

— Autumn 2 2025 —

Newsletter

*A newsletter contributed to by the staff and children of Hayeswood
and Colehill First Schools*



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Message from Mrs Staddon

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of term and launch into the festive season, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the joyful events that have taken place in our schools.

From our Christmas fairs to the delightful performances filled with singing and cheer, it has been heartwarming to see our children engage in such wonderful activities.

I extend my sincere gratitude to you, our families, for your invaluable support and assistance in organising these events. Your involvement has made our celebrations even more special, and we appreciate the time and effort you dedicate to our school community, especially when the weather isn't being kind!

I would also like to thank the staff for their unwavering commitment and hard work in making each event a success. Their relentless support and dedication does not go unnoticed.

Message from Mrs Staddon

In addition to our festive activities, we have had a productive term filled with exciting developments:

- Visit from **Vikki Slade**: We were thrilled to receive a special mention in Parliament during her visit.
- **Positive Noticing Day**: This initiative has encouraged our children to appreciate the positive behaviours and achievements of their peers.
- **New Anti-Bullying Ambassadors**: We are proud to introduce our new ambassadors, who will play a crucial role in promoting kindness and respect within our school.
- **House Points**: The ongoing House Points system continues to motivate our children, fostering a spirit of friendly competition and teamwork.
- Coaching for Staff: We are prioritising professional development for our staff, ensuring they are equipped with the best practices through our **CPD sessions** focusing on Walk Throughs, aimed at enhancing classroom experiences.
- Launching Our **New Skills Passport**: Our exciting new Skills Passport will be introduced in January, helping children to recognise and develop their talents and abilities.
- We will be adding **workshops for families** to join in with their children in school to see how they learn
- Hamish and Milo - your turn. **New opportunities coming soon.**
- Look out for **Smartphone Consultation** letter, if you haven't already seen it.

As we close this term and look forward to the new year, I wish you all a joyous Christmas filled with peace, happiness, and time spent with loved ones.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership,

Sharon Staddon

"Everyone matters: Every day counts"

"A school where everyone is nurtured and empowered to be their best selves."

Positive Noticing Day

'Ubuntu'- I am because we are

Positive Noticing Day is an educational initiative championed by behaviour specialist Paul Dix, author of the influential book *When the Adults Change, Everything Changes*.

The day serves as a high visibility celebration of a core behavioral philosophy: "You get more of the behaviour you notice most." On this day, we dedicated ourselves to relentlessly scanning for and acknowledging positive behaviors, character traits, and efforts, making these observations physical by writing them on labels that children and staff wear.

While the "Day" is a specific event, its purpose is to act as a cultural reset button, training adults to shift their attention away from correcting mistakes and toward recognising success

- Unlike generic praise ("Good job"), positive noticing is specific (e.g., "I noticed you held the door for the Year 3s, that was incredibly thoughtful"). This proves to the child that they are truly seen.
- For children who are often in trouble, this day can be transformative. It disrupts their internal narrative of "I am the naughty kid" and replaces it with evidence of their goodness.
- It creates a classroom environment where children feel adults are on their side, hunting for their success rather than waiting for them to fail.

It is lovely to see children and adults still with those labels attached to a bag or tucked away somewhere safe for another time.

Mrs Staddon

Community Impact

School Council

Vikki Slade came to visit our schools and talk to the children in assembly. She told them about parliament and having a voice.

We even got a brief mention in parliament!



The children will follow this assembly up by writing to Vikki.

Christmas present appeal

This year, we have once again decided to support Wimborne Food Bank by donating any new/used/unwanted presents. Thank you to all the School Council members who did a fabulous job at helping me collect in all of the Christmas present donations and sort them into piles. Thank you to all our wonderful families for your donations!



Christmas Performances

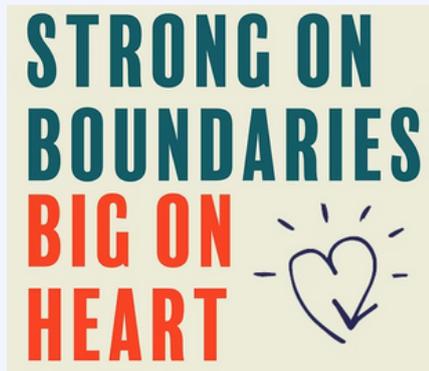
Congratulations to all our children for their wonderful performances in this year's Nativity plays and Carols Under the Canopy!

