



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

WEEKLY

News in brief...

Head's commendations:



Karina - Y1
Brogan - Y2
Ismaeel - Y3
Viren - Y4
Tandip - Y5
Simar - Y6

A note from the Headmaster

We have been visited in the last ten days by two people who have been in to a large number of Cognita schools as a part of their role. In the first, an independent advisor scrutinised the school's Health and Safety, conducting a thorough audit across the whole day. The rigour involved in such audits is understandably very tough, with the key attitude being to ensure that schools are doing everything they should do to ensure the safety of the children and adults at school. Mr Ison and Mr Jeffery take their responsibility for Health and Safety very seriously, so it was wonderful to receive the news that there was outstanding practice observed across the school. The advisor commented on how apparent it was that every adult recognised the importance of their role in maintaining such high standards, and that complacency was never an option. Subsequently we were visited by someone whose brief was about the school's qualities and what makes us special for pupils and parents. The warmth that she encountered from touring the school gave her an immediate sense that we have plenty of "Hydesville Heart". I sometimes worry that we adopt rose-tinted glasses by being immersed in the daily events: all the children are wonderful, all the activities are fantastic, all the education is amazing...but have I lost perspective? Hence the delight in these visits. Outsiders, without an agenda to promote, seeing the school for all its qualities. Thursday saw the publication of the GCSE performance tables. Although I have only just started scrutinising them, I can already see that our performance in 2019 was stellar and worthy of the 14th best UK small independent school. Indeed, our achievements made us the strongest-performing non-selective school in Walsall (and Birmingham, as far as I can see), with scores that place us amongst the grammar schools. I will share more once we have analysed them fully but having just concluded Year 11 Parents' Evening on Wednesday, the pupils can take heart that with hard work and following their teachers' advice, they will be in a strong position for the summer. Have a lovely weekend...



February Half Term Holiday

Fun Club

Monday 17th February
to Friday 21st February

Club Hours:
9am to 4pm.

Open to all Hydesville Nursery & Reception pupils, as well as non-Hydesville children... please bring a friend (and a packed lunch)!

Book by Monday 10th February to secure an Early Bird price of £20 per day, per child. All bookings made after Monday 10th February will be charged at £25 per child. Places are limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Please complete booking form overleaf...

Nursery & Reception Half Term Holiday Club

We will be running a Half Term Holiday Club for Nursery & Reception from Monday 17th - Friday 21st February, 9am until 4pm. Letters are going out next week. You may wish to take advantage of the 'Early Bird' price of £20 per day if you book by Monday 10th February. Please contact the School Office or Mrs Smith in Nursery for more information.

Nursery Star of the Week:

Nirvair – awarded for always trying hard at everything he does.



Children's Mental Health Week

We've been shining the spotlight on the importance of our pupils' mental health this week with a range of activities across the School to show our support for Children's Mental Health Week.

Children in Reception had a great time doing yoga during their lunchtime, whilst Seniors engaged in activities during form time.



Pupils discussed the importance of 'Finding Your Brave' and living healthy lifestyles. Seniors will also be designing posters to encourage positive mental health which will be displayed in Senior School. Miss Waite would like to encourage all our Senior pupils to 'Find Their Brave' over the half term holiday by stepping out of their comfort zone and trying a new and challenging activity. Please share your photos with us on social

media – we'd love to see what pupils get up to!



Year 4 visit Sarehole Mill

Pupils in Year 4 had a great day at Sarehole Mill last Friday learning about Prehistoric Britain.

During the morning they experienced what it would be like to be Stone Age hunter-gathers and tried to build their own shelters using wood and animal skins with varying degrees of success!

They then made their own paint brushes and recreated some Stone Age cave paintings. To round the day off, they visited Moseley Bog, a site of archaeological interest, with its two burnt mounds which date back to the Bronze Age.

It was a fun and interesting day for all!



Reception Star of the Week:

Taashaun – awarded for growing in confidence and trying hard in all lessons.



GCSE league table success!

We are delighted with yesterday's news from the official Government statistics revealing the tremendous success we had with last summer's GCSE examinations.

The league table sees us ranking within the top three secondary schools, and the best performing non-selective School in the borough.

The level of performance by the pupils in all their subjects was a strong reflection on the outstanding teaching and learning occurring within our Senior School. The score in Attainment 8 (the best 8 GCSEs of each individual) placed us in the top 3 schools in the borough, with clear water between us and the next school. Even more impressive is the percentage of pupils gaining Grade 5 or above in English and Mathematics, with only two percent difference between us and the Walsall Grammar Schools.

We're sure you'll agree, this is all pretty impressive. A huge well done to the Class of 2019! Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/uf2crwo>





Save the date – prize giving 2020

We are excited to announce details of our 2020 prize-giving events. This year's event for Nursery & Reception children will take place in School on Tuesday 30th June (Nursery during the afternoon and Reception during the morning). Senior School prize-giving will take place at Walsall Town Hall during the evening of Wednesday 1st July and the Prep School event will also be at Walsall Town Hall during the

afternoon of Thursday 2nd July. More detail will be circulated nearer the time but for now, please save the date!



