



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY WEEKLY

AUTUMN TERM | 17TH DECEMBER 2021

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

Each week we'll share updates on what's been going on across the School. We will also celebrate pupil successes and include 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 sarah.archer@hydesville.com



A NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

We've made it! I speak on behalf of probably all staff, children and parents when I say it is a relief to have reached this point. There has been a collective drive from everyone to make this term as positive and effective as possible, but as the final couple of weeks have arrived, it is clear to see that battery levels are low. Thank you to everyone in the Hydesville family for what you have done to support the school.

The last week has had the joys of the Nutcracker Suite from Upper Prep – a performance that was mesmerising, exciting and full of joy. When the children visited the Birmingham version last week, one or two dared to say to Miss Bowdige that ours would be better. That confidence was not misplaced! It was a truly wonderful way to round off our calendar year.

In terms of the next few weeks, I wish you all plenty of rest, peace and happiness.

The words “stay safe” are returning to our lexicon as the news reveals the increasing concerns, and I hope that all of your family and friends are able to steer clear of illness. There will doubtless be a raft of announcements and measures coming rapidly in the days to come. I will wait until the week commencing 3rd January – when hopefully the dust has settled and decisions are finalised – before writing to you with any expectations for the new term. Here's hoping that 2022 sees the beginning of the end.

Thanks to you all, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year...

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY WEEKLY

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Hydesville Nursery & Reception

CHRISTMAS FUN FOR HYDESVILLE NURSERY

Hydesville Nursery children put on their best party clothes to enjoy celebrating with their friends at our Christmas Party. We had lots of fun enjoying our party food before receiving a special visitor who took time out from his busy schedule in the North pole to come and see us all and bring us a present. Can you guess who it was? That's right it was Santa Ho! Ho! Ho!

We completed the magical day with dancing and party games with our resident DJ Jamie.

We feel it's important to continue to celebrate the different cultural traditions as this is an important aspect of supporting the development of a good, positive sense of identity and belonging from such an early age. Merry Christmas everybody!



IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

Reception children have completed lots of Christmas themed activities over the last few weeks including handprinting Christmas wreaths, making Christmas cards and decorating Christmas jumpers. Well done Reception for all your hard work over the last term. Mrs Jones, Mrs Downen and Mrs Duffield are very proud of you all. Have a safe and joyful Christmas and we will see you all in the New Year.



CREATING CALENDARS

Pupils have designed their own Father Christmas advent calendar using a variety of materials. Children will mark off the days by finding the correct number and placing cotton wool over the number to complete his beard.

BIRD FEEDER FUN

Reception went on a walk to Walsall Arboretum to see what type of birds they could see. The children worked in pairs to observe nature and tick off on their list the birds they spotted.

They then decided to make their very own bird feeders using a variety of ingredients. Pupils listened carefully and followed instructions well.



LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Prep School - Y5



INTRODUCING AMBASSADOR SHAAN



We're very excited to announce that Shaan in Year 5 has been selected as the Wildlife Trust's very first Young Ambassador. He will be the face of their recruitment of other youth ambassadors and will play a key role in how this is achieved. We are so proud of Shaan for being recognised for his hard work and passion for environmental issues. He is a true role model to his peers!

Read more: <https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/our-ambassadors>



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS



This half term, Year 5 have been studying 'The Day of the Dead' or 'Dia de Los Muertos'; a festival famous in Mexico which celebrates the lives of those who have passed away.

This has provided the inspiration for the children's writing, topic and art work. In their writing, they imagined what it might be like to be there at the festival in real life. Here are some of Mrs Kenton's favourite excerpts..

Fola writes: 'I see people laying flowers by the beautiful, vivid ones growing on the graves. I go on with my journey passing amazing, talented musicians playing instruments like the accordion...'

Amar writes: 'I am blinded by the radiant beams from the sun shining in my pupils. The blazing heat makes my body a fireplace and the sun leaves me sightless.'

Jay imagines: 'People are dancing joyfully as musicians rock their guitars, a bouquet of flowers creating aromas in my nostrils..'

