



HYDESVILLE  
TOWER SCHOOL

# WEEKLY

## News in brief...

### Nursery Star of the Week:

**Harnam** – awarded for being an exceptional pupil in all areas.



### Reception Star of the Week:

**Arjun** – awarded for always trying hard in all areas of learning.



## A note from the Headmaster

Happy New Year! I hope that 2020 has started well for everyone, and that you and your family can enjoy a prosperous and successful year ahead.

It is a pleasure to welcome Miss Howell-Jones to Hydesville Tower School as we start this new term. Joining us from Yarlet School in Stafford, Miss Howell-Jones will be our Head of Music across the whole school, inspiring our children in their curricular and extra-curricular love of music. Her range of musical experience is suitably wide and impressive, and I am sure you will be pleased with the outcomes in future performances including the Valentine's Concert later in the term. Welcome, Miss Howell-Jones!



The end of last term was an exciting time for the school in terms of technology. Cognita has invested heavily in the school regarding an IT refresh, with staff now having portable devices for immersive delivery of learning and teaching in the classroom and new linked screens to match. I am very pleased that this investment will enable teachers to develop even stronger pedagogy with greater capacity for sharing feedback in class, exemplifying great work, and having improved connections to the digital media available. Alongside this, we will be launching two pilot projects this year with an IT focus: some Senior staff will be looking at how a virtual learning platform improves opportunities for children's learning with resources being set and available online for children and parents to see; and we will be one of the first of the Cognita schools trialling a parent portal, providing a one-stop shop for all the information relevant to school life and allowing for options including online payments for trips and signing up for clubs and activities. More on these to follow.

Finally, I just wanted to flag up that the Voice of the Parent survey will be going live next week and letters have been sent out about it to parents today. As ever, we value as much participation in this as possible so we can know where we are strong and how we can keep improving.

Have a great weekend...

## Reception share their love of reading

Thank you to those Reception parents who joined us yesterday for our first Reading café.

We were delighted to see so many parents, and share insight into how best support their child's reading



development, along with lots of useful tips, suggested website and games to better support children at home. At Hydesville we strongly believe that a positive working partnership between parents and teachers plays a vital role in children's progression and it is so valuable and special for our pupils to have the chance to share their learning with their parents and carers. We thank everyone for supporting us in this and we hope you all enjoyed yourselves.



## Prep School's reading challenge



We have been overwhelmed with the response to the Prep School reading challenge, set by Miss Crump before Christmas.

We are delighted with all the photos sent in, which not only demonstrate how pupils have been engaging with different types of text, but also reflects children's creativity – what weird and wonderful places you have all been reading in! We hope you all continue to develop your reading and enjoyment of books.



## #Hydesvillefamily discounts available at Soho Sweets & Coffee House

Our #Hydesvillefamily exclusive business partnership programme continues this year, so families can continue to enjoy discounts off a range of products and services across a number of local businesses.

This week, we would like to draw your attention to Soho Sweets & Coffee House who are a family owned business that has been producing the finest quality Asian Sweets and Savoury products since 1974. The family have continued to pride itself on its quality, service and reputation and during its 45 year journey have been labelled by its customers as the 'Sweet and Savoury Connoisseurs'.

As a Hydesville family, you can receive 10% discount off all orders from their flagship Walsall store, 3 West Bromwich Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 3HS. To redeem this fabulous offer, simply visit Soho Sweets & Coffee House at the address above and quote 'Hydesville Tower School'. Your discount will then be applied.

Please see Soho Sweets & Coffee House's website to find out more about them:

<http://www.sohosweets.co.uk/>

You can find out more about the #Hydesvillefamily business partnership on our website: <https://www.hydesville.com/hydesville-business-partnership-programme/>



## Shaan's tennis success

A huge congratulations to Shaan in Year 3 who has begun training this week with the Staffordshire U8 County Tennis Team.

Following trials back in December, Shaan was selected to work with the squad three times a week and will be training for the upcoming Summer County Tour around the country.

What a fantastic achievement, Shaan, we are all very proud of you and look forward to hearing about your future successes!



## Introducing Miss Howell-Jones

Further to Mr Honey's welcome to our new Head of Music, Miss Howell-Jones would like to pass on the following message to parents:

"I am delighted to be joining Hydesville this term and am excited to get to know the children and share the joy of music with the whole school. I have been working as a music teacher for five years now and have just moved from a successful music department in a Prep School in Stafford. I am passionate that music should be the beating heart of a school and am looking forward to encouraging this at Hydesville.

"May I also take this opportunity to draw your attention to our upcoming event; the Valentine's Concert on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. I look forward to meeting many of you there.

"In the meantime, you may also be interested in going along to the following concert at St Matthew's Church. This group are fantastic, so I would strongly encourage you to buy tickets!"



## Blue Coat Academy - Concert

### The Sons of Pitches **Sons OF PITCHES**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020

St. Matthew's Church, St. Matthew's Close, Walsall, WS1 3DG

Tickets : £10 each (£5 concessions available in advance)

Available from 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019:

Academy Reception (Monday – Friday 8.30a.m. – 4.00p.m.) or

St. Matthew's Church Office (Monday – Friday 10.30a.m. – 2.30p.m.)