The audiences were treated to beautiful singing, clear narration, and great acting that truly brought the festive spirit to life. We are immensely proud of how well the children performed, overcoming nerves and supporting each other.

A huge thank you to all the staff for their dedication, and to the parents for their support. They were heartwarming performances that created lasting memories for our entire school communities. Well done, everyone!



Community Impact



Eco Club

Recycling Christmas Jumpers

The Colehill Eco Committee chose to give old and unwanted Christmas jumpers a new life. They asked for donations and, instead of letting the jumpers go to waste, set up a stall where people could pick one to reuse this Christmas. A big well done to the Eco Committee children for creating such a brilliant initiative.

Mr Hayes



Book Fair

Scholastic Travelling Book Fair -
Hayeswood:

Thank you to everyone who purchased a book from our travelling book fair back in November. As a result, the school earned £234.10 in rewards to spend on books for our classrooms. A special well done to the children who won a £5 voucher to spend after entering the competition.

Mrs Cuff



Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

Winter Wet Play Days

Now that the winter weather is truly upon us we have become very excited at getting into our puddle suits and wellies and enjoying our school playground -no matter rain or shine! We have been splashing in puddles, rolling in mud, and practising our football skills on the field.

Please remember that your child will need clothes for wet weather play- especially wellies! If they do not have waterproof trousers we have enough for everyone in school at Colehill but need more in school at Hayeswood. Perfect Christmas perhaps! Thank you for your continued support, Mrs Dawson.



House Points



NEW! Donate on Arbor
You can now make donations to the school using the usual systems of payments on Arbor

It has been a wonderful start to the year for all of our houses. Our newly appointed Year 4 'House Captains' and 'Vice Captains' have been busy counting up the points totals each week.

As we move into the new calendar year, we will begin to add some new 'House events'. This will provide further opportunities for children to collaborate and earn tokens for their house.

Mr Herrington

Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

The older children have been really focussing on their times tables and have steadily improved on the speed and accuracy of answers. This is such a fantastic life skill and makes Maths learning so much easier by removing some of the cognitive load. Please continue to practise these at home, in the car, walking in the wood - anywhere and everywhere. I promise it will be time well spent!

In Year 4 the children currently complete a test online towards the end of the year. To pass the child must get all the answers correct in the time given. I have been so impressed with how the children have worked on improving their own personal best, thus making small steps of progress over time.

Keep it up!



The Handball winners from Colehill enjoying their moment after a fun filled league in Poole. They are justifiably very pleased with themselves!



Cathy and her morning music group perform for family and friends at Hayeswood. Sounded lovely and some great audience participation too!

Reading

At Colehill and Hayeswood First schools we know that early reading skills are of vital importance in building language skills, strengthening vocabulary and comprehension and supporting success across the curriculum. Early reading nurtures curiosity, confidence and a lifelong love of learning. In school the children have many opportunities to practise their reading skills daily across a range of subjects and texts. We specifically teach reading skills in our phonic sessions, guided reading and whole class reading sessions. We celebrate progress for all, model and reinforce positive attitudes and develop the children's resilience when reading independently.

How you can help at home:

- Daily reading at home
- Provide access to a range of books
- Model enthusiasm for reading
- Create a calm, enjoyable reading routine

To help with motivation and making reading fun over the holidays, why not enter the Christmas reading challenge? Please see the Christmas Reading challenge letter for more details.

We are so lucky to have some new roles in school: our **Anti-Bullying Ambassadors!**

These children can be spotted in their purple high-vis vests on the playground each day, promoting kindness and positive play. They are available every break and lunchtime to support their friends, help de-escalate small disagreements, and encourage everyone to treat each other with respect. Our Ambassadors take their responsibilities very seriously, and we are incredibly proud of the maturity and compassion they show in helping make our school a happier and safer place for all.



Inclusion

MESSAGE FROM MRS JONES

Dear families,

What a busy Autumn term we've had! All children have worked so hard and I am incredibly proud of the resilience and positive attitude we've seen around school! I have also loved meeting many families and am excited to be working alongside some of you to support your children, in the new year! I wish you all a lovely Christmas and a Happy New

Year!



HOLIDAY SURVIVAL!