Since last year we have been using Votes for Schools, an online voting platform, to support us in developing the way children and young people engage in politics and voting. The platform aligns directly to Hydesville's duty to promote SMSC, British Values and to give children the skills to practise moral decision making, supporting the Home Office's Prevent agenda. Pupils have the opportunity to voice their opinion on issues that are important to them, as well as a chance to engage in political issues which are youth focused; making politics and democracy accessible and fun to all ages.

This week, as part of Child Mental Health Week, we have been discussing how mental health can affect girls and boys differently and the various prejudices and biases each gender can face when dealing with mental health issues. It would be great if you could discuss this with your child at home.

A link to this week's topic can be found in the notices section of this newsletter.

Senior Pupils of the Week

Form 1 – Monisha for her excellent effort with the solar buddy campaign.

Form 2 - Olivia for consistent hard work across all subjects.

Form 3 – Raeesah for improved punctuality and effort.

Form 4 – Amun for receiving the most merits in form and for receiving no demerits.

Form 5 – Jaina for an excellent Art portfolio and for overall excellence.

Form 6 - Parmal for supporting Ibby and Ameen in a mentor capacity.

Form 7 - Davina for helping other and speaking to teachers if there are any concerns.



Prep School Awards and Achievements

Congratulations to Karina in Year 1 for being awarded Student of the Week by her Martial Arts Club. And well done to Hussain in Year 3 for achievements in jujitsu.



Well done Mehtaab in Year 4 for receiving his pen licence this week.

Anaiya in Year 6 has been doing fantastically in her dance club. Her achievements in tap dancing have earned her a trophy!



Year 4's Internet Challenge

All pupils in Year 4 have taken part in an internet challenge topic, where they have been learning about how to stay safe online and use the internet correctly.



Pupils in Miss Crump's class were awarded 'Kind' Awards after demonstrating how they should use the internet to be kind to each other.

Pupils in Mr Burnham's class were awarded 'Alert' Awards after learning to distinguish between real and fake emails and internet activity and knowing how to keep data safe.





Our Year 4 Maths team of Jasveer, Viren, Safin and Avnie-Mae were recognised in assembly for winning the KES Maths Competition last week. Great work all!

Notices/reminders:

<p>Nursery sound of the week</p>	<p>Here is this week's phonic link for learning at home: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztsfsO19I9Q</p>
<p>This week's letters home</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: https://www.hydesville.com/parents/letters-home/ This week's letters are: Nursery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice of Parent feedback <p>Prep:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Book Day – Prep • Reception visit places of worship • A Stars initiatives – Park & Stride and Walking Bus • Reception Road Safety Walk • Childrens University First Aid Upper Prep • Voice of Parent feedback <p>Senior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths Feast at Fairfax School (selected Y10 pupils) • Voice of Parent feedback
<p>Spring Term Parent & Staff Social</p>	<p>An email survey has been sent out today to gauge interest in our Spring Term Parent & Staff Social Event on Thursday 12th March at Five Rivers A La Carte restaurant in Walsall. Please RSVP by Friday 14th February. We hope you can join us!</p>
<p>Votes for Schools – this week's topic</p>	<p>Each week we will share with you details of the Votes for Schools subject that children have been focusing on in lessons. This week's theme is: Prep School – https://tinyurl.com/vgsk3g Senior School – https://tinyurl.com/vgsk3g</p>

Congratulations to the following Prep School classes who achieved 100% attendance this week: 5K & 6L

Congratulations to the following Senior School Forms who achieved the highest attendance (99%) this week: Form 5, 6 & 7

Dates & After-School Clubs coming up week commencing 10th February:

Monday	Children's University First Aid Course: Y4 - 6 After School Clubs: Art: Y5 & Y6 (3.45 – 4.45 pm) Art Club: Seniors, excluding KS4 (3.45 – 4.45 pm) Drama: Seniors (3.45 – 4.30 pm)
Tuesday	Safer Internet Day: Prep & Senior School Maths Inspiration Feast Trip: Y10 selected pupils Parents' Consultations: Nursery (3.40 pm onwards) After School Clubs: Drama: Upper Prep (3.45 – 4.45 pm) MAT Problem Solving Club: Y5 & Y6 selected pupils only (3.45 – 4.30 pm) GCSE Art Club (3.45 – 5.00 pm)
Wednesday	
Thursday	Themed lunch: Hydesville picnic Trip to Snowdome: Y1 Trip to the Patsy Patsy Ceramic Studio at Hollybush Garden Centre: Reception Valentine's Concert: Prep & Senior School (4.15 – 6.00 pm) After School Clubs: 11Plus Tuition sessions: Y4 & Y5 (5.30 – 6.30 pm) Musical Theatre: Upper Prep (4.00 - 4.30 pm)
Friday	Random Acts of Kindness Day; All School Prep reports distributed Last day of Half Term: All School After School Clubs: Karate: Prep School (3.50 – 4.50 pm)

Thursday 13th February's themed lunch menu is....

Lunch



Thursday Picnic

Chicken Tikka with Rocket Baguette
Pastrami & Cheese with Pickle Focaccia
HALAL Turkey BLT Baguette
VEGAN Meatball Marinara with Vegan Cheese
Monterey Jack Cheese & Tomato Focaccia (V)
Sausage Rolls
Pork Pies
Cheese & Onion Pastries
Corn on the Cob
Salad Bar
Spicy Potato Wedges
Strawberry & Melon Fruit Pots

