



Christmas Edition - 18th December 2020

This year the Hewett community have come together in the extraordinary act of Christmas giving and delivered over 100 parcels of chocolates, mince pies and treats to our wonderful families. In fact, Christmas 2020 will be extraordinary for lots of reasons. Not least, (and pandemic aside) the 2 biggest planets in our solar system – Jupiter and Saturn – will be very close together on December 21 looking like one star. This is the first time in 800 years that we will be able to experience this phenomena and for some it is considered to be the astronomical explanation for the Star of Bethlehem or Christmas star.



So as we head into the winter break it seems like a good time to reflect on why this is such an important time in our calendar, beyond being the end of the old year and the start of the new, and some of the traditions - such as gift giving and stars - that we have grown accustomed to here and around the world.

We know the days around 25th December are a principal holiday in the secular calendar of Britain but for many Christians it marks the celebration of Christ's incarnation on Earth. Christ's nativity (birth) has provided the occasion for this festival of the incarnation, since the end of the third century. The Christmas crib and the nativity play can both be said to descend from Francis of Assisi's Christmas celebrations at Greccio in 1223, where he created a nativity scene to teach his congregation about the story of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas carols are a medieval tradition, developed during the nineteenth century, while the Festival of Lessons and Carols is an influential English creation of the late nineteenth century, made widespread by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, in the first half of the twentieth. If you tune in to the BBC on Christmas Day you will be able to hear them continue this tradition, which is broadcast around the world.

Around the world different traditions have also developed - some you will recognise and others you may not. In Austrian tradition, St. Nicholas rewards nice little boys and girls, while Krampus, a beast like demon creature, is said to capture the naughtiest children and whisk them away in his sack. In the first week of December, young men dress up as the Krampus (especially on the eve of St. Nicholas Day) frightening children with clattering chains and bells.

Since 1966, a 13-metre-tall Yule Goat has been built in the centre of Gävle's Castle Square for the Advent, but this Swedish Christmas tradition has unwittingly led to another "tradition" of sorts – people trying to burn it down. Since 1966 the Goat has been successfully burned down 29 times – the most recent destruction was in 2016.

If you want to see how the Goat fares this year, you can follow its progress on the Visit Gävle website through a live video stream, but however you choose to spend the Christmas break take care, reflect and enjoy!

Message from the Principal

When the judges gather to decide on what is to become “word of the year 2020” my outside tip would be for “unprecedented”. In a year like no other we have experienced, we are being told that situations we have come across have no likeness to those we have faced in the past. If 12 months ago you had predicted that schools would close down, that students would be learning from home (in many cases taught by their long suffering parents!), that we would all have to wear masks in corridors and that hand washing would happen at the start and end of each lesson, you would never have been believed. Yet, here we are, and I am always amazed by the fortitude and strength of the Hewett community. Our attendance at school has been excellent - above national average - and something we want to keep going. The students have adapted really well and show great maturity in how they are handling this. We have had one or two positive cases but far fewer than other local schools, suggesting that our covid plans are working well. At the same time, the Friends of Hewett have ensured that hundreds of food boxes have gone out to families. They've helped to bring laptops, the internet and even art supplies into the homes of our community. The real mark of a school is not how it copes day to day, but how it reacts when tough times come. So whatever role you played in all this - organiser, teacher, parent, student, carer, governor or support worker Thank you. Your hard work and commitment to the school will not be easily forgotten and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happier 2021.

Santa Dash



The PE dept organised for our students to take part in the national initiative called the 'Santa Dash' and students wore Santa hats purchased by the school to wear whilst taking part. Unlike normal years when the whole school would come together for the dash, this year each year group did this in their PE lessons or enrichment. The red of the Santa hats made the students smile and made for a brilliant sight as they galloped around the field. The hats proved so popular they remained on many a students head in their lessons and at break times for the rest of their day, which again continued the christmas spirit and brilliant atmosphere around school

Principal's Best dressed



Our first annual Principal's Award for Sartorial Excellence!

Well done to Shay Lake Year 9

Who has won a £20 Amazon Voucher

Term Dates

School Closes for Christmas on Thursday 17th December 2020 at 3.50pm

School Re-Opens for Year 11 students on Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 8.40am

For Years 7-10 Remote learning will commence on the 5th-8th January and back in school on the 11th January

Hewett Parent Support Group

We will be holding our first Parent Support Group meeting of the academic year on Wednesday 13th January at 4pm in the school dining hall.

If you would like to be a part of our parent support group please email carinanicolson@inspirationtrust.org who will share the agenda with you a few days prior to the meeting. Those who were already attending will automatically receive a copy.

Bame Covid Support

Are you a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic child, young person, parent or carer, affected by Covid-19? You can speak to us about your worries, problems and stresses during this time, and we can provide emotional support, practical advice and signposting to other organisations who can provide further help.

If you're a professional, you can also contact us to discuss how to support a child or young person they are working with. [Boloh - the Black and Asian family Covid-19 Helpline | BAME Helpline \(barnardos.org.uk\)](https://www.barnardos.org.uk/boloh)

Please also find attached to the email a Covid Winter support poster with further information regarding support for all families.

House Points for Autumn 2



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