



NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, I'm pleased to say the HSL community are finishing term on a real high - with lots of events going on across the school in the run up to Christmas! Our Christmas celebration was a wonderful event, showcasing our talented musicians, expertly led by Mr Bunting. This week we have enjoyed the first ever gym and dance house competition, with hundreds of pupils performing in small groups, solos, duets and large groups. We have all been absolutely staggered by the quality of the skills our dancers and gymnasts have shown and can't wait to share even more photos with you in the first newsletter of the new year. Additionally, the RRSA steering group have done a tremendous job collecting food for Spring Bank Community pantry, smashing our target of 450 items - thank you so much for your generous donations. Thank you also for the very kind gifts that have come into school for the staff of HSL - our staffroom has been awash with sweet treats and cards - they have kept us all going over the last few days!

I would like to wish you all a lovely break over the Christmas holidays - we are all looking forward with much excitement to a great 2024 at HSL!

With warm wishes,
Helen Wood
Headteacher

Key Dates - January 2024

8th January	Start of Spring Term (week 2)
15th January	House Art Competition Launch
15th January	RRSA Steering Group Meeting (13.30-14.20)
18th January	'Supporting your child's mental health' hosted by 'Young Minds Matter' 6.30pm
19th January	Thick Jumper Day (non school uniform)
23rd January	PSHE P2 and P3
23rd January	Learning Council Meeting (13.20-14.20)
26th January	Holocaust Memorial Day
26th January	The Big Garden Birdwatch
29th January	National Storytelling Week
30th January	House Council (13.20-14.20)
31st January	Coffee and Catch Up for parents of student with SEND



HSL French and History trip to Amiens and Arras 6th to 10th December 2023

Who knew when we set out at 5am on Wednesday morning that by late afternoon we would be learning all about how bread and croissants are made from the "scary" baker? He made it up to us at the end of the visit though when we were each given a delicious croissant to tide us over until our late dinner once we arrived in Albert.



After a hearty dinner hosted by Yannick, we were all thankful to settle into our basic but comfortable hotel rooms. It was quite exciting to have our own games room and the pool table, table tennis table, giant chess set and giant connect 4 set were all well used over the visit! The punching ball machine was the clear favourite though.



HSL French and History trip to Amiens and Arras 6th to 10th December 2023

Over the following few days we were lucky enough to experience two delightful Christmas markets, a superb guided tour of WW1 memorials, a crater and a trench, a stroll through some underground tunnels and an aquarium. A highlight for everyone was the trip to a bowling centre where Mr Powell-Jones did not quite live up to his own expectations! Some new friendships were forged both within the group and also with some French friends we met in the Somme 1916 museum!

Our journey home was not uneventful as we encountered some rough weather during the crossing and many of us felt rather unwell. However, it didn't detract from a quick and safe journey home where we were all sad to have ended the trip but happy to see our families and sleep in our own beds once again.



HSL French and History trip to Amiens and Arras 6th to 10th December 2023

All the trip staff were proud of our super students and how interested they were in all of the visits. They asked super questions, tried out their French and were cheerful and upbeat even in the rain. What a super group of young people!

Ms Claydon



Christmas concert

On Wednesday 13th December, a large audience of parents and friends of the school enjoyed our fantastic Christmas celebration - with musical and dramatic performances from many of our wonderful HSL pupils. The Jazz band opened the evening with a brilliant rendition of 'The most wonderful time of the year,' and the audience were then treated to a wide range of talented performances, with pupils showcasing a range of genres from instrumental solos, group vocal pieces, our fantastic drama club, and even a digital choir! There were readings, duets and even a staff item to finish off the evening. Thank you to Mr Bunting who organised the occasion, supported by Miss Winters, and a huge thank you to all the parents and the PTFA for their generous donations. The retiring collection raised an amazing £388.52 for the school production that we hope you will all come and see next March.

We are all now truly in the Christmas spirit!



Mince Pies and Christmas Lunch

The fantastic HSL staff enjoyed a fun evening of mince pie making, ready for the PTFA to serve with their mulled wine at our lovely Christmas Celebration. Some were experts, some were more novice - and we possibly over-catered - but a fun time was had by all! What a talented team!



We enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch this week, all prepared on-site by the fantastic catering team. We enjoyed free-range turkey, roast potatoes and all the trimmings.

