the school, they learn a range of stitching and joining techniques and every item they make has a clear purpose and an element of personal design choice.



The Year 1 and Year 2 children designed and then made a felt decoration. They used a running stitch to join fabric and attach a hanger. They then added sequins and buttons and tried to carefully match the end product to their initial design



Year 3 children have been learning about China. They have enjoyed eating some traditional Chinese food using chopsticks and practising writing Chinese characters. In DT they created some amazing moving dragons using pneumatics.



As part of their 'Into the Jungle' topic, the Year 4 children have been studying the work of a contemporary, mixed media artist called Kate Morgan. They have tried to replicate sections of the two most famous pictures 'Under the Canopy' and 'Sleeping Macaws'. Her work is colourful and vibrant and it celebrates the plants, animals and insects found in a variety of global habitats.



The children also spent a great day out of school visiting 'The Yorkshire Wildlife Park' so they could see some of the animals and endangered species they had been learning about.

In music, the children in Y5 have been playing the Djembe drums. They have mastered how to create different sounds and follow written music to play a variety of drumming beats and rhythms individually, in synchrony and as rounds. The drumming is very loud but the overall sound is fabulous. In DT and art the children used a range of tie dying methods to create patterned fabric which they then sewed into a bag. The children then added their own choice of handle.



Year 6 visited Nottingham Castle and attended a Scenic Landscapes workshop where they studied some of the famous paintings which are hung in the galleries. They also enjoyed a tour of some of the other exhibits in the Castle.

Clubs

Please see below the clubs which have been offered to the children for the next half term. All clubs run from 3.30-4.15pm unless identified below.

Club	Year Group	Teachers	Night
Stay and play club	YR 1	Miss Bennett	Tuesday
Multi sports	YR 2	Mr Strong	Wednesday
Lego club	YR 3	Mrs Trout	Tuesday
Basketball club	YR 4	Mrs Proctor Smith	Monday
Sewing club	YR 5	Mrs Gibbs and Mrs Raimundo	Monday
Art club	YR 6	Mrs Dakin	Monday
Football alternative weeks girl/boy	YR 3 and 5	Mr Strong	Tuesday lunchtime
Football alternative weeks girl/boy	YR 4 and 6	Mr Strong	Wednesday lunchtime
Area Band	YR 5 and 6	Mrs Francis Mrs Trout	Wednesday - invite only

Class assemblies

You are invited to come and watch your child in their class assembly. These assemblies will celebrate and share some of the learning that your children have been involved in since September. They are also a great way to promote self-confidence. Please note, children are always asked about what they feel comfortable doing as some enjoy speaking in front of everyone and others prefer to be part of a group or have a non-speaking role. Teachers always try to showcase a selection of work and involve every child. Please make a note of the dates. Assemblies start at 9.10am and generally last no longer than 20 minutes.

Year 1 - Tuesday 3rdth February (joint)

Year 2 - Tuesday 3rdth February (joint)

Year 3 - Thursday 19th March

Year 4 - Thursday 29th January

Year 5 - Wednesday 12th February

Nursery - Wednesday 25th March Easter Bonnet Parade

Year 6 - Tuesday 24th February (DAaRT Graduation) 2.30pm

Foundation 2 - Tuesday 5th May

Attendance

We continue to work hard to raise attendance and reduce lateness as this is a key area nationally and a focus in our School Improvement Plan. Thank you to all the parents who are working with us and ensuring their children are in school whenever they can be. We appreciate that there have been a lot of nasty viruses and sickness bugs around last half term. Please make sure you contact the school office as soon as possible if your child is not able to come to school.

New Year tidy up

If you are having a New Year clear out, we would love to receive any uniform that your children have outgrown that is still in good condition. We will be able to offer this to other children- saving money and the planet. Also, nursery would like to have more balance bikes- the ones without pedals. If you have any you could donate, that would be much appreciated. Construction bricks, lego, cars, dinosaurs, jigsaws, dolls, etc, are also always very welcome.

Attendance Matters! Newsletter Jan 2026

Welcome to our attendance newsletter. Each half term we will be updating you on school attendance and which year groups and classes are working hard to help school achieve their target. We will also share tips and information with you around illness and punctuality.

Autumn 2 Attendance

Well done to our stars for attendance for Autumn 2 - Year 5 were the year group with the highest attendance and Class Chamberlain/Brazener was the stand out class.

In total, three classes had attendance over 95%! Well done!

Our aim is for all children to achieve 95%+ attendance. Keep trying to come to school on time every day!

