



# Class News

## Governors

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SPRING  
NEWSLETTER  
2023

### Oak Class

After a chat with Zac , Polly and Zara Oak class were thrilled to talk about finding a note written by the Easter Bunny. Then the Fun Started as they searched for special chocolate eggs of all shapes and sizes

### Cherry Class

Maxwell and Mollie explored the story of Easter on their trip to Christ Church. The Most exciting part of the trip was seeing where Jesus was born followed by visiting an 'Ocean' with shells and fish.

Next came the main event as Cherry Class acted out the story and waved palm leaves just as they did on the first Easter.

### Ash Class

William and Reggie excitingly described how difficult it is to put on a production - especially to different audiences. Both boys spoke about how hard it is to learn lines and do all their other school work, Hugh had a special mention as he had a really hard tongue twister .... However their play "Porridge - Once Upon A Crime" was a huge success and they felt super super proud of themselves. When all performances finished they all felt calm except for Alice, who did a cartwheel to celebrate!!!

### Cedar Class

Isla and Grace from Cedar Class spoke about their KNEX challenge and proudly displayed their winning medals. They had real fun building a structure that would support heavy weights and also lift weights. The key was to have a firm structure - then panic struck when they remembered they forgot the wheels - this was soon sorted out and 15mins later the perfect and winning structure was created



## Letter From The Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers

'Old habits die hard' goes the saying and ever since we introduced a Governors' Newsletter 10(?) years ago it has been published at the end of term. But it surely makes sense to be looking forward rather than backward, so from hereon our newsletter will appear at the beginning of term. And if ever there is a time of year to be looking forward then now, with gardens coming alive, trees in full blossom and days getting longer, must be the time to do.

The role of the Governing Body is twofold – to provide day-to-day support and oversight for the headteacher and staff but also to take 'the long view'; to look at everything that is happening around and about and consider how that might impact on the school's future. And in that respect, I'm afraid, there are dark clouds on the horizon; not that those clouds are in any way of the school's own making – far from it – but rather because it is being put under ever greater pressures from central and local government influences. Those influences have particular impact on small schools and Hunsdon – along with every other small school – is facing something of a 'double whammy'.

Most immediately is the issue of finance; we are all too acutely aware of the current squeeze on government finances due to a number of factors (some completely outside of government controls, others somewhat self-imposed – but let's not get political...) which ripples down into local government and then into school budgets. Since small schools cannot benefit from 'economies of scale' then the smaller the school, the greater the financial pressure; we are told that all schools in Hertfordshire with less than 60 pupils are already in absolute deficit or expect to be by end of next year (subject to new budgets) and 80% of schools with 61 - 70 pupils expect to be in similar position by the end of next year. Hunsdon is in nothing like as dire a position as that, but the economic outlook is hugely uncertain – not least because of the unresolved increase in teachers' salaries which, at whatever level will eventually be agreed, will not be reflected in the grant to individual schools. (Incidentally, I would like to acknowledge your understanding of the school's policy on days of teachers' strikes; there has been no animosity towards the school or individual teachers because – I believe – we all understand how difficult a decision that is to make).

The second concern is Ofsted inspections; our last inspection was in 2018 when – of course – we were graded 'outstanding' and consequently we are in the window for further inspection sometime over the next 18 months. Meanwhile Ofsted's 'Education Inspection Framework' has changed again in a way which seems to disadvantage small schools, as evidenced by the following stats:

- Small primaries are currently five times more likely to be graded 'inadequate' than large ones
- No small school (less than 144 pupils) was rated 'outstanding' under the new EIF between Sept 21 to June 22
- All 16 of the previously top-rated smallest primaries that underwent a Section 5 visit between September 2021 and June 2022 lost their 'outstanding' grade. In the next biggest group of primaries, only 9 per cent retained their 'outstanding' grade

When the odds are stacked against you like that it must be hugely dispiriting for Mr. Millward and the staff, and the Governing Body is only too conscious – especially following the tragic death of the Ruth Perry at Caversham School – of the pressures under which they work. So, again, I would ask that you continue to play your part in treating our teachers with the respect and regard which they hugely deserve in your everyday interactions with them.

