



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY WEEKLY

S U M M E R T E R M | 2 1 S T M A Y 2 0 2 1

Welcome to #HydesvilleFamily Weekly Issue 5, our newsletter to keep you updated on all things going on at Hydesville.

Each week we'll share an insight into each area of the School. We will also celebrate pupil successes and share important notices and updates on what's coming up the following week.

To keep up with our daily news, please check Cognita Connect, or click on the icons below to follow us on social media.



We love to hear about what you're getting up to!

Send in your photos, news and updates to:

info@hydesville.com or Terri.Vas@hydesville.com

A NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER



I feel in a very privileged position. Some Heads spend time with children at the start of their educational journey. Others see children as they reach the conclusion. For me, I have the best of all worlds and it allows one to see what an incredible journey the pupils are on.

This week, I have been observing videos of the Nursery groups as they undertake their child-initiated play. Whether Kavi and Ali acting as doctors, Zahra and Jorah giving the baby a wash and teeth clean, or Jamari designing and selling ice creams, we see vivid imaginations, wonderful communication and children learning through their play. I am always filled with admiration for our Nursery staff who provide these opportunities and see the children develop so rapidly.

In Prep, there has been some time being spent with staff looking at the further development of our curriculum. Some schools adopt an attitude of "this is how we always do things", which risks stultifying the learning of children and the new learning approaches using technology. I am thrilled that our staff have adopted a mastery curriculum outlook this year, stretching every child to reach their full potential. Next year will enhance this further.

And with Seniors, we have pupils leading on initiatives to make the school greener, more supportive and more independent. Watching them prepare for next week's exams, using the digital technology to really enhance and personalise their learning, it is evident that our educational direction is onwards and upwards!

Best wishes for the blustery weekend...

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY WEEKLY

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Reception



ESTIMATING SKILLS AT THE READY

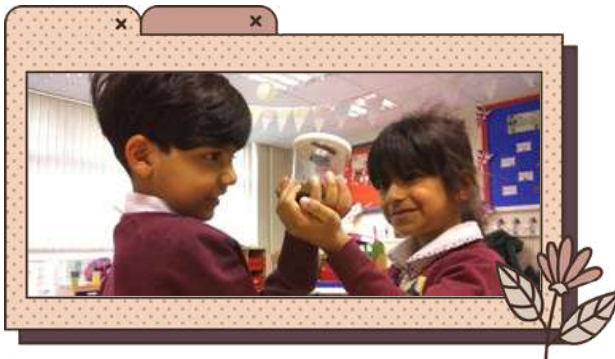
This week in Reception we have been finding out about capacity and exploring how a litre of water appears when placed in different types of vessels. With this knowledge locked in, we put our estimating skills to guess how much water different vessels would hold, before measuring them accurately to check our ideas.

Pupils also analysed the meaning of 'half-full' and practised half-filling a variety of containers.

Finally, we practised problem solving, using our deepening understanding of 'halving'.

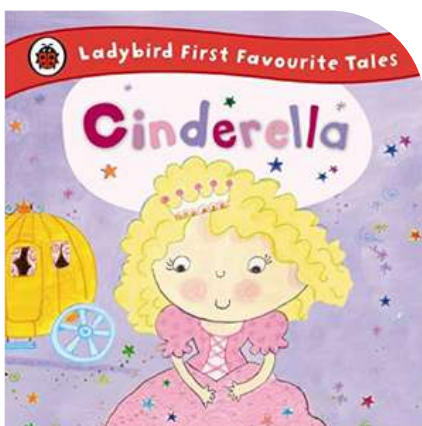
THE MAGIC OF LIFE CYCLES

This half term, children have enjoyed their topic on 'life-cycles' which involved sowing their own sunflowers and watching how caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies.



Mrs Downen was spotted hard at work early on Thursday morning before the children arrived for school, preparing the ground for "operation plant out". Pupils are looking forward to planting their sunflowers soon.

Keep a look out for those sunflowers peeping above the wall to the left of the Lower Prep pedestrian gate.



