



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY WEEKLY

AUTUMN TERM | 3RD 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

This is always an exciting time of year in schools. For the younger pupils, the rehearsals are over and the long-awaited Nativity productions are on show. There is so much joy with these occasions, and watching the children on stage gives a perfect reminder of how opportunities such as these develop their character as well as give them plenty of fun! The prospect of the Carol Concert next week and the Nutcracker Suite add further to the sense of enjoyment in the various performing arts. Even the Seniors can be found happily joining in with the seasonal karaoke hits of Wham and Bing Crosby!

We have been conducting our Voice of the Student survey in the last couple of weeks. This is a valued time to hear directly from the children about their experiences in school. With one year group to go, we are thrilled with the quality of responses, with indicators on all levels showing improvement on last year's record-breaking outcomes. All staff at Hydesville take the wellbeing of the children very seriously, and look for ways to improve year on year. In the last month, we have implemented a small shift in the start and end of Prep lunchtime to reduce cross-over with Senior pupils causing congestion.

In addition, we have introduced a new email address - wellbeing@hydesville.com which pupils can use to report any concerns they have about themselves or others. We will never rest on our laurels where pupil happiness and safety are concerned.

Wishing you well for the weekend...

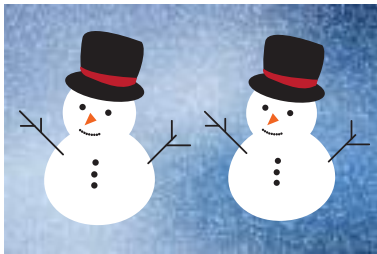
#HYDESVILLEFAMILY WEEKLY

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Reception

DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN?

Pupils have been working really hard to build up their confidence and fluency with consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words. They have engaged in a variety of activities to help embed and consolidate the Phase 2 sounds.



Reception used their phonic knowledge to correctly spell out a word, stacking the sounds to create a snowman. It was a fun and exciting way to embed their learning this winter.



CLAY HEDGEHOGS



During Forest School this week children went into the fairy garden to make hedgehogs! They started with a ball of clay which they sculpted to make a smooth hedgehog body with a pinched nose. Pupils then used a pencil to make holes in the top ready for the pine needles which they used for the spikes. Playing with the tactile material is good for fine motor skills and developing the muscles needed for handwriting.



THE ICT BEE

Bee-Bots are a wonderful digital technological resource to introduce pupils to coding and computational thinking. Their versatile nature also mean that in addition to ICT they can also help develop other areas of the curriculum. They are a great tool for teaching sequencing, estimation and problem-solving. As a group children discussed directional language, instructions and why it is important to listen! They enjoyed exploring the Bee-Bots on the mat, working in partners and taking turns.

FEELING FESTIVE

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.



Prep School - Y3

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

DRAGONS EVERYWHERE

Last half term, Year 3 learnt about Dragonology to support our class text 'How to Train your Dragon'. This magical topic has allowed us to learn about where dragons live, and the history of the Vikings. We have even had a visit from a dragon who left us one of its eggs to look after. A few of us wrote to the dragon and she replied, telling us about the Staffordshire Hoard and Viking trade. We loved writing to Nograd and hope she returns to pick up her egg soon, we have been a little worried!



'ROCK' AND ROLLING WAVES

In Autumn 2, we began a new topic- Natural Disasters. Our class text is a picture book called Flood by Alvaro F.Villa. It depicts the effects of a devastating flood on a family and their home. Using role play we have put words to the pictures and have developed our vocabulary by collecting synonyms. We have learned how to use a dictionary to check our spellings and a thesaurus to help in our quest to find interesting adjectives. We have also been using our reading comprehension skills to research tsunamis and have built earthquake proof buildings. We have discovered various natural disasters all over the world. In order to link our learning and understand what happens when volcanoes occur, in science, we have studied the formation of rocks and the properties of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.



✕ TOTAL RECALL ✕

Our mathematicians in Year 3 are working very hard to learn their 3, 4 and 8 times tables. By doubling and halving numbers, they have discovered links between the 2, 4 and 8 times-tables. Children have used concrete resources to create 'groups of' to ensure understanding of the word multiply and have moved on to representing these number sentences as bar models, part whole models, arrays and as pictures. They are working towards quick recall of all times tables using both multiplication and division facts. All are hoping to gain the next badge in the times tables challenge later this term.



