

THE NUTSHELL

Celebrating recent highlights at Hazelwood

28TH NOVEMBER 2025

Dear Parents,

When I was at school, I used to practise my scales at exactly 8pm – the precise moment the evening news started on television, which my dad watched without fail. In those days you watched the news when it was on. No pause. No playback. The piano stood in the room next to the television, separated only by a retractable divider that pretended to offer privacy but really offered none at all.



Did I choose that moment on purpose? Perhaps. The louder I played, the more my dad turned the volume up. The more he turned the volume up, the more emphatically I powered through those scales. And as I finished, the inevitable comment came through the divider. I am sure he did not mean it the way I interpreted it, but what I heard was always something like, "Are you sure that is the best you can do?" or "Have you really finished?"

And my poor sister. Recorder at ten o'clock at night was not my most endearing quality. She tolerated it all, and she is now my rock and one of my best friends.

On my run this morning, I listened to a podcast where the speaker asked listeners to think of their happiest memory. At first, I could not pick one. Then I realised why: I had so many safe, warm and happy memories that choosing only one felt impossible.

Jam on toast in bed before going to church at 6am to practise the organ. My mum sitting quietly in the back pew with her Bible, never once looking reluctant. My dad picking me up from school, taking my bag from me as we walked to the car, making me feel utterly cared for. Family, pets, the sea, friends, teachers, music, sport – and yes, those scales at 8pm.

Childhood should feel like that: safe, supported, and filled with small moments that become lifelong joy. And we, the adults, get to help create that through patience, encouragement and all the tiny acts of love that often go unnoticed in the moment.

Ultimately, what we hope for is simple: that one day our children will look back and find they have so many joyful memories that choosing only one becomes the hardest part.

Best wishes, Lindie

Follow us on our social channels for regular updates on school news!



@hazelwoodschooloxted



@hazelwoodschool.co.uk



@hazelwoodschoolsport

Contents

Nursery

Lower School (Reception - Year 4)

<u>Upper School (Years 5 - 8)</u>



Spotlight



On 22nd November, Ralph and Jack went to the London Aquatic Centre to represent their swimming club in a national competition.

Ralph took gold in every race with a total of 6 gold medals.

Jack took 4 gold medals and silver in the backstroke.

Well done Ralph & Jack!







Mrs Burden

Head of Year 5

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

After 15 years of teaching, I can honestly say that teaching in the classroom is where I feel happiest. My degree is in Food Science, and during my time working in that field I often found myself clock-watching. In contrast, time flies at Hazelwood and every day brings a new adventure, a new challenge, and a new opportunity to make a difference.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

When I was younger, I had some interesting teachers, and they became my motivation to do better for the next generation. I may never be rich, but knowing that I'm making a positive and lasting impact on the community keeps me driven and proud of what I do.

HOW DO YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO CHILDREN'S LIVES?

We have a saying at home: "Mola nó óige agus tiocfaidh sé," which translates to "encourage the young and they will flourish." My hope is that, in my lessons, every child feels heard, listened to, and appropriately challenged within a nurturing environment.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS YEAR?

It's Christmas! I'm heading home to my family, which has now grown to 18, and I'm especially excited to meet my new niece, Mai, for the first time.



HPA

Hazelwood Parents Association

CHRISTMAS FAIR

& GROTTO! FUNDRAISING EVENT

Saturday 29th November 2025. 12-3pm in the Sports Hall. Games, external stall holders, teddy and wine tombola and much more







Parent Insights- Upcoming Sessions

Whether you're curious about the latest thinking in child development, looking for guidance in navigating today's parenting challenges, or simply hoping to connect with other parents, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow together.

Parentinsights Childhood. Parenting. Education.

December Sessions:

Brains, Bonds and Boundaries: Parenting Through the Teenage Years. Guest Speaker - Marisa Bosa, Acting Head of Worth School

Friday 5th December - 9am

Unwrapping the Season - A practical workshop exploring how to reduce pressure and manage expectations during the festive period for parents of neurodivergent children. Guest Speaker - Caryn Price

• Friday 12th December - 9am

These sessions are open to the wider community, so please spread the word to friends and family - we look forward to seeing you soon!

