

Herne Flyer 14 – Autumn Term 2025

Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day



Friday 12th December 2025

Website: www.hernejunior.com

Email: admin@hernejunior.com

Twitter: [@HerneJunior](https://twitter.com/HerneJunior)

Telephone: 01730 263746

Dear Parents & Carers,

This week, in between all the tinsel and nativity plays, I've been reflecting on what a difficult time Christmas can be for some people. Several of our staff and children's families have lost loved ones in the last couple of months. Christmas is an emotive time, when families come together, and empty seats at tables leave a space which highlights that sense of deep loss.

Then, there are those for whom this is the first, second, third (or more) Christmases without those important people in our lives. Bereavement is something no-one can plan for, and we all deal with it in different ways and within different timescales, so it is hard to know how best to support people.

In short, it's about love, patience and sympathy and a realisation that each of us need to walk our own path, at our own pace. Having someone to walk beside us at our speed when we need it most can make all the difference.

If you are a family affected by loss this Christmas, there are some useful resources below that can help the thinking process. We also have several staff who are trained to talk to children about Bereavement & Loss. Please use us as a resource if you think your child needs support or if you just need a cuppa and a chat. Children are very perceptive and pick up on strong emotions, no matter how hard we try to hide them.

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/understanding-grief/managing-grief/christmas/>

<https://www.sueryder.org/grief-support/helping-you-cope-with-grief/grieving-on-special-occasions/christmas/>

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/blog/the-practical-side-of-getting-through-your-first-christmas-without-a-loved-one>

Last week, the Choir and Orchestra brought joy to people who may not be with their families this Christmas due to illness. They played and sang at the Petersfield Community Hospital and it brought a tear to many patient's eyes. Several told us they would be in hospital over the Christmas period. I was so proud of the children...although Colonel Lewis, the therapy dog, was less impressed and slept throughout.

Huge thanks to Miss Clare Morphew and Mr Dave Thomas for all their hard work getting the children ready for this event. The orchestra were particularly impressive. I had to keep reminding myself they were primary aged.



This week, we invited the residents from the Blenheim Court Care Home and Yr 2 from PIS in to see the dress rehearsal for Yr 3's Christmas play, The Donkey Seller. It was lovely to see our older children supporting our visitors with tea and biscuits. Well done to our Y6 Ambassadors. Yr 4 got to sit in on the rehearsal too which I was told was, "Wicked but cute!"

On Wednesday, I went over to PIS to see their Christmas play. It was wonderful to see our future pupils in action and, as ever, they were amazing.

And Finally... I can't finish without mentioning the bold move by Australia...we applaud their choice! I'm referring to the ban on Internet access to under 16s (rather than the Ashes win!) As an extension to our Smartphone free childhood drive, we had already discussed as SLT about adapting our IT provision to make our Internet Safety even tighter. A growing concern has been some children's reluctance to return to non-screen based work after iPad use. As a result, in addition to extending our firewall capability, we will be removing the games package from our iPads and adding additional password protection by an adult before the search engine can be used. We will also not be including screen use as part of our reward system unless it is to use an approved educational apps which we use regularly rather than a game, e.g. Doodle Maths etc. In school, children need to understand how IT can support their learning rather than see it primarily as a medium for games and "doom scrolling".

Whatever you are up to this weekend, enjoy. We've got the first of our pre-Christmas meals with friends and the first Carol Service - always my favourite seasonal event. 🎄

Best wishes

Sue Sayers

Headteacher

[Update your child's details on Arbor](#)

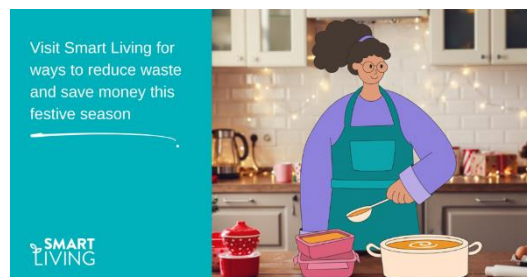
[Report an Absence](#)

Holly is back for another year with tips and tricks to help you save over the festive period!

[Smart Living](#)'s festive character, Holly, is here to help with a range of ideas and tools to help reduce you waste and save money over the upcoming weeks.