Omveer pictures: 'A big, beautiful blend of glamorous orange, blazing red and shimmering yellow bouquets next to dazzling candles. People with beautiful, artistic tattoos, hand-made, neatly crated skulls made out of clay are displayed on a sky-blue table.'

Pupils used images and famous traditions from the festival of 'Dia de Los Muertos' to inspire their artwork too.



A (NUT) CRACKER OF A PERFORMANCE!

After months of performing online, pupils in Upper Prep have been working extremely hard to rehearse their very own version of The Nutcracker which they performed to packed audiences this week!

With the help of Megan Trainor we bring Tchaikovsky's piece up to date...

It's Christmas Eve at Hydesville and the children are having a party to celebrate. With a visit from Mr Drosselmyer, a friend of the school, strange things begin to happen.

Written, choreographed and produced by Miss Bowdige this was our biggest and best show yet! There wasn't a dry eye in the house, and the audience's cheers supported Clara as she battled the Mouse King and visited magical lands full of lollipops and sugar plums...

Well done to all our performers, it was a cracking show!



LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Senior School

PSHE UPDATE

It has been another busy half term for PSHE. During road safety week, pupils in KS3 examined different aspects relating to the topic and then produced a short film. The pupils should be proud of the powerful messages they conveyed in their films.

Here are screenshots from Eeshal and Anisa's road safety film; it didn't end well for our paper person! 😊



During Anti-Bullying Week we had some insightful discussions and debate on the topic of 'Is bullying an excuse for banter' all pupils, including our anti-bullying ambassadors made some valuable contributions.

We have also explored public sexual harassment following on from our street safety sessions last term. We considered helpful and unhelpful ways of tackling this issue.

Year 10 have also had the street safety/healthy relationships sessions with the police.

All pupils should be congratulated on the maturity and empathy they show when discussing challenging topics.

UPDATE FROM YEAR 10

It has been a busy autumn term in year 10. Pupils have settled into the very rigorous schedule of GCSE studies, with series of assessments and tests to secure understanding and progress.

Following on from the tremendous success of the last year 11 cohort, year 10 pupils are motivated and determined to exceed that performance, with one even commenting that maths is 'a lot of fun'!

Revision skills has been the subject of the week, with Mrs Dhadda taking the pupils all the way back to how they learned in primary school and drawing both similarities and differences in how to revise! Pupils are encouraged to make the practise of these skills a habit, even during the holidays, so that they are well prepared for higher steps in the spring term!

Mrs Odunjo

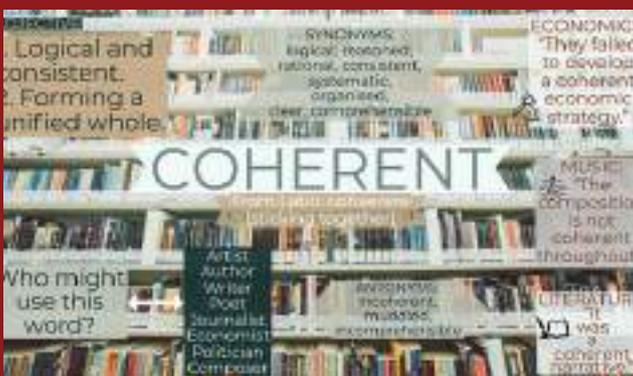
IS THERE A GOD?

Year 9 pupils have spent the Autumn Term learning about the classic arguments for the existence of God. They have explored philosophical theories from some of the greatest minds in human history, including the work of St Anselm, St Thomas Aquinas and William Paley.

As always, pupils were presented with a balance of arguments and thus also explored anti-theistic arguments from figures such as Richard Dawkins and JS Mill. At present, pupils are consolidating their learning via use of their personal devices and are currently busily underway planning a series of escape room type puzzles based upon their learning this term.



