



# HINGUAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Autumn Term Newsletter Week 11 December 2025



## Fantastic news!

Hinguar Catering Staff have achieved a  
5-star hygiene rating!  
Congratulations to Mrs Clancey  
and Miss Marchant

This rating is a testament to their hard  
work and high standards.



## A Polite Reminder

Children are advised to not bring their own toys into school. If they still choose to, items are their responsibility and the school will not be liable for any losses or breakages.

In addition, children are not allowed to swap (trade), sell or give toys to friends. This has previously caused arguments and upsets, and this rule has been shared again in assembly today to remind all pupils.

Thank you for your understanding.

Next week is the last week for Sports Clubs.  
They will finish on 12th December.





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## Music Workshops

This week, the children enjoyed a fantastic jazz workshop that involved both KS1 and KS2.

A professional jazz trio visited the school to demonstrate instruments, introduce improvisation and lead a fun whole-school boom whacker session.

Years 4, 5 and 6 then took part in smaller music workshops, exploring how musicians create and develop ideas together. The children showed great enthusiasm and picked up new skills quickly.

From these sessions, five children will be selected to visit the Jazz Centre in Southend for a special Jazz Journey day, where they will try African drumming, tour the centre, rehearse with professional musicians and take part in a final performance.

It has been a lovely musical week and we look forward to the next stage of this exciting project.

Mrs O'Donnell



## Turtles and Seahorses

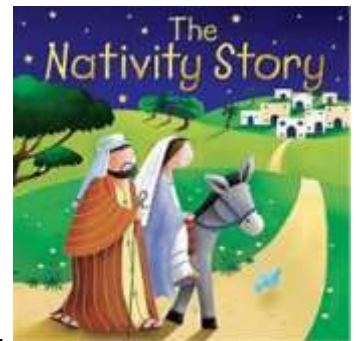
This week in Turtles class, we have been learning about the Nativity Story and we have been helping Starfish class with their Nativity play by singing songs with actions. We have been very busy practicing in the hall ready for you to come and see us all being super Christmas stars. In class, we have a lovely Nativity set handmade by Mrs Loe's mum to look at and play with for our small world play. In our maths this week, we have been singing The Wheels on the Bus and looking at round circles and straight edged squares. We had fun looking for circles and squares to match in our classroom and outside. On the playdough table, we have been using Christmas cutters and learning how to roll the dough flat before using the cutters. Next week, we continue our Christmas theme and we will be reading other Christmas linked stories and rhymes. We look forward to seeing you at one of our Christmas decoration afternoons next week and our nursery Christmas play on Wednesday.

Mrs Cochrane, Mrs Loe and Ms Burgess

This week in Starfish class, our story focus has been the 'Nativity Story'. We have been busy dressing up and acting out parts of the story, ready for our grown-ups to come and watch our Nativity performance, next week. We enjoyed a visit from Enzo the Elf and had fun copying actions and joining in with some dancing. In Literacy, we have been continuing to listen to and say the initial sounds in words. We have been learning to recognise letters in our names and have been writing our names in the Christmas cards that we have made. In maths, we have continued our learning around sorting objects and discussing how there can be different sorting rules. The Nursery is starting to look very festive, and the children have enjoyed making their own decorations to hang on the Christmas tree. Next week, we are looking forward to performing our Nativity and welcoming our grown-ups into Nursery for our craft afternoons.

Well done, Starfish class!

Mrs Brant, Mrs Attard, Mrs Bowser, Ms Burgess and Mrs Merton



## Seahorse

This week in Seahorse Class, we have been exploring Christmas. As we listened to the Christmas Story, the children enjoyed spotting their nativity roles within the plot. We discovered that we celebrate Christmas because of Jesus' birth.

The children discussed how they celebrate Christmas before looking at different traditions from around the world which take place over the festive season.

In Literacy, we have been writing our Christmas card inserts., before using a range of resources to create a well-known reindeer for the front of our cards.