Here are some top tips to help your food last longer and go further:

- [Check your fridge temperature](#) – it'll take 5 minutes to do and can make sure your food stays fresh for longer.
- Set up a group chat with everyone visiting over the festive holiday to coordinate meals and share the load with planning and buying food; everyone can have the food they like and it spreads the cost amongst you. Make sure any visitors come equipped with containers too so any leftovers can be shared and enjoyed by all.
- Check what's in your freezer now to make space for Christmas foods – using up frozen food for some easy meals this week can help avoid another shopping trip and won't cost anything extra while helping to make space for any festive leftovers.
- Make a festive meal plan! Planning and prepping in advance will save time in the long run, and you can leave space in it for [store cupboard recipes](#), leftovers or takeaways
- Involve the family in planning some creative meals with Christmas leftovers! [Here are some ideas to get you started](#).
- And don't forget, [Love Food Hate Waste's portion calculator](#) can help you cook just the right amount in the first place, so you don't end up with more leftovers than you can use.



Find out more on the [webpage](#) or take a look at the [Green Gift Guide!](#) Join Holly on her journey on Smart Living's social media channels: [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Festive Fun Week!



This will run from Monday 15th December to Friday 19th December and will include a variety of fun-filled activities for children to participate in. We ask that, if possible, children bring a small donation (suggested £1 per activity) to participate. <https://buy.stripe.com/8x2cN4318g0c1yo4uC18c0i> Full information can be found on the attached flyer.

If you are able to help out at the Santa Dashes, then please do let us know via Facebook or email. Alternatively, you can message on the HAFs volunteer WhatsApp group.



Santa Dash to the North Pole

Tuesday	Year 6 Mimosa & Damson 9:30-10:00 am	Year 6 Quince & Willow 10:15 – 10:45 am	Year 4 Plum & Palm 1:30pm – 2:00pm	Year 4 Lime & Pear 2:15pm – 2:45pm
Wednesday	Year 3 Fir 9:30 – 10:00 am	Year 3 Ash & Oak 11:15 – 11:45am	Year 5 Cedar & Beech 1:30pm – 2:00pm	Year 5 Maple & Rowan 2:15pm – 2:45pm

Tree Planting

Join us on Saturday 10 January 2026 anytime between 10am and 3pm to take part in tree planting for a special Miyawaki Forest in the school grounds. The planting has been funded by the South Downs National Park. Miyawaki Forests are a great way to quickly create high density, biodiversity rich ecosystems. Please bring; gardening gloves, a spade, wellies and a wheelbarrow if you can.



School Community Tree Planting
Following a grant from the South Downs National Park we have funding to plant a **Miyawaki / Micro Forest** in the school grounds.
Join us anytime 10am - 3pm **Sat 10 Jan**



School Nurse Drop In

Our school nurse drop in sessions returns at the beginning of February so watch out in the first edition of the Herne Flyer for 2026!

Doodle Winter Trail Reminder

Earn rewards by Doodling 'little and often' Between the **1st – 24th of December**, the Winter Calendar is returning to DoodleMaths and DoodleEnglish! Designed to encourage a few minutes of daily learning, joining the fun is a great way to keep your child **motivated and engaged** over the holidays. Most excitingly, if they open all the calendar doors, they'll receive an **exclusive festive virtual badge!**



INSET Days

We have been made aware that one of the parent-led class WhatsApp groups displays incorrect dates for our INSET days this academic year. Please see our school website for our confirmed INSET days. [Herne Junior School - Dates for your Diary](#)

[Update your child's details on Arbor](#)

[Report an Absence](#)

Do You Need to Consider the Needs of a Family member at Christmas?

Discover practical strategies to make Christmas more enjoyable for autistic people and their families, from planning and routines to decorations, sensory considerations, and managing presents. Follow the link [Christmas](#)



The Donkey Seller

Year 3 put on an absolutely brilliant performance of 'The Donkey Seller' on Thursday. Well done to all that took part, you were all wonderful. We will upload photos onto the website in due course!



Special Values Winners

Congratulations to our wonderful Special Values Time winners this week!



DECEMBER		JANUARY	
Monday 15 th	Maple class swimming at Churchers	Monday 5 th	School re-opens to pupils at 8:30am
Tuesday 16 th	Year 5 Church Service – 2pm	Monday 12 th	Cedar class swimming at Churchers
Thursday 18 th	School Christmas Dinner	Friday 16 th	Y5 Virtual Reality Workshop
Friday 19 th	Last day of term – 12.30pm finish	Monday 19 th	Cedar class swimming at Churchers
Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January Christmas Break		Monday 26 th	Cedar class swimming at Churchers