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Key Dates:	
8 th January – Year 1 children to wear special clothes to school	16 th January HSPTA meeting
10 th January – Beauty and the Beast theatre performance	18 th January - Year 2 visit to orchestra
12 th January –some year 2 attend dodgeball competition	

Communications this week:	
Y1 PE Days	Hampshire Parent Carer Network
Y2 Curriculum News	Parent Governor Vacancy
School Job vacancies	Y1 Special Clothes Day

Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy New Year! It's been wonderful welcoming the children back this week and I am so impressed with how settled it is across the school and the fantastic work the children are already engaging with. We are really looking forward to another busy and exciting term!

We still have Year R spaces for September 2024 - if you know anybody still looking please encourage them to book a tour through our school website for next week to look around and find out more about us! Application deadline is 15th January.

We are going to be using our Instagram account to promote and share lots about our school to the wider community. If you are not already, please follow us on Instagram: [hiltingburyinfantschool](#)

Smart Watches/technology

We know many children will have received new technology including smart watches for Christmas. Please can I remind you that children are unable to wear/bring these to school as part of our safeguarding policy children must only use school IT devices. I attach a top tips poster for setting up parental controls on new devices which will hopefully give you some ways to ensure your children are safe whilst online.

Governor Parent Election

We sent out information yesterday about our current governor vacancy. We really value everything our governing body does to ensure our school is providing the best for all our children and would welcome new members with an interest and background in finance or education. If you are interested but would like to find out a little more, please contact the school office to arrange a meeting with Amy Ingram our Chair of Governors.

Reading Raffle

Our reading raffle worked brilliantly last term for our children in Key Stage One and it was delightful to see so many children reading at home at least three times a week to earn their raffle ticket. The sales from the book fayre have earned us rewards to buy more books to be given as prizes so please support your child by reading at home together at least three times a week. Year R will be joining our raffle this term and you will receive a reading diary to record any reading at home next week. Thank you for your continued support in developing a love of reading.

Hampshire Parent Carer Network

We sent out information yesterday from the Hampshire Parent Carer Network. They have some great opportunities for peer support and workshops on a range of topics that you can attend for free. Please look at the fliers for further information.

Learning Highlights from Each Year Group

Year R

It's been lovely to welcome the children back to school after the Christmas break, hearing about all the presents that have been received and all the wonderful things the children have been up to. All the children have been excited to see their friends again and have settled back into school routines really well. This week in phonics, the children have learnt the new phonemes ai, ee, igh and oa and have been using these to read new words. In maths this week, the children have been learning about shapes that have got 4 sides, the names of these shapes, sorting them and finding them around the classroom and outside.

Year 1

The Year 1 children have really enjoyed learning to act out the traditional story, The Gingerbread Man. The children tried hard to join in with the repetitive phrases and began to use language found in stories.

During our English sessions the children have learnt what an adjective is and how it describes a noun. They are learning to describe different characters from stories using adjectives.

During the children's gymnastic sessions, they learnt what 'balance' means and learnt to balance on different parts of their body. The children worked well with others and it was lovely to see them working together like 'Ellie Elephant'.

The children have been learning that digits can also be written in words e.g nineteen 19. Please practise these with your child at home. We wish you all a Happy New Year!

Year 2

Happy New Year! We are so impressed with how settled the children have returned to school and have enjoyed hearing their holiday news. This week, the children have started the new Little Wandle Spelling programme, which is designed for Year 2 children. They have started to use their phonetic knowledge to support their spelling and this will be our focus for the rest of the year. The programme begins with much focus on unusual spelling patterns such as why words have alternative graphemes used to make unusual sounds. They will also learn about 'tricky spellings' (common exception words) and we have sent home a list of the words for Year 2 this week. Please support your child to learn how to spell these words and apply them within sentences in their longer pieces of writing. Thank you for your continued support. The children have also consolidated prior learning this week in both maths and literacy to apply what they have been taught in different ways. We have had some fantastic writing using coordinating and subordinating conjunctions and the children have also showed us how much they have retained from their addition learning journey.

We hope you all had a wonderful break enjoying time with friends and family and wish you all a very happy new year!

Kind regards

Phillippa Longman

