



# HINGUAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Autumn Term Newsletter Week 13 19th December 2025



Dear Parents/Carers

When I first announced my plans to retire back in January, at that point, December still seemed a long time in the future. Suddenly, nearly a whole year has gone by and today is my last day as Headteacher of Hinguar Primary School and Nursery.

It's almost impossible to encapsulate in a few short paragraphs my thoughts and feelings about Hinguar and being its Headteacher for the last 6 years. Everyone who visits Hinguar comments on our positive ethos, caring nature and that we are like one big family. I've been very fortunate enough to work alongside so many amazing people in school over the last 6 years – outstanding teachers, support staff and governors – who have all shared my ambition of continually providing the very best opportunities for all our children. I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to all staff and members of the governing body, both past and present, as the success of our school has always been a team effort.

The relationship between home and school has been one that has embodied that family feeling. The support that you have given as parents has been unflinching for the children and the school throughout the years. The links with the local community have also been very important and I want to convey my appreciation to everyone within the whole school community who has supported us over the years. Also, to the volunteers of Friends of Hinguar who work tirelessly all year round in support of the children, organising and funding so much. You are all stars and I have enjoyed working with you all.

Over the last few weeks, I've been asked what I'll miss about school when I retire. Of course, I'll miss the children, their smiles and the joy and enthusiasm they exude, the productions, the Christmas performances, the concerts such as the O2, the successes within sporting events and the special days; but what I think I'll miss most of all are the normal days when it looks like nothing particularly special is happening. On those days, when you walk down the corridors and go from classroom to classroom, you'll see that something magical is happening. Children learning to socialise, to read, to write, to do maths and so much more. I feel proud and extremely honoured to have seen the progress the children have made day to day, and this is what has made it all worthwhile.

Whilst I do feel very sad to be leaving Hinguar, my heart is full of very special memories that will stay with me forever. I know that Hinguar will continue to flourish, and I wish you and your children all the very best for a bright and prosperous future.

All that remains to say is that I would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and gifts and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Warm regards.  
Alison Waite  
Headteacher



## Turtles and Seahorses



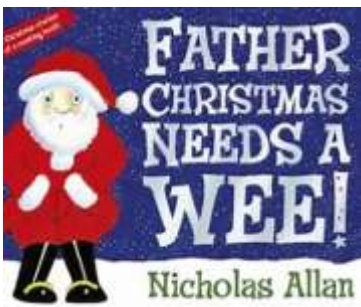
This week, we have been very Christmassy and have had lots of fun. On Tuesday, we had Father Christmas visit us and we enjoyed waving to him on the balcony. We also had a yummy Christmas dinner sitting together with Starfish class. On Wednesday, we had a storyteller come and tell us a story about Christmas spiders who decorate a tree with sparkly webs. We listened and joined in with the actions for the story. We had party food and joined in with lots of Christmas dancing. We loved the Gingerbread man dance and Dance with Santa Freeze dance. In our tuff tray we had sparkly shaving foam snow and have been exploring it and made marks.



We are all very excited for Christmas. We wish the Turtle children joining Starfish Class in January good luck and we will be welcoming 5 new children to Turtles. Thank you for all your gifts and cards. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and we return to school on the 5<sup>th</sup> January.



Mrs Cochrane, Mrs Loe and Ms Burgess



In Starfish class this week, the children voted for the story 'Father Christmas Needs a Wee'. We had lots of fun counting all the different drinks Santa had as he visited each house. This led onto discussions about our favourite things to drink, with milkshakes and fruit juice being most popular. On Tuesday, Santa visited us in his sleigh and brought us all a treat! Afterwards we wore party hats as we ate Christmas dinner together. The children were very excited to pull their crackers and find out what was inside. On Wednesday, we enjoyed some party food and had a visit from Hannah who is a storyteller. We all enjoyed joining in with the story of the Christmas Spider.



Next term, our topic is 'Happily Ever After', we will be reading some favourite stories and traditional tales from around the world, starting with 'The Three Little Pigs' and we will be continuing with p as the sound of the week.

We hope you have a very happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in January.