RSVP to either marketing@hazelwoodschool.com or via the MSP email.



The Hub Holiday Provision - have your say!

We'd appreciate your feedback on our holiday provision and any suggestions to enhance this offering in our short parent survey.

Your input will help us create an even better experience for your children.

Children In Need

We raised an amazing £783 for Children In Need this year - thank you for your generous donations!





Parkinson's Fundraising



Our Director of Music, Megan Haydock, will be raising money this year for Parkinson's UK - a charity that has recently become very important to her.

"I first started noticing symptoms last October, and things gradually progressed over the year. By the summer holidays it all came to a head, and after many appointments and tests, I was diagnosed with young-onset Parkinson's at the age of 34. It wasn't something I ever expected to hear, but having a clear diagnosis did bring a sense of relief — at least I knew what I was dealing with and could start planning the best way forward.

Parkinson's UK has been a huge help. When you're first diagnosed, the internet is an overwhelming place, and they provided reliable information, practical advice, and opportunities to connect with others in similar situations.

Since starting medication, my symptoms are much more manageable. I can keep up with my two young children, get back to teaching, and make music again — which has always been an important part of my life. Being back in school this term has given me a real sense of routine and purpose, and I've loved making music with your children.

If you're unfamiliar with Parkinson's: it's a neurological condition where the brain doesn't make enough dopamine, which affects movement, balance, and coordination. People also often experience non-movement symptoms like tiredness or sleep difficulties. Although it's usually diagnosed later in life, younger adults can develop it too.

One thing that gives me a lot of hope is the pace of research at the moment. Parkinson's UK is funding work into new treatments, including the UK's largest ever Parkinson's trial looking at medicines that might slow the condition down — not just manage symptoms. They're also investing in innovative approaches through their Virtual Biotech programme, exploring therapies that protect brain cells or help them work better. It's encouraging to know that progress is happening all the time.

The charity's work directly improves lives now, and it also helps move research forward for the future. We are looking forward to seeing you at the concert, the pupils have worked so hard and are sounding fabulous.

Thank you for your support, and for the enthusiasm your children bring to music every day."

If you would like to show your support for Mrs Haydock by donating to this fantastic charity, please visit her <u>Just Giving</u> page. We'll be keeping you updated with further details of fundraising events in the future.

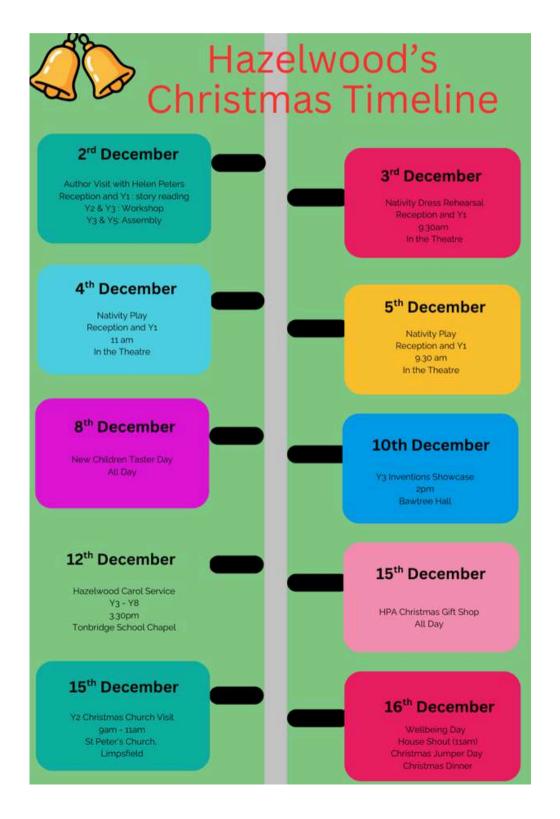




Christmas Timeline

This is a visual reminder to help prepare your children for the changes to their daily routine during December.

