



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy start to this half term, with children working hard in all areas! With so much happening, we thought it would be sensible to share our latest newsletter with you!

It has been a pleasure to meet with so many parents over the last few weeks

either informally during drop off and collection, or through planned appointments. Thank you too for your attendance at the recent Parent Meetings – it was lovely to welcome so many parents and carers into school to meet with their child/ren's class teacher.

Messages to teachers

We know how busy life can be before and after school! If you would like to share anything with your child's teachers, please email the school office (hornbill.office@modschoools.org) with the teacher's name in the title and your email will be promptly forwarded to the appropriate member of staff.

We ask for the message to come through the office email address as this ensures that it is received and acted upon in the event that the class teacher is absent. It also protects teachers from working beyond their working day. Please be reassured that all information received by school is confidential.

Hallowe'en Disco

Thank you so much for your support at this event. The children all looked fantastic and their dancing skills put me to shame! The event has helped us to raise funds for 'Hornbill Helping Hands' – our parent/teacher group of volunteers, who run events across the year to offer entertainment for our children and raise funds for activities and resources for the children. The funds raised at the disco will be spent on every child at Hornbill and Treetops, to purchase an item which will be given a little later in the term (please refer to the calendar to see what is happening on the 5th of December!!)

Parent only Event... Wrapping Fun

We are excited to confirm that Santa will be arriving at Hornbill again this year (so please keep your eyes on the sky on Thursday, 5th December!) Before he arrives, we need lots of elves to help us to wrap nearly 300 presents...

If you are free on the evening of Monday 25th November from 19:00hrs onwards, we would appreciate your support. If you are able to attend, please inform our school office team.

Please note that as the school will be closed, **children will not be allowed to attend** to ensure that the magic is maintained!

Attendance

Please find attached to this email a letter from Defence Children's Services Education Welfare Officer, Jane Kelly, which I have been asked to share with our families.

At Hornbill School, we take attendance and punctuality very seriously. We aim to have an attendance figure in excess of the national average of 96.7%. Attendance data is tracked by the Department for Education.

Obviously, attendance levels can be affected by illness. However, we would encourage all parents to send their children into school wherever possible. However, if your child is too ill to attend school, please ensure that the office is notified promptly, so we are aware that your child is safe.

If your child should be affected by sickness and/or diarrhoea, please remember that you must keep your child off of school until they have been symptom free for a minimum of 48 hours. This is to prevent the bug spreading throughout the school community.



The end of term is fast approaching, along with the Christian celebration of Christmas.

Christians celebrate Christmas to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the incarnation, when God became human. Christmas is a time of gratitude, remembrance, and celebration of the importance of faith, love, generosity, and service.

Here at Hornbill School, children in FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 will learn about the story of the Nativity and are excited to share their learning by performing Nativities sharing the Christmas story to their parents and any interested party from our local community.

Children in Years 3 to 6 will be sharing a Christingle service with families. A Christingle celebration is a festive candlelit service that brings together families and communities to share the light of Jesus and spread hope. The celebration usually takes place from the end of November through to February, but can be held at any time.

The symbolism

- Each part of the Christingle has a special meaning:
 - **The orange:** Represents the world
 - **The red ribbon:** Represents Jesus' love and the blood he shed to save humankind
 - **The sweets or dried fruit:** Represent God's creations and the blessings people are grateful for
 - **The four sticks:** Represent the four seasons or the four corners of the world
 - **The candle:** Represents Jesus as the Light of the World, bringing hope to those in darkness

The celebration culminates with children receiving a lighted (please be reassured that this will be a battery-operated candle) Christingle, gradually filling the space with light.

Helping Father Christmas

We are delighted to share that Father Christmas will be flying over to Brunei to visit our children here at Hornbill school. His elves have been very busy preparing presents for this event and are all very excited – but would really appreciate any adult support to wrap the presents. We will be holding a Christmas wrapping event here at school on Monday (the 25th) here at school between 1900 and 2000 and we would love to invite you to join us! Please let the school office know if you would like to be involved...

Early Help

Kim Harrison, DCS Early Help Lead, will be in Brunei next week and is hoping to meet with parents to offer support and advice. She will be running an informal drop in session (with coffee and cake) here at school from 15:30hrs until 18:00hrs and would love to meet with parents. Please see attached flyer for more information.

Please don't hesitate to speak to me, or any member of our team, if you have any questions!

With warm regards,



Mrs C. Neal, Headteacher



When	What	Where
Monday 25 th November	Yr 3 Trip to Danau Primary School	-
Monday 25 th November at 13:15hrs	Celebration Assembly (Year 2 – 6)	Gill Theatre (school hall)
Monday 25 th November from 19:00hrs	Parent Event – Wrapping Fun!	Art Room
Wednesday 27 th November between 15:30hrs and 18:00hrs	Parent Drop In with Kim Harrison (DCS Early Help Lead) An opportunity to understand the support available to families here in Brunei for all aspects of life and parenting	Gill Theatre (school hall)
Thursday 28 th November at 12.30hrs	Stay and Play Session for children joining FS1 in January 2025	FS1
Friday 6 th December at 10.30hrs	Year 1 Nativity Performance to parents	Gill Theatre (school hall)
Thursday 5 th December morning	Santa Visit	All Classes

When	What	Where
Wednesday 4 th December	Yr 6 Trip to RBAF Rimba	-
Monday 9 th December	Yr 1 trip to Post Office	-
Monday 9 th December at 13:15hrs	FS2 Class Share of Nativity/first certificate awards	Clouded Leopard and Crab
Tuesday 10 th December at 12:45hrs	Year 2 Nativity Performance to parents	Gill Theatre (school hall)
Wednesday 11 th December at 13:00hrs	KS2 Christingle Service for parents	Gill Theatre (school hall)
Thursday 12 th December	Non - uniform day: Opportunity to wear Christmas colours (red, green, gold or silver) or Christmas clothes!	-
Friday 13 th December at 12:00hrs	Last day of term – please note early finish time.	-