Attendance Officer: Mrs Tidswell

Class	Hobster	Belton	Post/Hal	Uppal	Becky	Rushton	Cunliffe	Sloan/Yaz	Gow/Bond	Gibbs	Kendall	Chamberlain/Brazener	Romeo	Brown/Wat	Class
%	87.06%	84.66%	90.6%	91.31%	95.59%	91.25%	93.21%	93.38%	92.4%	94.85%	93.91%	96.47%	93.15%	96.06%	%

In Autumn 2, 131 children were late on one or more occasion.

Please ensure your child arrives to school on time as learning starts straight away.

The gate will be closed at 9.05am and children will need to be signed in at the office after this time. If your child arrives after 9.30am, this will be recorded as unauthorised.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Fines for holidays taken in term time will continue to be requested; these will be recorded as unauthorised absences.

Winter Weather

We will always try our very best to ensure school remains open to pupils on snowy days. We are aware of the impact closing the school has on working parents and so long as we have sufficient staff on site to be able to run the school safely, we will be open. It is always a very difficult decision to make but we will email parents via Arbor by 8am. Please check emails regularly as we will keep updating information. Always assume school is open unless you receive an email stating otherwise.



Safeguarding

Teachers will always try and speak to parents at the end of the school day if a request is made. However, you will be asked to wait until the teacher/TA has dismissed all the children so that we can be sure that pupils have been collected safely. We have spoken to the children in school and reminded them never to leave the school site without an adult (unless we have written consent from a parent). Please could you also reinforce this at home. Siblings (under 16) or other parents/family members will not be allowed to collect younger brothers or sisters without your written consent. This can be given as a signed note in your child's comment book. For more details, please read our 'Safer School Collection' Policy. This can be found on the school website.

Online safety

Did Santa bring new gadgets? Please talk to your children about staying safe online - not sharing personal information such as phone numbers, their address or date of birth, or using usernames that give this information away, and never arranging to meet someone they have met online. The NSPCC have lots of other top tips and clear information about how to manage content online.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/>.

We will continue to regularly deliver online safety education in school. Please also use the school website as a resource.

Bikes and scooters (inc electric scooters)

We have had several conversations with parents worrying about things they have witnessed on the way to and from school. They are all concerned that there might be a serious accident on the road due to people riding overly fast/dangerously on electric scooters around other parents and children as they are walking on the pavements. Also, some children are riding bikes quickly and not using bells to

alert people when they are behind them or overtaking them. We obviously want everyone to arrive at school and home safely. We have spoken to all the children and will continue to remind them about road safety and taking care when the pavement/cycle paths are busy. If your child cycles or rides a scooter to school, please could you reinforce these messages at home with them. Thank you to all those who remind their children that they must not ride on bikes/scooters once they enter the school grounds.

Diary Dates

Monday 5th January - School reopens

Monday 5th January – Partake Theatre Group ‘The Great Fire of London’ Year 1 and

Monday 19th January – Y4 Sports Superstars event in school

Thursday 29th January – Y4 Class assembly 9.10am

Tuesday 3rd February – Y1 and 2 Class assembly 9.10am

Wednesday 4th February – Dental Team F2 and Y1

Wednesday 4th February – Y5 educational visit to Nottingham Mandir and Green’s Windmill

Thursday 5th February – Y5 educational visit to Nuthall Methodist Church

9-13th February – Children’s Mental Health Week

Monday 9th February – Science and Curiosity Festival – Workshops delivered by Nottingham University for Y3 and 4

Tuesday 10th February – Internet Safety Day

Wednesday 11th February – Y5 Class assembly 9.10am

Friday 13th February – INSET Day School closed

Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February – Half term

Monday 23rd February – Children return to school

Tuesday 24th February – Year 6 DAaRT Graduation at 2:30pm

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day (more information to follow)

Friday 13th March – Mother’s Day event and Red Nose Day –non uniform

Thursday 19th March – Parents Evening 3.30-6pm

Tuesday 24th March – Parents Evening 3.30-6pm

Tuesday 24th March 2.30pm – Y5 Mini Police Graduation

Wednesday 25th March – F1 Nursery Easter Bonnet Parade (Parent’s Invited) 9.10am

Thursday 26th March – Rock Steady Concert 2.45pm

Friday 27th March - Last day of term

Monday 13th April – Children return to school

Monday 13th – Friday 17th – Shakespeare Week in school

Monday 11th- Thursday 14th May Year 6 SATS – all Year 6 pupils must be in school

Tuesday 5th May – F2 Class assembly 9.10am

Keep in touch

foundation1@hempshillhall.nottingham.sch.uk

foundation2@hempshillhall.nottingham.sch.uk

year1@hempshillhall.nottingham.sch.uk

and so on up to year 6. The school office is open 8am-4pm if you need to speak to someone. You can leave messages on the answerphone or email admin@hempshillhall.nottingham.sch.uk