We hope you find it useful. If you would like a pdf copy to print off, please email marketing@hazelwoodschool.com





Roller Skating Show





Edenbridge

Primary School

They have been working hard on a skating programme to be able to take part in a Christmas roller skating show on Sunday 14th December at Hawthorns Sports Centre in Bletchingley.

Please come and support them as they join over 35 skaters from other schools in a show for all the family to enjoy. Tickets (£10 adults, £7.50 children) are available for the 1pm and 4.30pm shows by texting Barry on 07944 281 862.

Hamper Appeal - We need your Christmas donations!

Edenbridge Primary School hosts a Christmas social for families receiving pupil premium benefits. It's a joyful occasion where these families come together for a Christmas meal and the school distributes food hampers for them to enjoy over the festive period.

We would like to show our support by contributing items for their hampers. We would be grateful if you could donate any of the following non-perishable items: Christmas crackers, selection packs, chocolates, chocolate coins, biscuits, crackers for cheese, mince pies (long shelf life), Christmas cake, teabags/coffee, snacks (breadsticks/crisps) and jam/chutney.

Please bring your donations to school on <u>Friday 5th December</u> and drop them outside the sports hall.

Thank you so much!

Christmas Collections

With the festive season fast approaching, we know we ask a great deal of our wonderful parent community — and your generosity is always appreciated.

Thank you in advance and to help you plan ahead, we've put together a brief overview of what we'll be requesting in the coming weeks.











Blossom

The children have had fun doing some more space activities this week. They have been finding different planets hidden in black flour play, exploring moon dust and finding mood rocks in the gloop play. The children have been very creative and making their own planets with paint in a zip bag, decorate alien ships and printing stars on a piece of paper. We have been singing lots of songs about space and also listening to different sounds found in space. The children have also been visiting the library and looking at different space books. The Blossom children enjoyed making their own star constellations.

We have been having fun with the stickman story this week and finding different parts of the story in flour play. They have also been painting their own stickmen and creating their own family trees. The children have been making a big snowman for the board and painting a fire place. We have also drawn around one of the children to create a stickperson for our board. The children have enjoyed practising their Christmas songs with different sized bell instruments. In the messy tray the children have been exploring the pond in the messy tray, exploring animals in ice and making stick people with the play dough.







Maple

The children in Maple have enjoyed a wonderful few weeks! We have been exploring various themes each week, notably focusing on Children in Need, with activities centred around that. The children came to nursery dressed in an array of Pudsey-themed clothing. We also made a trip to the library, where each child selected a book of their choice to read. During snack time, we have been decorating biscuits, which the children thoroughly enjoyed! This week, our theme has been "Stickman." We read the book during circle time and engaged in some painting to create our own Stickman. Additionally, the children have been exploring a Stickman-inspired sensory tray.



Willow

Last week in Willow, our topic was The Little Raindrop. The children learnt about the lifecycle of a flower and planted their own seeds to grow. We explored mixing paints using our hands to create puddles and collaged using tissue paper to create our own little raindrops. The children had a go at sequencing patterns using sun and cloud shapes.

This week, we read the story of The Ickly Little Duckling. The children enjoyed counting ducks and sorting them into big, medium and small size groups. At carpet time, we sang various counting songs and the children joined in with some of the actions. The children have particularly enjoyed mud and water play in the garden and have loved exploring natural materials.







Elm

This week in Elm, the children have been exploring the story of "Stickman." We provided numerous pencil control sheets for them to practise following patterns, along with various sizes of Stickmen for cutting activities. In addition, we have been preparing for our Christmas concert, even getting some practice in sitting on the stage!

We visited the library to explore books about winter animals and enjoyed plenty of time in the playground. Last week, we focused on "The Gruffalo's Child," where the children engaged with the story and anticipated what would happen next.

We also brought out the wooden blocks, which sparked the children's imaginations as they created some wonderful structures. Furthermore, they thoroughly enjoyed playing with shredded paper shaped like a snowman in the tuff tray.