Mrs Brant, Mrs Attard, Mrs Bowser and Ms Burgess



# Seahorse

In our last week of 2025 as Seahorse Class, we have enjoyed a Christmas story every morning. We began with The Dinosaur who Pooped Christmas, followed by, Ten Little Elves, The Best Christmas Present Ever, There's an Elf in Your Book and 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

On Tuesday, we had a surprise visit from Father Christmas on his sleigh. He waved to all the children before handing them a bag of Jelly Tots. Before 'flying' off to prepare the presents for delivery on Christmas Eve.

On Wednesday, we had Hannah the magical storyteller telling us a tale about a Brussel sprout who was not included in the Christmas dinner. He went on an adventure and met a robin, cat, fox and a mouse. Later in the afternoon, we had some party food supplied by Friends of Hinguar.

In Literacy, we have been reviewing our phonic sounds. We have also worked on our name recognition, before writing them.

In Maths, we have used the Advent calendar to look at how to say the date. All the children's names were placed in the calendar and when their name was read out, they received a gold chocolate coin.

Throughout the week, the children have been spotting where Sweetie the elf has been in the classroom, written and drawn on whiteboards, played interactive Christmas games, built with the wooden blocks, created on the mark-making table and danced to lots of Christmas party songs.

Thank you for all your support and well wishes this year. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Newman, Mrs Penny, and Mrs Bowser



## Oyster Class

This week, we have enjoyed a variety of festive activities. The children are extremely excited!

On Monday, the children completed their end of unit writing linked to the story of Grumpy Badger's Christmas. They wrote descriptive sentences about Badger and his behaviour. The children then looked back at their first piece of writing in Year 1 and were amazed at how much they have improved. Mrs Attard visited the class and gave everyone a special sticker as she was proud of the progress they have all made too.

On Tuesday, we wore our Christmas jumpers, ate Christmas lunch and had a visit from Santa!

On Wednesday, the children enjoyed watching the panto provided by Friends of Hinguar. They were excited to see the teachers dancing on stage during the performance.

On Thursday, we were exploring repeating patterns. We made some repeating pattern paper chains. The children then challenged themselves to make the longest paper chain they could, many of which were taller than the children!



On Friday, we said a sad goodbye to Mrs Waite. The children made her a card and wished her well in her retirement.

What a busy week we have had!

The Year 1 staff would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, healthy Christmas and to thank you all for the cards, wishes and generous gifts.

We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

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

## Seagull Class

What a fabulously festive way to end the Autumn term in Year 2!

We kicked off the week with carolling at the church, where the children sang beautifully and confidently read their Bible verses from the Key Stage One performance. On Tuesday, excitement was in the air as Santa paid us a special visit, arriving on his sleigh with a festive treat for every child. There were lots of smiles all round!

The rest of the week was filled with Christmas crafting, and we hope you enjoy the lovely cards and calendars the children have worked so hard to create. The children also tucked into their festive lunch and had a fabulous time at the pantomime, which was the perfect way to round off a magical week.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year. We can't wait to see you all again in the New Year. Thank you for your continued support and for raising such incredible, creative superstars.



Merry Christmas, everyone!  
Mrs O'Donnell, Mrs Mota and Miss Calvy



## Heron Class

Our last week has been filled with lots of fun and Christmas festivities!

We have spent part of this week finishing off our unit on multiplication and division in maths, followed by finishing off our sentence stacking for our Skara Brae unit in English. In science, we used magnets to test magnetic and non-magnetic materials.

In PSHE, we have focussed on racism and discrimination. In P.E, we have completed our final gymnastics lesson, where we looked at ways to travel in and out of different balances.

We also had a wonderful morning at the church, on Monday! Heron class sang very enthusiastically! A big well done to the members of Heron class who also did a reading at the church, you all read beautifully! Thank you to the volunteers who also attended.

We also finished off our Christmas cards and designed calendars for the New Year. We were very impressed with the attention to detail in both the cards and calendars. They all look fantastic!

The children also enjoyed Santa's visit on Tuesday morning, as well as the panto on Wednesday afternoon.

Well done, Heron class, we are very proud of all your hard work this term!

We hope you all have a lovely and relaxing Christmas! We look forward to seeing everybody again in the New Year.

Miss Venables and Mrs Merton



# Curlew Class



Wooooo hooooo, Fabulous Foursies – we have made it!

It has been a fantastic, albeit rather long, term – but you have all been completely awesome.