WORD OF THE WEEK



PUPILS AWARDS

Congratulations to the following pupils who have received awards this week:

PREP SCHOOL - TIMES TABLES WINNERS



The following pupils have earned their Times Tables Challenge badges:

Bronze (50 questions in 6 minutes: 2x, 5x 10x):

Y2 - Zayn, Dylan, Dhiyan

Y3 - Gia, Veer, Amaya, Kadii, Arjun, Amar

Y5 - Abubakr, Karam, Sufyaan, Hanson

Y6 - Dexter, Denis, Haider

Silver (50 questions in 5 minutes: 2x 5x 10x 3x 4x 6x 9x):

Y3 - Vihan, Jasmine K, Jasmine P

Y4 - Ruby, Shivam, Yuvraj, Tegh

Y5 - Oliver, Martin, Lara

Gold (100 questions in 10 minutes up to 12x12):

Y4 - Iyla

Y5 - Ismaeel, Amrit, Shaan, Jay, Amar, Avneet, Fola, Zak

Y6 - Zara, Anniyah, Maaya, Jayden, Hanzala, Arjan

Diamond (100 questions in 7 minutes: 12x12 and related facts):

Y5 - Kairon, Omveer

Y6 - Kimren, Avaran

New Entries in the Hall of Fame (50 questions 12x12 and related facts in quickest time):

2nd place - Viren Y6 (57 seconds)

4th place - Avnie Mae Y6 (59 seconds)

7th place - Gursim Y6 (1 minute 5 seconds)

8th place - Gavish Y6 (1 minute 22 seconds)

MUSIC PERFORMER OF THE WEEK



Alice, Y7 – for the confidence and determination demonstrated in choir, leading to a whole school performance after just two rehearsals.

SENIOR SCHOOL



Senior School Pupils of the Week:

10A – Harjan, Arun, Aini.

10B – Jasmeen, Asiya, Anand.

NURSERY



Haniya - for growing in confidence and demonstrating great engagement within her learning.

SENIOR ENGLISH STARS



Aden, 7B - for his efforts in directing the Jack Frost performance.



Leo, 8A - for his efforts as Reading Mentor.

NOTICES AND COMING UP...

SPRING TERM PREP SCHOOL CLUBS



We are excited to unveil our Prep School Spring Term Clubs Programme. You can download the booklet from our website here: <https://www.hydesville.com/school-life/extra-curricular/>

Unless otherwise specified, paid for clubs start week commencing 10th January 2022, and free clubs start week commencing 17th January 2022. Clubs will open for bookings at 9am on 19th December 2021. Please note, parents can only book 2 of the controlled clubs as detailed in this booklet. Initial bookings can be made until midnight on 11th January 2022. If there is still availability after this time then we will open up bookings to everyone. If parents book more than 2 clubs in the first instance then you may have one or more of your bookings cancelled or substituted. In this event we will confirm the changes.

KEEPING SAFE

We hope everyone in the #Hydesvillefamily keep safe and well during the Christmas break. Can we please draw Senior School parents and carers' attention to Mr Honey's letter sent out earlier this week where we confirm the government's expectation that all secondary age pupils will have conducted a Lateral Flow Test before commencing school in January. For pupils in Y7 - Y9 this will be conducted in school on Thursday 6th January.

Pupils in Y11 are asked to take a LFT after 12 noon on Wednesday 5th January. This should be registered via the gov.uk website and the subsequent email/text message sent to warren.honey@hydesville.com by 8am on Thursday morning. Thank you for your support in keeping Hydesville safe.



PREP SCHOOL AUTUMN TERM HOUSE WINNERS!

Congratulations to Hatherton who was the winning House for the Autumn Term, with 5524 house points!



ATTENDANCE WINNERS ARE...

Congratulations to the following classes in Prep and Senior School who achieved the highest attendance this week:

Prep - 1E

Seniors - 7A



BACK TO SCHOOL

Just a reminder that today (Friday 17th December) is the last day of this term. School will now close for the Christmas break and re-opens for pupils on Thursday 6th January 2021. We wish everyone a safe and restful holiday period and look forward to welcoming pupils back to school refreshed and ready for another busy term.