



Autumn Newsletter

November 2025



A huge thank you to everyone who supported and contributed to our recent 'Dolly Bailey' fundraising event. It was wonderful to see so many parents, friends and local residents coming together for a great night out.

Unfortunately, a last-minute technical glitch meant that Dolly wasn't able to perform at her best – despite tireless efforts of some residents to get things running smoothly again. Even so, the evening was a fantastic success, filled with laughter, good company and community spirit.

We'd like to give a special thanks to our dedicated staff and committee members, who spent weeks planning, promoting and preparing for the event. Their hard work behind the scenes made it all possible.

We are proud to announce that we raised a massive £2,200.00 which will go partly towards new computers that are desperately needed due to their age, new resources for the Pre-school and games for Afterschool/Breakfast club and the cutting back of trees in our outside garden. Watch this space to see what we buy.

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 30th November

Village Christmas Fair in Hunsdon
Village Hall from 1pm-5pm

Monday 1st December

Occasional Day – no school

Thursday 4th December

Ducklings & Toddlers Christmas Party –
Hunsdon Village Hall

Thursday 11th December

Ducklings Evening Carol Concert
5.30pm-6.30pm – see below

Friday 12th December

Breakfast with Santa

Friday 19th December

End of Term at noon

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Start of Spring Term

Gentle Reminders



If your child will not be attending Ducklings due to illness or holiday, could we please ask that you call 01279 841044 or email info@hunsdonducklings.co.uk giving details of the reason behind their absence.

Please be reminded, so to help stop the spread of germs, we ask that if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, that they are kept off school for 48 hours following the last episode.

Pre-existing injury form – as part of our ongoing safeguarding procedures, we are required to record any pre-existing injuries that the children come to pre-school with. At drop off, could you please ensure that you either complete a pre-existing injury form, copies of which can be found in the foyer, or email in with details of the injury so that we can complete the form with the information supplied.

Could we politely request that grapes, olives & tomatoes are cut up lengthways when in packed lunchboxes.



Christmas Raffle – We will be holding a Christmas raffle which will be drawn on Friday 5th December. The children will be coming home with £10.00 worth of tickets, which we ask that you sell to friends & family. There are some great prizes from a variety of local businesses and parents. Could we ask that you return named stubs and money by **Tuesday 2nd December 2025.**



This year our Christmas topic is based around the story of The Christmas Pine written by Julia Donaldson. This heartfelt rhyme book follows the pine tree's journey from the frozen woods in Norway to the sparkling city - Trafalgar Square.

The Ducklings Christmas Carol Concert will take place on Thursday 11th December at 5.30pm-6.30pm.

This year to celebrate the Christmas we have decided to hold an evening carol concert where the children will dust off their vocal cords and sing to you a range of Christmas rhymes around the Christmas Tree in the school hall. We will then invite everyone to sing along to a few traditional Christmas carols, followed by mulled wine, tea, coffee and mince pies!

Please complete the slip below and more details on timings will follow shortly.

Ducklings & Toddlers Christmas Party – Thursday 4th December from 9.30am until noon

Sally Squiggle will be back entertaining the children at our annual Christmas party at the village hall. All children, along with parents/carers are welcome to attend, however, if you are unable to accompany your child you can bring them into Ducklings at 9.15am where staff maybe available to supervise them (dependant on ratios).

Ducklings will provide food and refreshments on the morning for all children, **but we ask that parents/carers bring a present (£5 max), wrapped and labelled** for Mrs Claus to present them with. Also, if any parents would like to contribute a small offering of party food for adults there will be a list in the lobby for you to sign up to.

SANTA LETTERS

Every year we offer 'a letter from Santa' service. Your child will receive their letter through the door and a picture to colour in to leave out for Father Christmas on Christmas Eve. Santa letters cost £1. Please fill in the form attached to order yours.



Your child's memories, milestones and achievements are gathered during their time with us at Ducklings and are presented in their Learning Journey books. These are personal to them and gives a picture of how your child has learnt and developed during the beginning of their early years education.

The children get to take these home at the end of their time with Ducklings, but we offer an open-door policy and welcome parents/carers to make an appointment to come and have a chat with your child's keyworker, have a look through the learning journey and to discuss their progression.

We also issue Unique Child Summaries at the end of each term which gives an overview of your child's progress during that term. They also outline the next steps that we will be working to with them and suggestions of how you can support your child with them at home.