Birch

Birch have been busy exploring the Gruffalo's Child and looking at different shapes too. They have enjoyed a variety of activities, including making Gruffalo crispy cakes, where the children took turns stirring the mixture together and got to enjoy their yummy cakes at home! They also worked together to colour in a large Gruffalo and have been looking at different animals and their habitats. Birch have also been exploring lots of different shapes; we have been talking about shapes a lot during circle time and have been exploring shape matching activities as well as making our own figures out of shapes too! The children have explored shapes in gloop; they used their hands to rescue the shapes from the sticky mess, and they have also been using chalks to colour in different shapes. Birch have also explored playdough and have been working with their teachers and friends to mould different shapes.







Hazel

Following our exciting exploration of "The Gruffalo," the children expressed a keen interest in the story of Stick Man. To encourage their engagement, we set up an interest area featuring the book's characters, allowing the children to act out the story through imaginative play. Additionally, we introduced a seasonal matching game where the children successfully matched clothing and resources to the correct weather conditions. To further enhance their learning, we conducted a floating and sinking activity using Stick Man and other objects, enabling the children to identify which items float and which sink. The Hazel group also enjoyed a lovely walk to gather sticks, which they then used to create their own Stick Men. We incorporated emotion cards to help the children articulate how Stick Man might be feeling throughout the story.

Building on their interest in snow, which emerged from the narrative, we shifted our focus to Arctic animals. We transformed our interest table to resemble the Arctic, complete with pretend snow and various Arctic animals, sparking exploration and idea-sharing among the children. They also enjoyed mark-making in the pretend snow and creating polar bear footprints using salt dough. Moreover, we explored the life cycle of penguins and enjoyed singing and acting out a penguin-themed song, which the children found delightful. Overall, it has been a wonderful experience fostering creativity and learning through these themed activities!









Pine

The Pine classroom has been a hive of activity over the past few weeks! Our 'People who help us' theme sparked some fabulous imaginative play both in the doctors' role play area and with the 'small world' hospital, where specialised vocabulary and vivid storylines could be overheard as the children administered medicine, eye drops, bandages and X-rays! There were vets caring for the soft animals, builders experimenting with different construction resources and firefighters putting out fires! We matched professionals to their specialist vehicles and spoke about what we would like to be when we grow up. This topic led seamlessly into our 'Transport' focus the following week. The home corner transformed into a train station, prompting the purchasing of tickets to different destinations and the 'small world' rocket instigated some narratives which were out of this world! We made hot air balloons and sail boats and continued alternating transport patterns. Our number recognition was further enhanced as we matched the numbered cars to their correct parking space.







Acorns

The Acorn children have fully embraced their 'Transport' topic over the past few weeks. Activities on offer have included imaginative play with the 'small world' vehicles, working collaboratively to create wonderful train tracks, using the tyres of different utility vehicles to mark make in the paint and linking the correct numeral to quantity of vehicles displayed on the cards.

We have employed both our imagination and building skills to recreate our own representations of vehicles using 'junk' modelling resources and completed some transport-inspired jigsaw puzzles. A highlight of the week was our Forest School session with Gary, where we helped build a little fire and then toasted marshmallows for an afternoon treat!



Reception

Hibernation Day

Reception had a wonderful day hibernating! They arrived at school wearing pyjamas, bringing with them their slippers, a cuddly toy and a blanket. What an amazing start to the week! The day began with den building, followed by a talk by Judy from Folly Wildlife Rescue and then hibernation games. The final treat of the day was hot chocolate with marshmallows!







Autumn / Winter

We have been learning all about the changes that happen at this time of year, and the children have enjoyed observing the weather and taking part in a variety of seasonal activities. They loved creating their own windsocks and taking them outside to watch the materials dance in the wind, and many were deeply engaged in building little houses for animals using the small-world toys, thinking about how the animals might keep warm during the colder weather. The children also used their phonological knowledge to write words inspired by autumn-themed picture cards, confidently using the prompts to support their early writing skills.









