

# Hele's School

*A great place to learn. A great place to grow.*



Friday, 11 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

'At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month – we will remember them'. Non-Commissioned Officers and Cadets from the CCF, alongside Our Head Boy and Head Girl, led the Armistice reflections this morning in the East Quad, culminating in a Two Minute Silence at 11am across the whole school community. The short service was beamed live into every classroom so every member of the school could take part, and I am proud of the manner in which our community engaged in and respected this important act of remembrance. You can watch the event on the Hele's School YouTube channel, here: [https://youtu.be/-igrAQvk\\_EM](https://youtu.be/-igrAQvk_EM)

**Additional Bank Holiday:** The Government has confirmed that an extra Bank Holiday has been confirmed to mark the Coronation of King Charles III next year. It will fall on Monday 8 May 2023, two days after the Coronation will take place and is in addition to the Bank Holidays already scheduled in May (Monday 1 May and Monday 29 May). School leaders have received formal notice from the Department of Education that schools and colleges will close on this day. I will update the school calendar on the website accordingly.

**Road Safety:** Over recent weeks, we have had concerns raised by parents and other members of the community about students crossing Plymouth Road unsafely as they walk to and from school. The specific concerns related to students crossing to use the bus stop at the end of the day, and those visiting Tesco on the way to school. However, it is a timely reminder after the hour has changed to remind all young people of the importance of being safe on their way to and from school. We have reinforced the following points through the tutor programme but would appreciate parents reinforcing these messages at home:

- Cross at designated crossings – look both ways before crossing
- Avoid looking at your mobile phone, and pay attention to the traffic and what is going on around you
- Don't run through traffic to catch the bus - there will be another one along in few minutes and it is simply not worth the risk
- Be aware of vehicles and respectful of motorists and cyclists – do not weave through stationary traffic
- Don't take risks

**Community Links:** As mentioned in previous communications, we work closely with The Rees Centre in Plympton, along with other community partners and Plympton Academy, to ensure services for young people and families living and being educated in PL7 are the best they can be. The Rees Centre houses the Wellbeing Hub for this area and undertakes much work to support local people. Attached is a poster advertising their Christmas Jumper Swap Shop which we'd strongly encourage you to get involved in if you're able. It also mentions the Light Up Plympton Christmas lights switch on scheduled for Monday, 28 November which also looks set to be a great community event - please get involved if you can.

Another wonderful upcoming community event is the Plympton Team Ministry Christmas Tree and Crib Festival, running from Saturday 10 – Sunday 11 December. This festival is part of the Advent and Christmas programme of services and events in the Ministry, and both Plympton St Mary and Plympton St Maurice churches will be opening their doors to welcome the community back to these free events. Both churches will be providing refreshments in the church halls and everyone is welcome, so please do make a note of the dates.

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**Library books:** Our library is such a popular and well-used resource in the school and a high demand for borrowing books supports our strong reading culture. However, we currently have over 350 books that are currently overdue, much to the dismay of students waiting patiently to read titles, as well as our wonderful library staff! I'd appreciate your support in asking children to check their school emails and ClassCharts for details of any overdue library books they may have and to act accordingly. If the book is still being read, please bring the book into the Library to be renewed. If books are finished with, please return them to the library to avoid having to pay to replace the book. Thanks for your assistance; it is much appreciated.

**Tempest Online Photograph Ordering:** Have you ordered your school photos yet? A reminder that the closing date for free delivery back to school is Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit [www.tempest-orders.co.uk](http://www.tempest-orders.co.uk). If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

**Looking ahead:**

- W/b Monday, 14 November: Year 11 and Year 13 internal exams continue  
Year 7 – Year 10 and Year 12 reports issued
- Thursday, 17 November: Year 7 – 11 Tutor Evening via MS Teams, 4pm – 7pm  
Deadline for ordering school photographs from Tempest for free delivery

Advance notice of the Christmas Concert on Wednesday, 7 December. Please do join us for an evening of music, with tea, coffee and mince pies on arrival from 6.30pm. Tickets are available from Reception or the Drama Office, at a cost of £3 per person. It promises to be a fabulous festive feast!


**Good news:** It was an honour and a privilege to attend the Passing Out Ceremony of The Plymstock Police Cadets last night, where 9 wonderful Hele's students (40% of the group) were receiving their certificates for having completed their induction training programme into the Volunteer Police Cadets. It was particularly pleasing to see that 3 of the 4 leadership opportunities available have been secured by Hele's students. The Lord Mayor of Plymouth and the Plymouth Commander from Devon and Cornwall Police joined families in celebrating the achievements of the 20-strong unit, and what an evening it was with the Cadets looking incredibly smart in their uniform and conducting themselves brilliantly! It was a really proud moment for all involved and I'd like to congratulate those Hele's students involved:

Ebony Crean, 10A (promoted to Team leader for Bravo Team)  
Libby Elsdon, 8A  
Sienna House, 10G  
Emmie Lawrence, 9B  
Matthew May, 9C (promoted to Team Leader for Charlie Team)  
Jasmine Ottley, 10G  
Sebastian Sierek, 9C  
Sienna Tyndall, 8D  
Lucy Woodman, 10A (promoted to Team Leader for Delta Team)

The Volunteer Police Cadets are always looking to recruit interested young people from Year 8 to adulthood. Should you be interested in finding out more about this wonderful opportunity, please click on the link or feel free to contact me at school for a further conversation: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/youth/police-cadets/>.

**Remembrance Sunday parade:** Our CCF have a busy and important weekend ahead. Cadets and staff will be selling poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion at Sainsburys Marsh Mills and the shopping park around the B&M store on Plymouth Road on Saturday. Then on Sunday, all contingents will take part in a service and parade to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life from across the UK and the Commonwealth.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason

**Principal**