In Maths, we have looked at shapes with 4 sides. We have discussed the differences between a rectangle and a square. The children have looked for squares and rectangles within the classroom, before drawing around squares and rectangles on the mark-making table. The shape catcher returned to try and take all the 4-sided shapes. The children designed, drew or built traps to try to catch him.

The children helped to decorate our classroom's Christmas tree. A magical elf appeared and sat on the top. It has been moving around the classroom causing chaos! The children all wanted to name the elf, so a class vote was taken on the children's suggestions. After counting the votes, we have named the elf – Sweetie.

Throughout the week, the children

have moulded with glitter playdough, recreated the Christmas story using the nativity figures, built castles, walls, traps and obstacle courses with the resources on the play deck and been fitted for their nativity costume.

We are seeing an influx of toys from home being bought into school. Please could these toys be kept at home, as we cannot guarantee they will not be lost or broken. Many thanks.

Mrs Newman, Mrs Bowser, and Mrs Penny.

Date reminder: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December - 9am – 10am: Christmas craft morning.  
3.40pm Nativity. Please arrive before 3.25pm to be seated.



# Oyster Class



In our science lesson this week, we explored floating and sinking. We talked about the meaning of the vocabulary and what happens when an object floats or sinks. Then we picked items from our classroom to test. We made predictions about each object then tested to see if our predictions were correct. We discussed why some things float and others do not. The children made good observations and asked scientific questions.



In our geography lesson this week, we have continued thinking about the weather.

We created a weather diary showing the type of weather we have had each day.



Also, this week, we have been practising our Christmas songs, ready for our performance next week. The children are very excited to welcome parents on Monday. We are so proud of how hard they have been working to learn the songs and actions and even some sign language!

Have a lovely weekend, Year 1.

Mrs Oakley, Mrs Lovelace-Court, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Allen and Mrs Merton

## Seagull Class



Another incredibly busy week for our Terrific Twos.

We have been busy practising our Christmas performance and we simply cannot wait to show our adults on Monday. The children have worked so hard and their enthusiasm has been wonderful to see. The children got into the festive spirit by decorating our class Christmas tree and writing Christmas wishes for the school tree in the foyer.

In History, we finished our Great Fire of London topic by imagining what it would be like to be a child escaping the fire. The class produced excellent diary entries that showcased both their growing historical understanding and their fantastic English skills. We were so impressed with their creativity and attention to detail.

To end the week with a sprinkle of magic, we were visited by Enzo the Elf on Friday. This surprise visit brought lots of smiles and made our festive week even more special.

Mrs O'Donnell, Mrs Mota and Miss Calvy



## Heron Class



In English this week, we have started a new persuasive writing unit- a holiday brochure for Skara Brae. In one lesson, we read a book on Skara Brae, to find out more information about what life was like there during the Stone Age. It was particularly interesting to look at what the houses were like and compare them to houses today. Heron class drew a picture and labelled the key features of a house in Skara Brae. After finding out key information on Skara Brae, we then moved on to the sentence stacking.

In Maths this week, we have been continuing our multiplication and division unit- looking at our three times tables in particular. We will soon be looking at the four and eight times tables during our lessons, so please keep practising at home!

We also completed a jazz music workshop on Tuesday afternoon. This was a fantastic opportunity for Heron class and they seemed to really enjoy the afternoon. They were great role models during the session.

In art, Heron class decorated and completed some Christmas themed paper chains. They divided themselves into teams and were very keen to have the longest paper chain! All of the paper chains were very impressive- one paper chain ended up being over four metres long!



Have a great weekend!



Miss Venables and Mrs Merton

## Curlew Class



Well done, Fabulous Foursies for another awesome week.

In English this week, the children planned and wrote their own formal letters to Mr Stickley. They used the opportunity to express their passion for reading for pleasure and the opportunities and experiences that would be beneficial at school to support their learning and enrich their education.

In art, they completed their Gustav Klimt pictures, based on the painting 'The Tree of Life'. These look absolutely fantastic.