With best regards

**Mike Newman**

Chair of Governors, Hunsdon JMI School



# Governors News



## Paint & Garden Party

Hi Ho Hi Ho its off to work we go. Yes the paint party did happen and I would like to thank the 10 parents and grandparents who supported what was a long but satisfying day - working to spruce up the school grounds. This voluntary work by us as a parent body will save the school hundreds of pounds and give us a chance to make new friends and share the many skills we can all bring. In all we fixed one of the planters , painted the fence and tidied the area in reception class, jet washed and tidied the area by the school hall and bike shed and painted the fence by the car park.



As a final flourish made a new path through the wild life garden.....phew!!

We hope to continue these paint and garden parties each half term but we REALLY NEED YOU !!!!

Especially looking for trade people who can help with jobs around the school.



Look out for the Next Paint & Garden Party  
Coming Soon !!!!!!!



# School Events



## HUNSDON'S GOT TALENT

Wow !!!! Forget BGT, Hunsdon has talent by the bucket load.

On the 17th March 2023 Oak, Cherry, Ash and Cedar Class raised well over £500 for Comic Relief. All students had a great time auditioning their talent for the big show.

Hunsdon has so many talented and gifted children - comedians, sport skills, boys and girl groups, contemporary dance, magicians and so much more ... Mrs Steele Mrs Clark & Miss Charles had an almost impossible task picking a winner!

## SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Special Sports stars are our

**Netball Team**

**Football Team**

Who both won their Hertford and Ware District Tournaments.  
**WELL DONE !!!!!**



Friends of Hunsdon School  
**presents**  
Not just Bingo night.. It is  
**FANNY GALORE BINGO NIGHT!**  
18+ only  
Fully licensed bar  
**3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 7PM TO 9.30PM**  
AT HUNSDON JMI SCHOOL  
**Tickets just £10\***  
Please email  
[FriendsofHunsdonJMSchool@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofHunsdonJMSchool@gmail.com)  
for tickets.  
\*additional booking fee of £1 if paid online, no fee if paid by cash

Wowww! What a great night organised by Friends of Hunsdon .... Fun and Laughter had by all and an amazing £800 raised for the school. Keep your eyes peeled for the next entertaining event!!!!

**FOOD & DRINK**

Great prizes, daft games all

Create your own team of 6 adults and help us continue to

**Hunsdon JMI School Quiz Night**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May  
Arrive from 7.00 for a 7.30pm start

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

£10 per ticket - which includes a fabulous themed supper!

Special prize for the best decorated

The 12th May is coming up fast and you can't afford to miss Mr. Millward's Quiz of the year... Tickets are £10 hurry to make sure you get your place.



# Term Dates

## SUMMER TERM 2023

Term Starts - **Monday 17th April**  
May Day Bank Holiday - **Monday 1st May**  
Coronation Bank Holiday - **Monday 8th May**  
Half Term - **Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June**  
Inset Day - **Friday 23rd June**  
Inset Day - **Monday 26th June**  
Term Ends - **Friday 21st July (at 2.30pm)**



**A gentle reminder attendance in the last year has been down so please can you make sure you children arrive on time for registration, otherwise they will be classed as absent which is not good for your children's learning or the schools reputation !!!**



## Governing Body March 2023

Mr. Mike Newman (Local Authority) Chair Of Governors  
Email - [m.newman@hunsdon.herts.sch.uk](mailto:m.newman@hunsdon.herts.sch.uk) - Tel: 01279 843358 / 07887 540398

Mr. Matt Simpson (Co-opted) Vice Chair  
Mr. David Wilson (Co-opted)  
Mrs. Lynn Barnett (Co-opted)  
Mr. Sikhu Ngwenya (Co-opted)  
Mr. Mark Rome (Co-opted) Safeguarding  
Mr. Nick Kauffman (Co-opted)  
Dr Imran Haq (Co-opted)  
Mrs. Carol Moya (Parent)  
Miss Natalie Cassidy (Parent)  
Mrs. Helen Lord (Associate Teacher Governor)  
Mrs. Hannah Clark (Teacher Governor)  
Mr. Jonathan Millward (Head Teacher)

**Governors InTouch Spring Newsletter is also available in large print -  
Please contact the school for a copy.**

**Editor - Nick Kauffman - [n.kauffman@hunsdon.herts.sch.uk](mailto:n.kauffman@hunsdon.herts.sch.uk)**



**Working Together To Learn, Achieve, Thrive And Be Happy!!**