Year 1 have been busy exploring 3D shapes, exploring items from old homes and learning about internal organs.



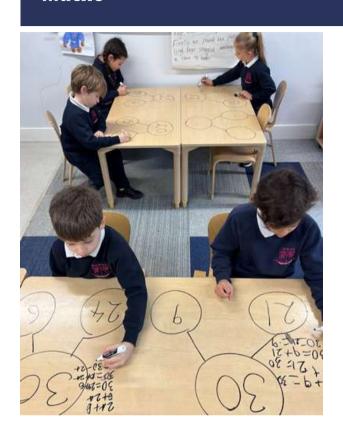


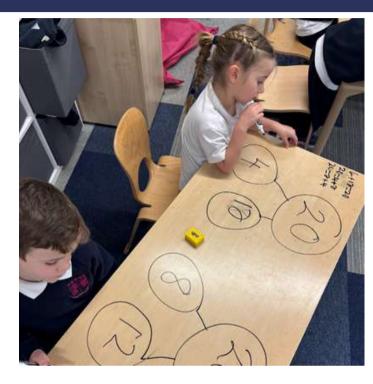






Maths





Reading

Mrs Wis kindly gave Year 2 some newspapers which went down very well in class reading time in 2F.

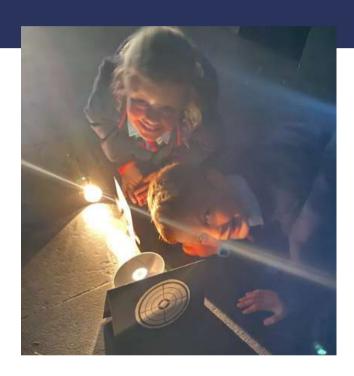


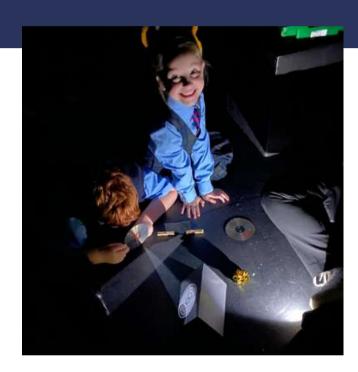




Science

In Science, Year 3 have been learning about light, its properties and how it interacts with different materials. We conducted an experiment to see if we could alter the direction a beam of light was travelling. We learned by using particular reflective materials at different angles. We were able to alter the direction the light was travelling and we discovered that light travels in straight lines.











Open Morning Fun

Year 4 had lots of fun creating news reports about either Dick Turpin, Robin Hood or Guy Fawkes! They wrote their own scripts, dressed up, filmed their reports on iMovie and did some post-production editing!







Trip to Woodhouse Centre

Year 4 had a wonderful time crafting at The Woodhouse Centre in Oxted yesterday!













All Rise Legal Workshop

A brilliant day learning about the law and then creating their own courtroom to trial Goldilocks for trespassing and theft!















DT

Year 5 have been working with timber and manufactured boards. They have learnt how to use a coping saw and the pillar drill and made a wooden initial for their room.

Students have shaped their designs using saws, files and sand paper. Excellent work Year 5!





















SCIENCE

Year 5 have immersed themselves in our new topic separating mixtures. They are showing great laboratory skills when investigating.











Anti-bullying play

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, a group of Year 6 pupils wrote and performed their very own play, sharing important messages about kindness, respect, and standing up for others.

They performed it brilliantly for our younger year groups in the theatre.

















MATHS

Year 7 enjoyed shopping at the Hazelwood mall, putting into practice their percentage knowledge to calculate the sale price of different items. Perfect timing for the Black Friday sales!







DT

Year 7s have been learning to work with recycled plastic.

They have designed and made a hand held game using press forming as a process. They have learnt how to heat thermo plastic to reform it into a new shape.

They have cut, drilled and smoothed plastic using files, scrappers and wet and dry paper.

Well done Year 7!















DRAMA

Year 7 performed their fantastic mini pantomimes yesterday with costumes, props and lighting!



























