



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

WEEKLY

News in brief...

Head's commendations:

Shona – Year 3

Linda – Year 4

Harrison – Year 5

Amnah – Year 6

Nursery Star of the Week:

Jaya (awarded for always listening and trying her best at everything).



A note from the Joint Acting Headteachers

Our reflections on this busy and often challenging, first term of this academic year have made us re-live every special moment that has made up a truly remarkable time at Hydesville. Our wonderful carol service on Wednesday evening was a fitting showcase of the talent, creativity and hard work of our whole school; staff and pupils alike. We are grateful to you all for your ongoing support and would also like to also take the opportunity to formally thank and show our appreciation to all of our staff who work tirelessly to continue to support our children, whether it be in the classroom or at school events such as the annual carol service.

It has been a lovely final week of term. Our Nursery and Lower Prep pupils enjoyed a trip to see Santa followed by their Christmas party this week and we all tucked into our annual festive lunch. Who can resist a traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings?

In lieu of a Christmas card to all families this year, we have decided to donate the money to Cognita's chosen charity, the Global Fund for Children to transform the lives of the world's most vulnerable children.

It is with regret we say a fond farewell to Mrs Upadhyay who leaves us to go to work in Kenya in the New Year. Laura Harris too is leaving us for pastures new. We wish both members of staff well and thank them for their hard work.

We wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas holiday and hope you enjoy our final newsletter of the term.

Keeping homeless people warm this Christmas

Homeless people in Walsall will have a warmer Christmas this year thanks to



our kind hearted Senior School. Pupils have collected hats, gloves, scarves and socks and donated them to the Walsall Foodbank and The Big Feed, which are charities that support homeless people in the community.

Members of the Community Fundraising Group additionally created several gift boxes

including chocolate, toys and toiletries for children to receive from the Foodbank on Christmas day.

Senior School Pupils of the Week: The Senior Boys' choir

(awarded for their performance at the carol service).



Carol service raises the roof

Pupils from both the Prep and Senior School helped raise the roof at St Matthew's Church at the annual carol service.

This important school and community event is always a fitting celebration of the festive season and this year's was no exception. The church pews were thronged with parents, staff and the wider Hydesville community, who enjoyed a wonderful service that included readings, elocution pieces, solos and group performances. The congregation joined the children in singing a number of hymns and the final procession involving the whole school carrying candles was a beautiful ending to the evening.



Nursery & Lower Prep Festive fun

Children in Nursery and Lower Prep came to school in party clothes on Monday and had lots of fun at their Christmas party. They enjoyed a festive packed lunch, with Christmas crackers and party hats, and



were treated to a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk by touring theatre company Gary Starr Pantomimes. And seeing as no Christmas party is complete without a visit to see the main man himself, our children took it in turns to visit the Hydesville grotto, and made lots of declarations about good behaviour in return for a Christmas present!



Performer of the Week:

Kai (awarded for his solo performance at the carol service).



Lapland comes to Hydesville

Lapland came to Hydesville today (Friday) for this week's themed lunch day. We tucked into a festive feast of



traditional roast turkey, mushroom, brie and cranberry wellington, Christmas pudding and mince pies. We decked the dining room with decorations, pulled crackers and wore party hats. The children really enjoyed their special lunch and it was a fitting end to the last day of term. Merry Christmas everyone from Chartwells, our catering team!



Notices/reminders:

Upper Prep Musical Theatre	This class has now finished for the term. We will start back after Christmas in preparation for the Prep School Extravaganza.
Upper Prep Extravaganza	Auditions for the Upper Prep Extravaganza will be held during enrichment on the first day back (4 th January). Those children who have signed up to audition with Miss Bowdige must prepare a performance piece no more than a minute long to show off their best talent. We are looking forward to seeing all the talent we have in the school!
After School Sports Clubs	<p>All sports clubs have now finished and re-commence w/c 11th Jan 2017. Sign up for the new clubs on Wed 5th Jan – collect new letters from the PE department if pupils wish to participate in any clubs in the Spring Term. Due to the dark nights – Spring Term clubs will be finishing at 4.30pm.</p> <p><u>Prep Clubs – Spring Term</u> Mon – Football and Archery Wednesday – Hockey and Table Tennis (Yr 5/6 only for table tennis)</p> <p><u>Senior Clubs – Spring Term</u> Tuesday – Girls Football Thursday - Boys Football</p>
Improving our (incoming calls) telephone service	In January we will be introducing a new call routing service for all incoming calls. This will improve the speed in which you will be able to speak to the person you wish to; as well as being able to leave a message regarding pupil absence rather than having to wait for a receptionist to be available to take your call during the busy early morning period.
PE kit reminders	<p>Year 3-6 will be swimming during their PE lessons at the start of the new term. Plain navy blue trunks/swimming costume is required.</p> <p>Year 7-9 will also be swimming – the above kit is needed. Year 9 will be swimming on the first day back (Wednesday 4th January) so must bring their swimming kit.</p>

Dates coming up week commencing 3rd January:

Monday	School closed – bank holiday
Tuesday	School closed – INSET day
Wednesday	Start of term: All German intervention: Y9 (at lunchtime)
Thursday	Safeside Fire Safety Training: Y4 Before school clubs - ICT: Y11 (8.00 – 8.45am) After school clubs – Drama: Upper Prep Musical Theatre: Senior Musical Theatre: Upper Prep History intervention: Y11 German intervention: Y10
Friday	West Midlands Fire Service Workshops: Y7-10 After school clubs - Karate: Reception - Y6

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