On Tuesday, the children enjoyed a special Jazz assembly with the rest of Key Stages 1 and 2. This was very interactive and extremely loud, but much fun was had by all. The following day, they participated in a workshop with one of the musicians. The children learnt how to successfully improvise and created wonderful music on their instruments. They learnt about the key elements of successful Jazz music - listening well, taking turns and looking for a space. This ensured that they collaborated well and produced fabulous rhythms.

In PSHE this week, we have revisited the extremely important topic of staying safe. The children considered the ways that their bodies could behave if they recognised a situation was unsafe and examples of what this could be. Everyone also thought about the trusted adults in their lives that they could turn to if they were in a situation in which they did not feel safe. We will be building on this next week.

Only 2 more weeks to go until the well-deserved rest. I am confident they will be full of further successes, seasonal cheer and lots of fabulousness!

Miss Eakins, Mrs Allen and Miss Brailsford



## Sanderling Class



This week, our seasonal Sanderlings finished the week with a visit from Enzo the Elf. Previously, they had continued with their Christmas narrative, based on the animation of *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs. In Maths, they finally finished the first fraction unit; in History they learnt about the Battle of Hastings and the end of the Viking and Anglo-Saxon era; in Geography they learned about food miles; in Music they had a fabulous Jazz workshop; in P.E. they continued to rock and roll and in computing they learnt a little more about databases.

20 sleeps until the Big Ho! Ho!

Have a fabulous weekend,

Mrs Emmings and Mrs Mistry.



## Avocet Class



On Monday, Year 6 planned and implemented a Science investigation to explore how the size of a shadow changes as the distance from the light source increases. They worked in small groups to shine the torch, measure the distance and measure the change in shadow size. After all their results had been collected, they drew conclusions from their findings.



Following on from the amazing musical assembly on Tuesday, Year 6 took part in a jazz workshop on Wednesday afternoon. All 30 children were playing an instrument and creating an improvised piece of music within 10 minutes of entering the room. Amazing achievement! The children explored a variety of different types of instruments and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Mrs Calvy, Ms Hardy and Miss Brailsford





# Awards and Notices

## Catch Me! Awards



This is a system that rewards the children for doing the right thing all the time, whether it be being polite, helpful, ready to learn etc and any adult in the school can award the Catch Me! signatures to the children.

Congratulations to Tommy and Phoenix W in Seahorse Class, Bella and Amelia in Oyster Class, Rafael in Seagull Class, Sophia, Sienna, Oliver G, Olivia, Zara, Amelia, Fraser and Logan in Heron Class, Alisha, Freddy, Matilda, Nova, Finn and Sammy in Curlew Class, Bjorn in Sanderling Class and Megan S and Sofia in Avocet Class on achieving their Bronze Catch Me! Award.



Congratulations to Willow in Curlew Class on achieving her Silver Catch Me! Award.

Congratulations to James, George, Oliver G and Poppy in Heron Class on achieving their Bronze Times Tables Certificate.

Congratulations to James, George, Albie and Daisy in Heron Class on achieving their Silver Times Tables Certificate.



## flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



- 1. Protect your child**  
The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. Protect you, your family and friends**  
Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. No injection needed**  
The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu**  
The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. Avoid costs**  
If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (please contact your GP for more information).

For more information visit [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

Flu mmunisation

helping to protect children, every winter

## Vaccination UK

We'll be returning to

**Hinguar Community Primary School on Tuesday the 9th of December 2025**

for a second flu vaccination session.

This is for children in years 4,5 and 6 who were not vaccinated due to time constraints and those who were absent or didn't have consent during the first visit.

<https://eastanglia.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/Essex>





## Awards and Notices

**Ashley Banjo**



**Mo Farah**



**Ellie Simmonds**



**Jamie Oliver**



### Dress for Success

#### Dress for Success

The winners for this half term so far are EYFS/KS1 Oyster Class having an attendance of 96.07% and in KS2 Avocet Class with 95.77%



#### 100% Attendance and Punctuality Prize

Each week, during our Celebration assembly, we congratulate good attendance as a whole class.