ENGLISH

In the Upper School, story writing follows the formula 'Problem + Panic = Phew!' method.

A simple plot is embellished with description, drama, tension and emotion, as well as carefully crafted sentence structure and well-chosen vocabulary.

Sam's story 'Scissors' was written in a recent mock exam and is a superb example of craftmanship. Most importantly, it's a cracking read. Enjoy!

Snip! Snip!

'I hope you like it!' uttered Alan, feigning kindness. As the bawling child ran screaming out of Fresh Trims Barbershop, his hair over his eyes and a massive bald patch atop his head, Alan sat back in his chair, chuckling deviously.

'Another bad haircut!' he laughed, twirling his shiny scissors in his gloved hand. Little did he know a small group of sinister children were plotting revenge. And they had a plan.

'David,' ordered Joey, the leader of the group. 'Pass me that map.'

Silently and obediently, David handed it to him.

'Tonight, we seek revenge on Alan, after what he did to us.' Joey spoke, pointing to his bleached buzzcut. It glowed ominously in the dappled moonlight as Joey, David, Cuthbert, Timmy and Tommy quietly clambered down the pale, oak ladder of Cuthbert's tall, towering treehouse and into the blackness of the dark night.

Shimmying up the grimy gutter pipe of Fresh Trims Barbershop, Timmy and Tommy gave the 'all clear' signal and Joey and Cuthbert leapt like a salmon through the open window. Just as they had entered the barbershop, Joey whispered, 'Hey, where's David?'

'He's here!' a familiar voice shouted. Alan the barber stepped out of the pitch black darkness, holding David by the scruff of his neck.

'Help me!' yelled David, his body paralysed with terror. With a devilish look in his eyes, Alan brandished his gleaming scissors and screamed, 'I'll give you 5 seconds to get out of my shop or this one gets it!'

David kicked Alan as hard as he could, but he hardly noticed. '5...4...3...2...1...'

Suddenly, Cuthbert launched into action. Leaping into the air, he swiped a bottle of texture powder and a can of hair dye. He briefly blinded Alan with the texture powder and then sprayed him with the dye.

'AAH! Stop this lunacy, you idiots!' he tried to yell, but was ignored.

In the space of a minute, Alan's neatly trimmed brown hair had changed to a bright orange bowl cut. As he ran screaming from the shop, Joey chucked the silver scissors in the bin. Joey, David and Cuthbert fist bumped and then David muttered, 'I guess you could say things got a bit hairy!'



PHILOSOPHY & THEOLOGY

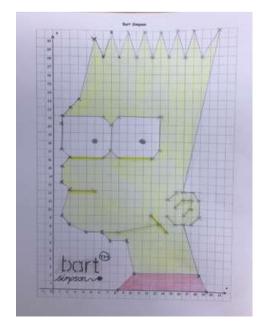
Are humans born kind and good?

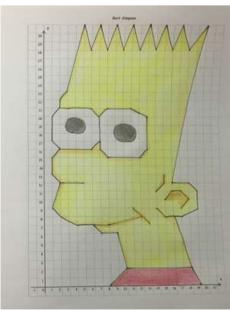
That was the question that Year 8 were debating this week...albeit with some thinking being exchanged in a creative way! The conclusions were thoughtful and thought provoking whilst the students were engaged and challenging - well done, Year 8, for an all-round great lesson on morality!

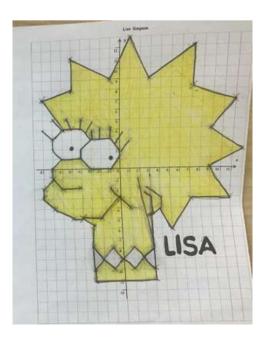


MATHS

To help prepare for plotting linear graphs, Year 8 practiced plotting coordinates and created some fantastic cartoon characters. Well done Year 8!









Sport

Swimming

Swimming Gala vs Radnor House

Our swimmers put in a fantastic performance at this week's gala against Radnor House. Every Hazelwood pupil swam up an age group, with our U8s competing against their U9s, our U9s against their U10s and our U10s against their U11s. Despite the challenge, the children rose to the occasion with determination, resilience and excellent team spirit.