SHOW & TELL

Show & Tell gives your child the opportunity to bring in something relevant to the topic for that week e.g. a book, toy, picture, object or an event which they will share with their peers and staff during the week. We have also given suggestions for things you can do at home to promote and support your child's learning. **If some weeks you do not have anything relevant, please do not worry as we have many resources the children can share.**

Week commencing 10th November – Poppies

Wear a poppy, introduce your child to the importance of remembering the soldiers who fought for us.

Week commencing 17th November – Gingerbread Man

Read the story with your child, can they recall key characters and join in with repeated refrains.

Week commencing 24th November – Gingerbread Man

At home make gingerbread men – send us your pictures.

Week commencing 1st December – The Christmas Pine

Make a list of facts about a Christmas tree.

Week commencing 8th December – The Christmas Pine

Draw/make a Christmas tree.

Week commencing 15th December – The Christmas Pine

If your feeling brave, take your child to see the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square – send us your photo's.

FUNDRAISING

Hunsdon Ducklings pre-school is a registered charity and the staff are always thinking of ways to help raise funds so that monies can be put back into the pre-school so that the children can benefit from even better learning opportunities, enabling environments and resources.

How can our parents/carers help?

- Do you have any fundraising ideas?
- Are you part of a company/organisation that participate in matching donations?
- Do you have free time to volunteer at fundraising events? As much, or as little time as you can give would be welcomed.
- Are you able to source exciting raffle prize donations from your employees or personal contacts?
- When fundraising events are published, gather friends and family to pop along to and support.



Tipple off 2026

Our 2026 Tipple Off will take place on 6th March 2026 at Hunsdon Village Hall.

Entry is a Minimum of 1 x 750ml bottle per 1 or 2 adults.

Ticket only event £5.00 per person.

1 x card to taste all entries from one of the judging tables. Additional scorecards will be available on the night.

Fully licensed bar and games.

Sign up today at kellyayres1980@hotmail.co.uk and start infusing!



Unwanted clothing and shoes can be put in the shed opposite the bike shed. Regular collections are made and we earn money from its weight.

Buy your personalised labels via

www.stikins.co.uk

Use fundraising code 10330



Ducklings Activities

Please complete below and return by Tuesday 25th November.

Ducklings/Toddlers Christmas Party Thursday 4th December

My child..... will/will not be attending the Christmas Party.

I will/will not be accompanying my child to the party.

Please make a note of any allergies below:

Christmas Concert Thursday 11th December at 5.30pm – 6.30 pm

My child..... will/will not be attending the carol concert.

I will/will not be accompanying my child to the carol concert.

Number of Adults/Children attending

Christmas Card List

A number of parents have asked for a list of children's names so that their child can write their Christmas cards. Please find these below.

Cilla	Edward	Sami	Harley Rose	Millie
Luca B	Harrison	Noa	Reegan	Kara
Evelyn	Rio	Jenson	Ivy	Annabelle
Dustie	Conall	Teddy	Elsa	Ricky-Ray
Sienna	Raya	Suraya	Thomas	Maeve
Luca M				

Santa Letter

Hunsdon Ducklings Pre-School Reg. Charity No. 1042209

Based on its success over past years, Ducklings are providing a "Letter from Santa" service again this year. We will pop a letter through your door for your precious ones to receive from Santa, plus a picture to colour in and leave out on Christmas Eve when Santa visits.

You may also wish to send one to a friend's child or a relative.

If you are interested please fill in the details required below so that we can personalise your child's letter to include their siblings or friends and return to Ducklings in the Porta-cabin. Please make sure your slips are filled in and returned no later than **Monday 8th December** to avoid any disappointment. If you require any additional forms then please ask any member of staff. Thank you.

Santa Letter

Child's name:

Address:

Names of siblings or friends:

(no more than 3).

Cost £1 per child



Breakfast with Santa!

Each year we hold a special 'Breakfast with Santa' which is open to Ducklings and children of The Federation of Widford and Hunsdon JMI school.

This year the Breakfast will be held on **Friday 12th December 2025** in the **school hall**. You need to drop your child off at Hunsdon JMI School hall by **7.45am** and your child will be taken to class at 8.45am/or into Ducklings porta-cabin as per usual.

The cost of Breakfast with Santa is £5.50 and each subsequent sibling is £5 to be paid in advance with the tear off slip below.

Please return all booking forms by Friday 8th December 2023 *

* If your child normally attends breakfast club on a Friday they will not be required to book a space as we will automatically add them to the register.

My child..... will be attending Breakfast with Santa @ £5.50

Sibling Name 1:..... @£5.00

Sibling Name 2:..... @£5.00

Sibling Name 3:..... @£5.00

Amount Enclosed £.....

Please make a note of any allergies below;

Parent/Carer signature.....