This week in KS1, Alice the Bunny was awarded to Oyster Class with an attendance of 93.87% and in KS2, the attendance cup was awarded to Avocet Class with 97.38%. The classes will be rewarded with an extra turn on the play equipment.



CHRISTMAS  
DINNER  
AND JUMPER DAY  
TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER  
PLEASE BOOK YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH  
ON THE MCAS APP



If you have a child born between  
1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022  
apply now to start school  
September 2026



# Term Dates for Your Diary

## Autumn Term Diary Dates

KS1 Christmas Performance	Monday 8th December 9.30am
Flu Immunisations	Tuesday 9th December
Nursery Christmas Decorations afternoon	Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th December 2.00pm—3.00pm
Nursery Nativity	Wednesday 10th December 9.30am
Reception Christmas Decorations	Thursday 11th December 9.00am - 10.00am
Reception Nativity	Thursday 11th December 3.45pm
FOH Christmas Discos	Friday 12th December
Visit St Andrews Church	Monday 15th December (years 2-6, children only)
Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day	Tuesday 16th December
EYFS Storyteller	Wednesday 17th December
KS1 & KS2 Pantomime	Wednesday 17th December
End of Term	Friday 19th December—school closes at 1.00pm

## Spring Term Diary Dates

Pupil Advocate Meeting	Friday 30th January 1.30pm—2.15pm
<b>Southend Makes Music (yr1)</b>	<b>Tuesday 10th Feb</b>
Assessment Week	w/b February 23rd—February 27th
Young Voices O2	Tuesday 24th February
EYFS Mother's Day Pamper	Friday 13th March 2.00pm—3.00pm
Parent Consultation Evenings	Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th March 3.30pm —6.30pm
Y6 Assessment Week	w/b Monday 9th March—Friday 13th March
Pupil Advocate Meeting	Friday 27th March 1.30pm—2.15pm
End of term	Friday 27th March—school closes at normal time



# Term Dates for Your Diary

## Summer Term Diary Dates

Y6 Bikeability	Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th April
Y6 SATs Week	w/b Monday 11th May—Thursday 14th May
Y6 Residential	w/b Monday 18th—Friday 22nd May
Pupil Advocate Meeting	Friday 22nd May 1.30pm—2.15pm
EYFS FUDGE	Friday 19th June 2.00pm—3.00pm
Assessment Week (Reception—Y5)	w/b Monday 22nd June—Friday 26th June
Sports Day	Thursday 2nd July
Transition Day	Friday 3rd July
Reserve Sports Day	Thursday 9th July
Pupil Advocate Meeting	Friday 10th July 1.30pm—2.15pm
Open Evening	Thursday 16th July 3.30pm—4.30pm
Nursery Leavers' Assembly	Friday 17th July 3.30pm—4.30pm
Hinguar's Got Talent	Monday 20th July - am
Volunteer Afternoon Tea	Tuesday 21st July 2.15pm
Y6 Graduation	Wednesday 22nd July 2.00pm
Y6 Leavers' Disco	Wednesday 22nd July 6.00pm—7.30pm
End of Term (non-uniform day)	Thursday 23rd July—school closes at 1.00pm

### Term and Holiday dates for SECAT Schools 2025-26

**Autumn Term:** 1 September 2025—19 December 2025

**Spring Term:** 5 January 2026—27 March 2026

*Half Term* 16 February—20 February

**Summer Term:** 13 April 2026—23 July 2026

*Half Term* 25—29 May

**INSET DAYS— Monday 23rd February 2026**

### **SECAT Term and Holiday Dates 2026-27**

**Autumn Term :** 1 September—18 December 2026

*Half Term* 19-30 October 2026

**Spring Term:** 4 January—25 March 2027

*Half Term* 15 - 19 February 2027

**Summer Term:** 12 April—23 July 2027

*Half Term* 31 May—4 June 2027

**INSET DAYS: 1st and 2nd September 2026**