A DREAM IS A WISH YOUR HEART MAKES

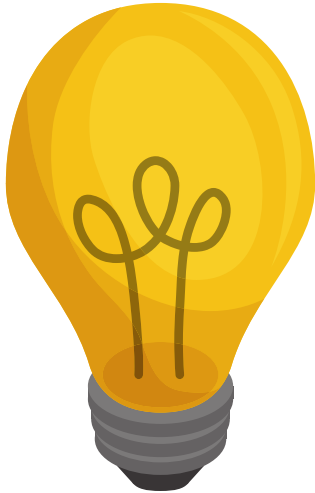
Reception children listened to the well loved tale of 'Cinderella' this week, in line with the continuing topic of 'Royalty'. We have used the tale to examine how a character's emotions can change throughout a story and also to begin to consider the different words which describe similar emotions.



Prep - Y5

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

IT TAKES TWO FLINTS TO MAKE A FIRE



In Year 5, pupils have delved deep into the Victorian era by studying the Industrial Revolution and the impact it had on people and the environment. As a result of the progress in science, industry and engineering many new inventions were made. To demonstrate this, Mr Leslie held a Victorian Inventions episode of Dragon's Den. Pupils were given the opportunity to role-play Victorian inventors to present sales pitches to convince the investors to invest money in the manufacture and sale of their product. Inventions included the gramophone, the Penny Farthing, the typewriter and the electric light bulb.

Pupils had lots of fun but also learned about an important phase of our history.

Click on the light bulb to view a snippet Year 5 battling it out to settle an investment...

“IT’S A HARD KNOCK LIFE FOR US!”

During English lessons this week, pupils have been gripped by the book 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty, which follows the life of Jim Jarvis, a poor boy who is determined to escape a place 'worse than hell on earth' - the workhouse. The novel is based on a real character who met Dr. Barnado, the famous philanthropist who set up homes to care for children like Jim.

BEAT OF THE DRUM

In music this week Year 5 have been developing their West African drum skills, learning rhythms on the Djembe drum, such as the Kadan, from Guinea and Fura, from Mali.

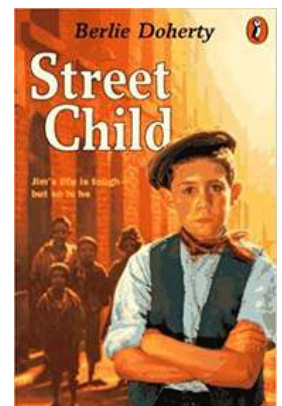


In Mali, Fura is a leaf or herb used in the healing process. The Fura rhythm originated from the Malinke people of Mali played who play it during an initiation ritual involving the herb.

Kadan comes from the Mandinka tradition in Guinea, West Africa. Kadan is referred to as a "Dunumba" rhythm played for "Bilakoro" boys who dance wearing liana bracelets on their ankles that rattle as they move.

Some pupils have even been brought in their own percussion, such as the tabla and dholki, creating a fusion of African and Asian rhythms. Some pupils have even been brought in their own percussion, such as the tabla and dholki, creating a fusion of African and Asian rhythms.

The novel is linked to the Topic study which is 'The Victorians'. Children have researched aspects of Victorian life such as the workhouse; women at work; schools; food; literature and the circus. In addition to this, they have written diary entries from the perspective of Jim Jarvis and wanted posters for the capture of the malevolent villain, Grimy Nick.



‘LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.’

During Religious Studies, pupils have explored religious responses to poverty. They have researched charity organisations such as Christian Aid, Muslim Aid and Khalsa Aid. Subsequently, they produced posters to promote campaigns to help those in need and to encourage others to give their support.



LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS



A NOTE FROM HEAD OF YEAR 11 - MRS ODUNJO

Relief... frustration... confusion... uncertainty... Just some of the many feelings that many parents and pupils had when the announcement was made in January that GCSE exams had been cancelled. More than four months later, well, time passes, and we just move on! One thing I can say about my year 11 cohort is that they have taken it all in their stride and have not relented in their ambition and desire to finish well. Has it been easy? By no means! But they have shown, especially in the last five weeks, that they can take whatever is thrown at them. (I secretly doubt that many of them knew just how resilient they were, but it's good to see that we have taught them important life lessons to leave school with.)

This is a great bunch, one of the very best I have had the pleasure of teaching or leading, either as subject teacher or form tutor or head of year. Many pupils in the younger years look up to them, and with good reason. I hope that the last few remaining weeks of life in HTS are just as great.



Ladies and gents, the class of 2021. Well done to all of you!