Physical Education

We've had another action-packed term in PE at HSL, with the pupils continuing to work hard in their activities of gymnastics and hockey. Attendance at extra-curricular clubs also continues to be incredibly high, even on the colder, darker mornings! The House gym and dance competition was incredibly popular with pupils choreographing and rehearsing in their spare time – the standard was very high across the school and a full round up will be available in our January Newsletter!

During the term, Year 9 boys played their first Rugby match at HSL against Bournside School. It was a hugely positive game against a very physical Bournside team and our pupils learnt a lot throughout the match and played some great passing rugby. A huge thank you to the Staff at Bournside PE for their support and for very kindly donating some Rugby Post Protectors.

The Year 9 girls netball team played in the County Netball Tournament against Kings, Ribston, Winchcombe, Chosen Hill and Tewkesbury. The team were very efficient in their play, using the space on court effectively and moving the ball around at speed to allow a lot of shooting opportunities that were converted well throughout the whole day.

The Year 8 and 9 netball teams played Pittville Year 9's recently, and again some fluent netball was played by all on court, where all our players demonstrated a very good skill level and composure with their decision making against strong opposition. Some of the Year 9 Sports Leaders umpired the netball match too!



The Year 7 & 8 girls football teams were also in action against Cleeve school on the same night. All the matches were closely contested with an abundance of goals scored by both schools. A well participated event, with nearly half of the girls in the whole year group taking part!

Physical Education

Our Year 7 boys have been battling it out in football training this term and played in the Year 7 A Football Tournament hosted at Tewkesbury School. This was a great opportunity to play against the other schools in the county and has given us plenty to focus on for the football season next term.

The Year 8 A&B's have been challenging the Year 9 A&B's Boys football teams too this term, building up their 11-side experience before the football leagues kick off in January. We are extremely impressed with their commitment, with both year groups containing around 60 boys each. We have had nearly 30 taking part in these friendly matches representing their year group.

The girl's hockey teams have continued to make fantastic progress this term. The Year 8 team have had several fixtures and have continued to display some excellent skills and tactical understanding against other local schools.



Our U12's Girls Hockey team surpassed all expectations on Friday at the Gloucestershire County Hockey tournament. An outstanding 3rd place finish out of 9 teams involved.

The HSL squad all played a part in the success, with a flurry of goals from Hattie Street, Sofia Topolansky, Scarlett Robertson, Amber Wintle and Delilah Hopper - beating the likes of CLC, Bournside and KLB. The team had a fantastic day and sacrificed their free inset day, to represent the school, which we are very thankful for. Well done to all involved and we look forward to the next season already!

Physical Education

The HSL cross country runners were out in full force this month, following the previously cancelled District Championships in October.



The standard of running across the district was very impressive, with over 150 runners in each race but our HSL athletes did not disappoint. We finished 5th out of 12 schools in the Year 8&9 girls and the Year 8&9 boys. We finished 6th in the Year 7 boys, and we took a very impressive 1st place for the Year 7 girls. The pupils listed below were all selected to represent Cheltenham at the County Championships at the beginning of December, running on a very cold and wet morning, on an incredibly muddy course in Newent. All athletes performed brilliantly in their races and we were very proud to hear of their efforts in such tough conditions.

County Championship Results:

Ben Sholly (4th place) Yr 9 boys
 Joe Pearce (11th place) Yr 7 boys
 Ciara Balsillie (12th place) Yr 9 girls
 Cameron Balsillie (7th place) Yr 7 girls
 Daisy Mason (10th place) Yr 7 girls
 Rubi Lazlo (14th place) Yr 7 girls

As anticipated House rugby was a very well contested event across each of the year groups before half term. We played a tag version of the game to encourage higher participation, whilst keeping the game as close to the full version as possible. Isbourne took the victories in Year 7 and Year 9, with Windrush taking the Year 8 title. The overall winners and final standings of House Rugby 2023:

1st Isbourne
 2nd Windrush
 3rd Chelt
 4th Lilley Brook



HSL'S BOOK OF THE MONTH – THE MIRACLE ON EBENEZER STREET

Over the Christmas break, we are recommending that our pupils, parents, and members of the HSL community read:

The Miracle on Ebenezer Street by Catherine Doyle

Here is a brief synopsis:

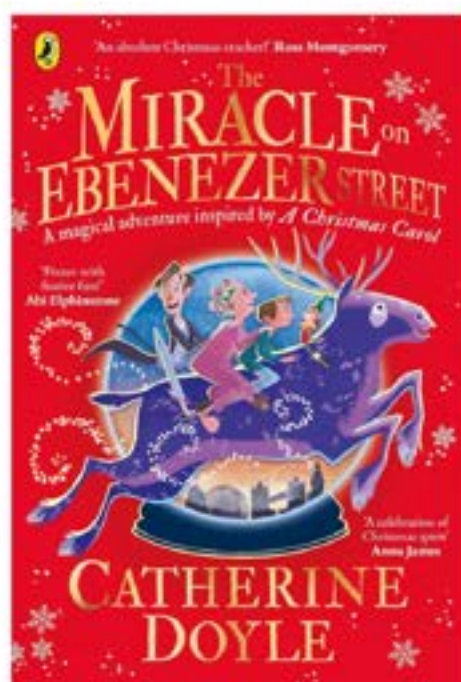
'Old Marley's magic was beginning to stir...'

George is about to spend his third Christmas without his mum. Since she died, George's life has felt dull and grey; his dad has thrown himself into his work and has no time for family, and definitely no time for Christmas. Then, George stumbles across Marley's Curiosity Shop. There he finds a mysterious snow globe, which – though George can't quite understand how – appears to show a scene from George's past. A Christmas in which he and his family were together, and happy... That night, George and his dad are swept on an adventure to three Christmases – past, present, and future. With help from new friends, and just a touch of magic, can they begin living life in full colour again?

Please check out the VLE for some fun and festive activities to accompany the reading of this book!

Did you enjoy reading this book? Why not read Dickens' classic that inspired it, A Christmas Carol?

Did you enjoy reading this book? Write a book review of it and send it to Mrs Simms.



MFL- Modern Foreign Languages

Día de los muertos

We had some very artistic designs for our Day of the Dead competition which was launched in October. Students have been introduced to this festival and have entered their impressive designs of brightly coloured and spooky 'calaveras' (Skulls). The winners are below, well done to everyone who took part.

1

1st Place

Moreton Gossling
Delphine Jones
Oliver Phillimore
Chloe Kapp

2

2nd Place

Niamh Lancaster

3

3rd Place

Lara Jones
Tee Redfearn



Protecting our planet day

Thursday 30th November was Protecting Our Planet Day at HSL.

As part of the day, a special STEM activity took place after school to teach students about floods, what causes them and how they link to climate change. Students were then challenged to develop a model of Natural Flood Management, using a ramp, marbles and various household materials, and take part in a competition to win certificates and prizes.

Thank you to all students who attended and congratulations to the winning teams, pictured below with their designs:

Team 1: Ashley Bradbury 9IS and Isla Murray 7LB

Team 2: Katie Wetherilt 9CH



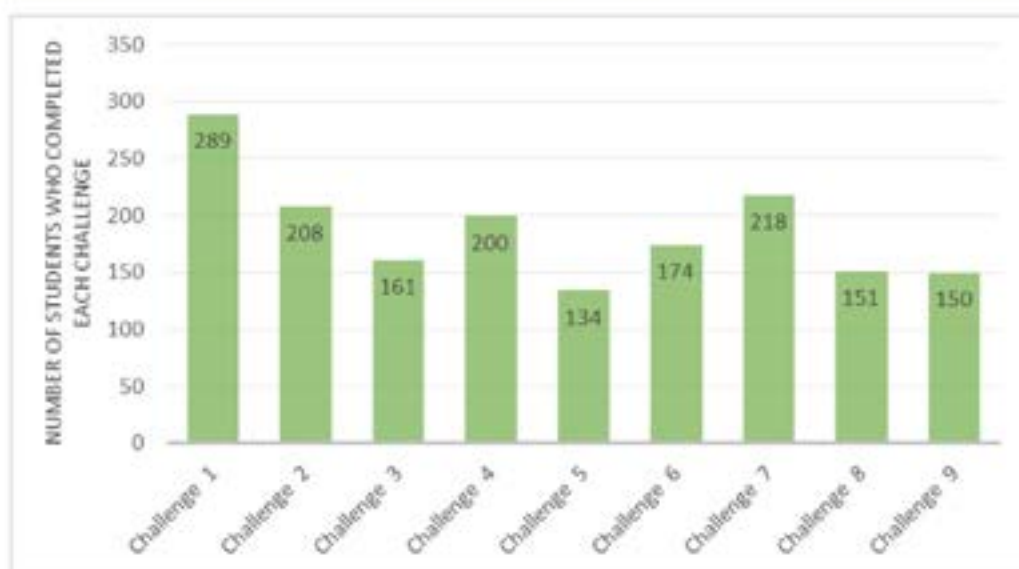
Congratulations on winning
the Environment Agency's
There will be rain challenge

During this task you have shown the following skills:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Problem solving | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Working under pressure |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Team work | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Using your initiative |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organisation |

Cut your carbon campaign results

Thank you for all your support in helping our students take action against climate change during the month of November as part of the Cut Your Carbon Campaign. At the end of the month, members of the Eco-Committee visited each tutor group to record how many of the nine challenges on the checklist were completed by each student. Below is a graph showing our total impact as a school. We have reported our results to Eco-Schools who have entered us into a draw to win Eco prizes.