7.00p.m. (doors open at 6.30p.m.)



In Autumn 2015, the BBC launched a competition to find Britain's best most entertaining amateur singing group, in a music competition with a difference. Gareth Malone led the search for The Naked Choir, a group who could perform a cappella – using their voices alone and with no instruments accompanying them. After a nationwide competition, The Sons of Pitches were highly acclaimed and popular winners.

Since then, The Sons of Pitches have realised their dream of performing professionally, they have embarked on sell-out national tours and were also the house band on Sky One's Sing:Ultimate A Cappella

We are delighted to welcome back The Sons of Pitches following very successful concerts in each of the last three years.



## Annual parent survey launches next week



Further to the letter that was sent out today and Mr Honey's mention above, we would like to remind parents and carers that they will be receiving the annual parent survey next week. The survey is invaluable in providing us with the insight we need to make informed decisions about change. Thank you in advance for taking

the time to complete it. Your feedback is very important to us.

## Notices/reminders:

<p><b>Nursery sound of the week</b></p>	<p>Here is this week's phonic link for learning at home:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWyKmM-PgJY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWyKmM-PgJY</a></p>
<p><b>This week's letters home</b></p>	<p>Each week we will share with you a list of the letters we have sent out.  They are all available to view on the school website here:  <a href="https://www.hydesville.com/parents/letters-home/">https://www.hydesville.com/parents/letters-home/</a></p> <p>This week's letters are:</p> <p><b>Nursery:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playground access – Nursery parents</li> <li>• Dates for parents Jan 20</li> <li>• Nursery reading challenge</li> <li>• Letter to parents re Annual survey Jan 2020</li> </ul> <p><b>Prep:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y4 Trip to Sarehole Mill</li> <li>• Young Voices 2020</li> <li>• Upper Prep Musical Theatre Club</li> <li>• Street Dance and Ballet lessons</li> <li>• Prep MAT problem solving club (selected pupils only)</li> <li>• Letter to parents re Annual survey Jan 2020</li> <li>• Upper Prep Drama Club</li> <li>• KES Maths Challenge (selected pupils only)</li> </ul> <p><b>Senior:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 9 Options Evening</li> <li>• Senior Spark Club</li> <li>• Y8 &amp; Y9 trip to Safeside</li> <li>• Senior Spring Art Club</li> <li>• GCSE Art Club</li> <li>• Letter to parents re Annual survey Jan 2020</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nursery reminders</b></p>	<p>Please can any outstanding sponsor money be sent in to Mrs Smith for the Acorns' Santa Fun Run. So far we have raised over £350. Thank you for everyone who took part to support this worthy cause.</p> <p>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec - N2 Reading café at 9.15 am in dining room.  Please can all Nursery children bring in their Local Authority funding forms by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January?</p>
<p><b>Year 9 Options Evening</b></p>	<p>A reminder that it is the Year 9 Options evening next Wednesday, 5 - 6.00 pm.</p>
<p><b>Year 11</b></p>	<p>Please can Year 11 parents return the money for the Poetry Live trip to Symphony Hall on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January.</p>

**Congratulations to the following Prep School classes who achieved the highest attendance (97%) this week: 2S, 4B, 5K**

**Congratulations to the following Senior School Form who also achieved the highest attendance (98%) this week: Form 7**

## Year 11 'Spotlight on Careers'

Designed especially for 16 and 17 year olds, the NCS experience will give you a clearer idea of what you want from your future. Please see their website for more details: [https://wearencs.com/summer?utm\\_so](https://wearencs.com/summer?utm_so)

- Your first week, you'll live away from home and nurture your adventurous side.
- Enjoy another five days away from home with your new-found mates.
- Get a crash course in adulthood and pick up skills to set you up for life
- You will be living it up in university halls
- Cost –because we're government funded, we'll ask you to contribute £50.

NCS say: We are a youth programme that runs across England and Northern Ireland. We exist to engage, unite and empower young people, building your confidence so you can go out there and achieve your dreams, no matter where you're from or what your background is. Our programme is managed and supported by NCS Trust, our central team who are constantly working to make sure we deliver the most impactful experience we can to as many young people as possible.

### Dates & After-School Clubs coming up week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> January:

<b>Monday</b>	Nursery Reading Café: 9.30 am Children's University First Aid Course After School Clubs: Art: Y5 & Y6 (3.45 – 4.45 pm)
<b>Tuesday</b>	After School Clubs: Drama: Upper Prep (3.45 – 4.45 pm)
<b>Wednesday</b>	Walsall Football Club Experience: Y9 Options Evening: Y9 (5.00 – 6.00 pm)
<b>Thursday</b>	After School Clubs: 11Plus Tuition sessions: Y4 & Y5 (5.30 – 6.30 pm) Musical Theatre: Upper Prep (4.00 - 4.30 pm)
<b>Friday</b>	Gambling & Online Awareness workshop: Y8 & Y9 After School Clubs: Karate: Prep School (3.50 – 4.50 pm)