

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership. This term has been busy, purposeful and full of opportunities for our children, it has been wonderful to see our school community so actively engaged in school life.

A key focus this term has been maintaining strong routines and clear expectations to support positive behaviour for learning. These routines help children feel safe and are supporting the strong sense of belonging we have developed across school. Alongside this, we have continued to strengthen teaching and learning across the school, with a particular focus on writing and consistently high-quality classroom practice.

Children across the school have taken part in a wide range of enriching experiences. These have included curriculum visits such as the Year 6 residential, trips to Magna, Weston Park and Shirebrook Nature Reserve, Stone Age workshops and ice skating. Our youngest children have enjoyed hands-on experiences including vet, farmer and lifeguard visits, a Teddy Bear Hospital, Diwali celebrations, music workshops and practical learning linked to health and wellbeing.

We have also seen strong participation in sports and performance, including the Year 5/6 boys' football tournament, the Y3T One Voice singing concert, a Year 4 samba performance, and festive events such as the Year 1 Nativity, Christmas assemblies and our Winter Sing-along.

Our school values have been brought to life through events such as the Lantern Parade, which brought families together for an evening of creativity, music and celebration, alongside our Macmillan bake sale and World Mental Health Day fun run. Black History Month was marked through a school exhibition, and staff engagement with initiatives such as Show Racism the Red Card continues to strengthen our work around inclusion and racial equality.

We are proud of our community links, including regular visits to Darnall Library, weekly visits to a local care home and links with the local allotment. These experiences help children understand their role within the wider community and develop empathy, respect and confidence.

Thank you to all parents and carers who have attended parents' evenings, meet-the-teacher breakfasts, Year 6 Taskmasters sessions, phonics and early reading workshops, family learning sessions and the Parent Partnership meeting. We truly value these opportunities to listen, learn and work together, and this term has marked the start of our wider listening campaign with parents.

As we move into the Spring term, our priorities remain clear: strengthening behaviour for learning, further developing writing across the school, embedding high-quality play through OPAL, refining teaching and learning, and continuing our Cradle to Career partnership. All this work is focused on improving outcomes and experiences for every child at High Hazels.

We also have some staffing updates to share. Mr Coates will be embarking on an exciting new adventure in Australia. He is a fantastic teacher and will be greatly missed by both pupils and staff. We also extend our best wishes to Miss Haycocks, Mrs Machin-Short and Mrs Nawaz as they prepare to begin their maternity leave. We look forward to sharing their happy news with the school community in due course. Finally, congratulations to Mrs Fazlanie, who has recently welcomed a beautiful baby boy—we are delighted for her and look forward to meeting him soon.

Please remember that school uniform should be worn every day, and we are now asking that children bring wellies into school, as we continue to make full use of the field during the winter months.

School will close for the holidays on Friday 19th December, with children returning on Monday 7th January. To those celebrating Christmas, have a wonderful time! Thank you once again for your ongoing support. I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable holiday, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Marie Elliott
Principal