Congratulations to 7LB who completed more challenges in total than any other tutor group. The tutor group has received a certificate and Eco ePraise points as a reward for their achievement.



News and Updates

Congratulations to Lachie Hart 9IS who competed in the GDO World Championships, with his amazing dance club - Cody Crew.

Lachie was placed 4th in the world for his team performance and achieved top 5 in the world for both his duo and solo performances.

What a great experience and an amazing result! Well done Lachie.



LIVES OF COLOUR

Congratulations to Jesse Lomsza 8IS who gave up his spare time to take part in a charity event - 'Lives Of Colour' and met local MP Alex Chalk



News and Updates

The Festive 450

Earlier this month we asked our school community to once again support the Springbank Community Food Pantry, and donate 450 items of food and toiletries to support those in Cheltenham who may be struggling this Christmas.

Whilst there will be more on this in the January newsletter, we are keen to share with you that thanks to your generosity we have to date collected 531 items!

These items will be delivered to the Food Pantry before Christmas. Thank you very much for your support.



Supporting your child's mental health



Following the very well attended parents' information evening regarding online safety - hosted by PC Simon Williams, HSL would like to invite all parents and carers to our next event which will be focussed on 'Supporting your child's mental health' hosted by 'Young Minds Matter' - an NHS organisation.

They will discuss with parents strategies to support your child's mental wellbeing, as well as explain the support their free service can offer for your child. This will be on Thursday 18th January, starting at 6:30pm. We hope to see you all there!

DT and Art Updates

We still have numerous unnamed and uncollected containers and bags in Food Tech. Those uncollected will be disposed of or recycled. Please encourage your child to look and collect any that may belong to you by the first week of the new term. Many thanks, DT department.



Church Road Crossing



A Leckhampton Primary School pupil has proposed the idea that a pedestrian crossing is implemented on Church Road, Leckhampton to help improve the safety of children walking to Leckhampton Primary School and The High School Leckhampton. The petition which is on the GCC website can be located via the QR code and link below.

HELP US CLEAR THE AIR AT SCHOOL

HEALTHY AIR, HEALTHY KIDS



Air monitoring at schools has shown elevated levels of toxins during pick-up times as parents idle their cars while they wait for their kids.

Exhaust fumes from cars are linked to increases in asthma, allergies, heart and lung disease and even cancer.



Children are especially at risk because their lungs are still developing and they inhale more air per pound of body weight.

IF YOU'LL BE WAITING MORE THAN 10 SECONDS TURN OFF YOUR ENGINE



THIS SIMPLE STEP CAN



Reduce children's
Exposure to pollutants



Save a
little money



Help the
Environment



Our Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA) Key Updates

A HUGE thank you to everyone that made donations towards the Christmas Celebration on the 13th December. It was a wholesome evening and the staff homemade mince pies were delicious, thank you to all that made it such a memorable event.

There were so many fabulous performances by our talented children and the staff performance at the end was brilliant! We are delighted to share that **we raised over £400 for the school** on the evening through donations and the raffle.



Next PTFA Key Dates

- ✓ Next PTFA Meeting – January 18th – 7pm - All Welcome
- ✓ PTFA Meeting – February 29th – 7pm – All Welcome

Thank You to the Local Businesses Supporting HSL

A HUGE thank you to the following local businesses for their generous support:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ Solace Gym | ✓ Dunkertons |
| ✓ The Somerset Arms | ✓ Deya Brewery |
| ✓ Ella Hair | ✓ FRONT Cafe and Community Hub |
| ✓ COOK Cheltenham | ✓ Neal's Yard Remedies Cheltenham |
| ✓ Moran's Eating House | ✓ Knights of the Round Grill |
| ✓ Bath Road Beers | |

Join Us on Facebook



To stay up to date with all of the latest news and announcements.

Join us on our Facebook group for further info and news :

"The High School Leckhampton PTFA"