This week has been panto-fastic! We have been very festive – making our cards and calendars, and other Christmas decorations. We have sung at the church, enjoyed the pantomime and had a visit from SECAT Santa.

We have been working as well, of course! We completed our science and geography units, learning about plant classification keys and causes of pollution.

We have, sadly, had to say goodbye to our lovely Lucia, as she is leaving the school. She has been an absolutely wonderful member of our class, and we all wish her all the very best at her new school. You have all worked so hard this term and all deserve the well needed Christmas break. Have a fabulous Christmas with your families and enjoy every precious second.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January, for 2 more terms of success, laughter and fabulousness.

Have a good one FF!

Miss Eakins, Miss Brailsford and Mrs Allen



# Sanderling Class



Our scientific Sanderlings have had great fun this week observing irreversible chemical changes, had a wonderful walk to St. Andrews to sing Christmas Carols and applied for jobs as elves in the North Pole. They loved watching a fabulous pantomime and created some interesting Viking purses from felt. They are working on their embroidery skills!

Only six more sleeps till the big Ho! Ho!  
Take care, have a fabulous weekend and a



## A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

Mrs Emmings and Mrs Mistry



## Avocet Class

Year 6 have enjoyed a lovely last Christmassy week at Hinguar.

They have enjoyed taking part in the Santa visit, pantomime and Christmas dinner. In English, they have created their own Christmas stories and then produced their own book to display them. In Maths, they have been revising their skills with co-ordinates, fractions and number all with a Christmassy theme. They created some beautiful Christmas cards too.

A huge thank you for our gifts and cards. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2026.

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 Eddie in Oyster Class and Kayla and Hollie in Sanderling on achieving their Bronze Catch Me! Award.

Congratulations to Charlie in Seahorse Class and George in Heron Class on achieving their Silver Catch Me! Award.



Congratulations to Sidney, Luna, Ivy and Mehar in Oyster Class on achieving their Bronze Times Tables Certificate.

Congratulations to Olivia M and Mehar in Oyster Class on achieving their Silver Times Tables Certificate .

### School Nursing Service 2026

Community health clinics for children aged 5-11 who are being educated in Southend.

Venue	Time	
Civic Centre	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	09.00-11.00
Blenheim Family Centre	Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	09.00-11.00
Hamstel Family Centre	Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	13:30-15:30

Emotional health and wellbeing advice • Growth and development  
 • Healthy lifestyles • Bedwetting support • Hearing  
 • Sleep support • Puberty

No appointment needed.  
 Call or text us for further information.

01702 534843  
 ChatHealth Parentline: 07507 331884

Young People and Sex, GP Cards in Hand Request  
 Parents and Sex, GP Cards in Hand Request

www.southend.gov.uk/schoolnurses  
 schoolnursing@southend.gov.uk

Southend-on-Sea City Council



## Awards and Notices

**Ashley Banjo**



**Mo Farah**



**Ellie Simmonds**



**Jamie Oliver**

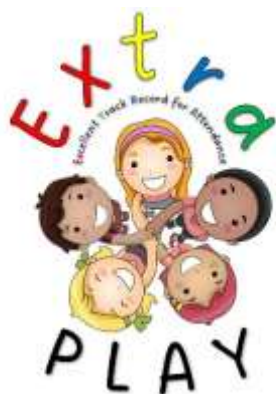


### Dress for Success



The winners for this half term are  
EYFS/KS1 Oyster Class having an attendance of 95.05%  
and in KS2 Heron Class with 95.48%

**The winners can wear appropriate non-uniform and footwear on the first day back on Monday 5th January.**



### 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 Seahorse Class with an attendance of 96.36% and in KS2, the attendance cup was awarded to Heron Class with 97.50%.

The classes will be rewarded with an extra turn on the play equipment.

### **Admissions Consultation 2027/28**

We are consulting on the proposed admissions arrangements for the 2027/28 academic year. Parents, carers, and members of the community are invited to view the proposals and provide feedback. Full details and information on how to respond are available on our website.



# Term Dates for Your Diary

## Spring Term Diary Dates

Pupil Advocate Meeting	Friday 30th January 1.30pm—2.15pm
Southend Makes Music (yr1)	Tuesday 10th Feb
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

**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**