The Christmas holidays can be really challenging for everyone, especially neuro-diverse children. Here are some tips to help keep everyone relaxed and content during the festive period (as much as they can be!):

- Routines and predictability are key - prepare for inevitable changes with visual timetables or social stories.
- Plan for recovery days and downtime - everyone is different, but going for a walk, doing something crafty or just resting at home can help your child decompress!
- Prepare your child for the 'what ifs' - If it's loud, you can use ear defenders, if it's too busy, I can take some time in my room etc.
- Remember it's YOUR Christmas - we don't all have to do things the same way; who says chicken nuggets dipped in cranberry sauce aren't festive?!

CONTACTING MRS JONES

Mrs Jones

Email your school's office if you would like to arrange a call or a meeting to discuss your child.



For more support and advice go to: <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/professional-practice/christmas-resources>

WhatsApp Support Service

We believe everyone should have someone to turn to for support.

If you are worried about your children or your family life, message us on WhatsApp



 **07441 444125** 

www.familylives.org.uk



Attendance

Please can you book **routine dental and medical appointment** outside school hours, where possible as this is having an increasing impact on attendance.

“The research says: Individuals who missed five days of school at age 10 were 5.7% more likely to have obtained no qualifications and 4.2% more likely to be out of the labour force.’ (Dräger, J., Klein, M. and Sosu, E. (n.d.) The long-term consequences of early school absences for educational attainment and labour market outcomes. School of Education, University of Strathclyde.)

Hayeswood’s got talent...winners!



Safety at Drop off and Pick ups

Please ensure that:

- Children enter/exit a vehicle from the path side rather than road side due to safety
- Junctions are not used for Parking (or near a junction)
- Cars are not parked in a way that obstructs entry to driveways and entrances



Picture News For Parents



December 2025

Hello!

Welcome to the Autumn term's edition of Picture News for Parents – a newsletter that helps you stay updated with your school's news coverage, and shares support for handling current affairs and media literacy at home.



Picture News Recap!

Should fireworks be changed so we protect animals and people at the same time?



3rd November 2025

Redwings Horse Sanctuary asked the government to make fireworks quieter to help protect animals and people. This inspired conversations about how we can consider the impact of our actions on others, the many ways we can make celebrations special, and the alternatives to fireworks we might see.

Conversation idea:

How could community events in our local area make sure they include everyone?

What would you tell world leaders if you were at COP30?



10th November 2025

This resource was all about the COP30 meeting in Brazil. This led to conversations in schools about the purpose of the meetings, what climate change is, and positive climate actions people can take.

Conversation idea:

What actions do/can we take at home to help the environment?

Why should we raise awareness of hidden disabilities?



November 2025

This special pack focused on nine-year-old Katie Thirling, who has been awarded the British Citizen Youth Award Medal of Honour for raising awareness of living with a hidden disability. Schools discussed stomas and why they're needed, and the impact raising awareness of hidden disabilities can have on others.

Conversation idea:

How can we show kindness to people in our community?

How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?



1st December 2025

The Princess of Wales' annual carol service, which aims to bring people together to celebrate kindness, connection, and community, was this resource's focus. The pack asked questions about what and who makes children feel they belong, and how we can welcome others.

Conversation idea:

Where do you most feel like you belong?

Dates for you diary

Please note that we have tried to give as much notice as possible for events and they may change. Any changes or additional dates are noted in red.

Colehill First School

19.12.25	INSET DAY
22.12.25 - 02.01.26	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
SPRING TERM	
05.01.26	INSET DAY
06.01.26	Pupils return to school
07.01.26	Dorset Music Service Samba Lessons Start - Year 3 ONLY
15/16.01.25	Life Education (SCARF) Visit
20.01.26	Trip to Museum of East Dorset - Year 1 ONLY
20.01.26	Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) Parent Meeting 9am - 9:30am - Year 4 ONLY
22.01.26	MTC Parent Meeting 3:15pm - 3:45pm - Year 4 ONLY
26.01.25	Dogs' Trust Visit tbc
28.01.26	Y4 Netball Festival, QE School
29.01.26	Y4 Boudicca Performance - 9.30am - Hall (come to school office to sign in)
11.02.26	Trip to Kimmeridge Bay - Year 3 ONLY
13.02.26	Last day of term
16.02.26 - 20.02.26	HALF TERM
23.02.26	INSET DAY
24.02.26	Pupils return to school
05.03.26	World Book Day
12.03.26	Young Carers' Action Day
17.03.26 & 19.03.26	Parent Consultations 3.30pm - 6pm
20.03.26	Red Nose Day
26.03.26	Trip to Marwell Zoo - Year 4 ONLY
26.03.26	Easter Egg Hunt
27.03.26	Last day of term
30.03.26 - 10.04.26	EASTER HOLIDAYS