A highlight of the afternoon was the outstanding progress shown across the squad. An impressive 32 personal best times were recorded, reflecting the hard work and focus pupils have been demonstrating in training.

Well done to everyone involved!







Netball

We have wrapped up a brilliant hockey season and the girls have moved seamlessly into netball. After a strong and productive pre-season last week, we began our first matches of the term, and the girls have made an excellent start. There have already been lots of wins and some outstanding netball on display, with great teamwork, sharp skills, and plenty of energy on court.

We are excited for the season ahead and look forward to seeing the girls continue to grow and shine in their netball.









Sport

Swimming

Downsend vs Hazelwood Swimming Gala - Friday 21st November

Hazelwood travelled to Downsend on Friday to take part in one of the highest-standard swimming galas in Surrey – and it proved to be a thrilling contest from start to finish. Both teams displayed exceptional talent and determination, but Hazelwood rose to the occasion brilliantly, securing a hard-fought and impressive victory with a final score of 205–191.

It was an evening to remember, with eight Hazelwood school records broken across multiple age groups:

Junior Records

- U9 Girls 25m Backstroke: *Imi Z* went under 20 seconds for the first time, it will be a tough one to break in the future.
- U10 Boys 25m Backstroke: Mikhail P set a new school record, finishing in 20.17.
- U10 Boys 25m Backstroke: *Noah V* also went under the previous school record, showcasing his rapid progress and adding to Hazelwood's success in this age group.
- U11 Boys 25m Freestyle: Max C posted an electrifying time of 16.07, securing another record for the team.

Senior Records

- Year 7 Girls 25m Freestyle: Layla Z set a new record with 16.09.
- Year 7 Boys 25m Freestyle: Leo M produced a rapid 15.33 to rewrite the record books.
- Year 8 Girls 25m Freestyle: *Elisha B* posted a superb 15.65, setting a new school best.
- Year 8 Boys 25m Freestyle: Campbell C swam a remarkable 14.16, and followed this with a second record in the Year 8 Boys 25m Breaststroke, clocking 17.70.

These achievements, alongside consistently strong performances across all age groups, contributed to an outstanding team effort.

A huge well done to every Hazelwood swimmer, an awesome result and a performance to be proud







Library

The Children's Book Project - Christmas Collection

Please bring in all your unwanted books for the Children's Book Project by the 9th December.



Thank you to all those parents that have sent in books already, it is very much appreciated and these are being sent on to the charity on the 10th December.

Please note that the condition of books donated is very important. The charity cannot accept old, marked or tatty books since these are not suitable to gift onwards to another child. so please do not send any of the following:

- textbooks or revision books
- religious texts
- encyclopaedias
- DVDs or CDs
- torn, scribbled or dirty books
- ex library books or ex reading schemes



Author Visit - 2nd December

We are very lucky to be able to invite Helen Peters author of The Blossom Farm and Secret Hen House series on the 2nd December to run an assembly and some workshops with pupils from Reception to Year 5.





Overdue Books

Please note that due to the final day of the Autumn term falling on Tuesday 16th all overdue LIBRARY books will need to be either returned to the library or renewed by Thursday 11th December or they will incur the normal £3 overdue fine per book. Books with a green stamp showing the 7th January 2026 will be fine for the Christmas break.





CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL COURSE

Years 3-7



Wednesday 17th, Thursday 18th & Friday 19th December

HAZELWOOD Astro Pitch 10am -12pm

> Please contact First XI coach Mr Jarvis to reserve a place. Tel: 07725 026329 jarvisj@hazelwoodschool.com





























Free electronic Roland drum kit with amplifier for anyone that can collect.

Please contact Katie on 07545 345 992.







SEND Case Officer SCC

7 years SEN School Senior TA

ASD, ADD & ADHD specialist

First Aid & Meds trained Current DBS Certification

Babies to teens

Mother of two



