

HYDESVILLE TOWER SCHOOL

25 Broadway North • Walsall • West Midlands WS1 2QG

01922 624374 • www.hydesville.com • info@hydesville.com • [@HydesvilleTower](https://twitter.com/HydesvilleTower)



6th September 2017

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Having waited excitedly during the summer holiday, it is a genuine pleasure for me that we have started the new school year at Hydesville Tower School today. It was lovely to see and speak with many parents on arrival, as well as seeing the pupils as they arrived. Their beaming faces – with a few nervous ones as well! – were a wonderful way to start the term; everyone looked very smart and ready to return to school routines. Thankfully yesterday's stormy deluge was replaced with beautiful sunshine: much appreciated portents!

Our school calendar for the Autumn Term will be reaching you shortly, and the website will be similarly updated at this time. Mrs Archer will also keep followers of the Hydesville Tower School Facebook page informed with up-to-the-minute details about forthcoming events. All letters we send home are also able to be accessed via the school website. Next week, we will have our Meet the Teacher event for the Prep School on **Wednesday 13th September**, from the end of school until **4.15 p.m.**. Year 7 Welcome Evening will be on **Thursday 14th September**, from **6.00 – 7.30 p.m.**. It will also be the official birthday of the school on **Friday 15th September**, celebrating its 65th year! More details of all of these occasions will come out in the next few days.

An important event in the life of any school is its Open Morning. We will be having a whole school Open Morning on **Saturday 23rd September**, with the session running from 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.. Having the chance to show potential children and parents what occurs within our school is a vital part of how it can grow and thrive, so we do ask for the support of as many pupils as possible on the morning. Contact will be made for those children who may be required, and I would appreciate your encouragement and support in allowing them to be present and be ambassadors for Hydesville.

All pupils in the school have received a Hydesville Water Bottle this morning. Difficulties were encountered last year with large bottles causing flooding in the areas around the water fountains, presenting a safety risk to people subsequently. Whilst these bottles have been given to pupils for free, it is vital that they look after them since there will be a charge for replacements. Please label bottles this evening to avoid the risk of confusion!

Exam results from last summer were a tremendous reflection on what goes on within the school. The Key Stage 2 assessments at the end of Year 6 were superb, with indications of outstanding practice in literacy and numeracy. In August, we were thrilled to see the GCSE results, with significant individual and collective success. Our comparisons with national and Walsall figures make for very pleasing reading. The attainments of all pupils showed that the quality of teaching throughout Hydesville is very strong indeed. Personally, I have been overwhelmed in the last few weeks with the genuine caring nature of the staff, and their commitment to the learning of the children.

The school was very busy over the summer, with various improvements being made to develop our site. Two classrooms in the Prep School were refurbished, and look really exciting as venues for learning. The main corridor has been decorated, providing much-needed space and the tiled mosaic floor has been restored and treated. The girls' changing room has been redesigned to give better showering facilities. In addition, the Cedar Tree room in Nursery has had its flooring replaced and an air conditioning unit has been installed in the ICT suite to reduce the difficulties experienced there. I am grateful to the various members of staff who worked hard to ensure all this happened so efficiently and with little disruption.

As well as welcoming the many new pupils to the school, it is also my pleasure to welcome new staff: Miss Kingston (Head of Music), Miss Jhaj (Reception teacher), Mrs Booth (Head of English), Mr Dhadda (Mathematics teacher), Miss Kaur-Hamilton (RS teacher), Mrs Stokes (Geography teacher) and Mrs Bansal (School Office). Congratulations to Miss Michaelides on her wedding – now Mrs Taylor, and to Miss Statham on her wedding – now Mrs Jones; to Mr Faulkner-Jones on the birth of his son, Adam; and to Miss Vas on the birth of her son, Alfie.

It is customary to include a reminder of the School Aims and Ethos in start of year letters such as these. Whilst they remain present on the website, I believe now will be a good time for us as a community to pause, and reflect on what it is that we want for Hydesville Tower School. Staff and pupils will be consulted about the things they hope for from their school: I will be looking for some parental input in to this process, as well, so look out for these opportunities shortly. Once we have them definitively agreed, I will be delighted to share them with you. However, for now, rest assured that the key aim of the school is to give your child the chance to develop to their full potential. The key ethos is similarly simple but important: all the children matter, and will thrive in our welcoming and safe environment.

I spoke briefly in both assemblies this morning about things I believe are important for children in school and beyond. With the younger pupils, we spoke of how kindness, caring for others and respectfulness are important qualities, since they keep everyone happy within our school. This is a wonderful community but that strength is nurtured from within by how the pupils treat each other. The older pupils had the chance to reflect on various attributes that help overcome a variety of challenges in life: effort, co-operation, using feedback and accepting problems as being a fresh chance to learn.

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time: a chance to make a fresh start and leave past issues behind. I am keen that this will be a great year for the school, and look forward to working with you to make that happen.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warren Honey". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Warren Honey

Headmaster