SUMMER TERM

13.04.26	INSET DAY
14.04.26	Pupils return to school
SummerTerm (exact date TBC)	Iron Age Day
04.05.26	BANK HOLIDAY
14.05.26&15.05.26	Bikeability - Years 3 and 4 ONLY
11.05.26	Pond Dipping trip to Dumpton - Year R ONLY
20.05.26	Trip to The Lighthouse, Poole - Years 3 & 4 ONLY - TBC
22.05.26	Sponsored Walk
22.05.26	Last day of term
25.05.26-29.05.26	HALF TERM
01.06.26	Pupils return to school
03.06.26	Trip to Winchester Science Museum - Year 4 ONLY
03.06.6	New Reception Parents Evening
17.06.26	Class photos
18.06.25	Trip to Hengistbury Head - Year 2 ONLY
22.06.26	SPORTS DAY
26.06.26	Transfer Day
29.06.26	BACK UP SPORTS DAY
10.07.26	Wimborne Minster Leavers' Service - Year 4 & Children ONLY
10.07.26	End of Year Reports sent home
10.07.26	Summer Fair
15.07.26	Summer Disco
16.07.26	Celebration of Learning
17.07.26	Year 4 Leavers Assembly
22.07.26	Last day of term

Hayeswood First School

19.12.25	INSET DAY
22.12.25 - 06.01.26	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
SPRING TERM	
05.01.26	INSET DAY
06.01.26	Pupils return to school
21.01.26	MTC Parent Meeting 3:15pm - 3:45pm - Year 4 ONLY
21.01.26 & 22.01.26	Life Education workshops all years
23.01.26	Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) Parent Meeting 9am - 9:30am - Year 4 ONLY
27.01.26	Trip to Museum of East Dorset - Year 1 ONLY
10.02.26	Kimmeridge Trip - Year 3 ONLY
13.02.26	Break the rules day
13.02.26	Last day of term
16.02.26 - 20.02.26	HALF TERM
23.02.26	INSET DAY
24.02.26	Pupils return to school
05.03.26	World Book Day
12.03.26	Young Carers action day
17.03.26 & 19.03.26	Parent Consultations 3.30pm - 6.30pm
20.03.26	Red Nose Day
20.03.26	HSA Winter Quiz Night - Adults only
23.03.26	HSA Easter Egg Hunt
25.03.26	Bikeability 3:30 - 4:30 - Years 3 & 4 ONLY
26.03.25	Marwell Zoo trip - Year 4 ONLY
27.03.26	Last day of term
30.03.26 - 10.04.26	EASTER HOLIDAYS
SUMMER TERM	

13.04.26	INSET DAY
Summer Term (exact date TBC)	Iron Age Day
14.04.26	Pupils return to school
30.04.26	Class photos
04.05.26	BANK HOLIDAY
5.5.25-8.5.25	Travelling Book Fair
18.05.26-19.05.26	Brenscombe Residential - Year 4 ONLY
22.05.26	Break the Rules day
22.05.26	Last day of term
25.05.26-29.05.26	HALF TERM
SummerTerm (exact date TBC)	Year 2 trip to Hengistbury Head - Year 2 only
01.06.26	Pupils return to school
04.06.26	New Reception Parents Evening
08.06.26	Pond dipping trip to Dumpton School - Year R ONLY
19.06.26	HSA Mufti Day - Bottle Tombola
24.06.26	SPORTS DAY
26.06.26	Transfer Day
01.07.26	BACK UP SPORTS DAY
04.07.26	HSA Summer Fair
10.07.26	Wimborne Minster Leavers' Service - Year 4 & Children ONLY
10.07.26	End of Year Reports sent home
16.07.26	Celebration of Learning
17.07.26	HSA Colour Run/End of Year Disco
20.07.26	Year 4 Leavers assembly and tea party
22.07.26	Last day of term