LOOKING AFTER OUR MENTAL HEALTH

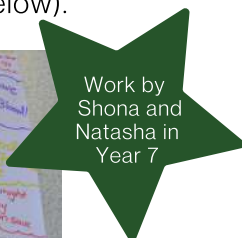
Mental health has been an important focus in PSHE whilst in lockdown and now that we have returned to school.

In light of Mental Health Awareness last week, the nucleus for pupils was appreciating nature and the positive impact nature has on our lives. Years 9 & 10 have also watched the powerful documentary led by Roman Kemp 'our silent emergency' which demonstrates how men/boys often find it difficult to express their emotions and how they are feeling.

'BIG QUESTIONS' IN RS

In Religious Studies, pupils have been exploring a range of religious, philosophical and ethical issues. They have spent the year exploring a variety of religious and non-religious responses to an array of 'big questions.'

Year 7 have spent the spring and summer terms exploring 'medical ethics.' They have taken on the role of ethical philosophers and explored topics ranging from animal experimentation to organ and blood donation (see below).



The Loudmouth educational theatre group also delivered 'Working for Marcus' to Year 10. The performance examined unhealthy relationships, signs of grooming and child sexual exploitation. Loudmouth will deliver a session to Year 7 early next half term. Called 'my mate fancies you', the session examines the physical and emotional changes that children experience as they go through puberty.



Year 8 have been exploring the ethics of warfare and the various arguments surrounding the morality of war. They have explored concepts such as Just war and Holy War theory in religion and looked at times when sometimes war seems to be the only viable option to solve international disputes.

Year 9 began the GCSE course in Religious Studies during the first half of the summer term. At present, they are exploring the fundamental beliefs and teaching of Islam.

PUPILS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following pupils who have received a Head's Commendation for excellence in the classroom this week:



NURSERY STAR OF THE WEEK:
NAVAN



RECEPTION STAR OF THE WEEK:
SARANYA



YEAR 1 STAR OF THE WEEK:
UMAR



YEAR 2 STAR OF THE WEEK:
HARIS



YEAR 3 STAR OF THE WEEK:
ASEES



YEAR 4 STAR OF THE WEEK:
OLIVER



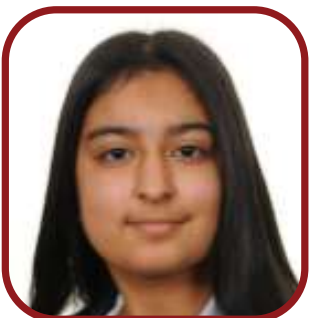
YEAR 5 STAR OF THE WEEK:
ANNIYAH



YEAR 6 STAR OF THE WEEK:
ANNAYA



8A PUPIL OF THE WEEK:
NA*****



8B PUPIL OF THE WEEK:
PARNEET



MUSIC PERFORMER OF
THE WEEK: SAFA
(YEAR 7)

NOTICES AND COMING NEXT WEEK...

WEEKLY TESTING

Pupils in Senior School have received a further supply of lateral flow testing kits. If, for whatever reason, your child has not brought their kits home, please do contact their form tutor.

Testing helps us all to:

- 1) Identify more of the infected
- 2) Enables better contact tracing
- 3) Helps to inform research and government action

Thank you for your ongoing support.



SUMMER HALF TERM HOLIDAY FUN CLUB

We still have spaces for our forthcoming Summer Half Term Holiday Nursery & Reception Fun Club.

Please check, book and pay via the payments area on Cognita Connect.

VIRTUAL CAREERS

Miss Fairbrother would like to share the following forthcoming virtual events with pupils in Years 10 and 11 who may be thinking of pursuing careers in the vocations below.

Click on the infographic to be secure your child's place.



DATES AND AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS COMING UP WEEK

(All subject to parental booking via the Cognita Connect app)

Monday	Lower Prep Elocution Club - 3.30-4.00 Upper Prep Cricket Club - 3.40-4.30
Tuesday	Senior Girls (Years 7, 8 & 9) Sports Club - 3.35-4.30
Wednesday	Upper Prep Hockey Club - 3.45-4.30
Thursday	Upper Prep Drama & Musical Theatre Club - 3.45-4.30 11+ Tuition - 5.00-6.00 Senior Boys (Years 7, 8 & 9) Cricket Club - 3.45-4.30
Friday	

ATTENDANCE WINNERS ARE...

Congratulations to the following classes in Prep and Senior School who achieved the highest attendance this week (100% or close to achieving 100%):

Prep - RD & 5L
Seniors - 10A