AUTUMN TERM ART IN UPPER PREP

Year 3 have created several Viking inspired pieces of Art including this fabulous Viking longboat collage.



Year 4 have been looking at portraiture and have all drawn amazing symmetrical self portraits.

Year 5 have used their knowledge of the Aztecs to create Aztec inspired work.



Year 6 have been looking at different styles of Japanese art and have drawn and painted these amazing oil pastel cherry blossom pieces.



LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

SPORTY SENIORS

It has been fantastic to see so many of our pupils taking part in extra-curricular sport this term. As COVID restrictions have eased we have been able to arrange a number of fixtures with local schools.



Football and netball have been dominating the headlines this term. We have been particularly pleased with how many of our Senior girls have taken part in the netball fixtures. Despite a mixed bag of results, our girls have played well as a team, displaying determination. Well done girls!

Our Senior boys have also been trying hard in their extra-curricular football fixtures. They've faced some strong competition from local schools but never give up. Great resilience, boys!

We are looking forward to more sporting fixtures next term.

ENRICHMENT NEWS

Our Autumn Term Senior School enrichment programme has proved a hit with pupils. In particular, our Year 8's have enjoyed learning Korean! Last week they created some beautiful artwork where they wrote their names in Korean. Miss Hamilton was very impressed!



Senior School

UPDATE FROM YEAR 8

I am so pleased to see Year 8 impressing both in and out of school the past few weeks. We have had runners up in the school's Dragon's Den competition: Shria, Eeshal and Safa and newly appointed Maths ambassadors: Natasha, Harveen and Kishan.

Harveen has been extra busy, additionally achieving the honour of best player in her football team outside of school.

We have also had Leo, who after four years of hard graft in his kickboxing class is performing so well that he is now competing against adults.

A special mention goes to Natasha, Isa and Yasin, who won the honour of celebrating their recent excellent behaviour with Mr Honey for a breaktime hot chocolate and treats.

Keep up the good work Year 8!

Mr Hill-Jayne



WORD OF THE WEEK



Meanwhile, Year 11 are turning their attention to their post-16 options. We have recently welcomed visitors from BMet College and Juniper Training who spoke to pupils about apprenticeships and courses on offer. It's an important time for Year 11 as GCSE exams are just around the corner and pupils are also making applicants to their Year 12 destinations. If Year 11 need any help or advice they can speak to Miss Fairbrother.

PUPILS OF THE WEEK

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

PREP SCHOOL



Prep School Stars of the Week:

COMING NEXT WEEK!

SENIOR SCHOOL



Senior School Pupils of the Week:

9A – Pavan, Danyal, Joshua
9B – Nilesh, Zach, Jessica, Ayesha

NURSERY



Fatima - for being a very kind and caring member of yellow group and always tries hard with her activities.

SENIOR ENGLISH STARS



Isabella, 10A - for continuous hard work and improvement.

Mrs Sharkey's Year 9 English class for outstanding poetry analysis.

MUSIC PERFORMER OF THE WEEK



Iyla, Y4 – for her impressive determination and focus in our keyboard unit, which has led to excellent progress.

NOTICES AND COMING UP...

CAROL SERVICE

Parents, carers, and members of the #Hydesvillefamily are invited to join us for our Christmas Carol Service at St Matthew's Church, Walsall on Wednesday 8th December at 2pm.

The festive event will feature congregational songs, readings and performances from the school's choirs and a selection of the instrumental groups.

Parents/carers should book their tickets via Cognita Connect. Please note, pupils will be dismissed from St Matthew's Church at the end of the service.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Friday 10th December we are inviting all pupils to take part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day.

We are asking pupils to make a £1 donation to help transform the futures of children in the UK and around the world.

Many thanks for your kind support.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

We are holding our next second hand uniform sale in the School Hall on Tuesday 14th December, 4pm – 5pm.

A range of pre-loved branded and non-branded uniform items will be available, including blazers, jumpers, trousers, dresses and school coats.

We have both Prep and Senior School uniform on offer, and will be asking for a small donation of £5 per item taken, which will be given to our school charities (Acorns Children's Hospice and The Midland Langar Seva Society).



AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS COMING UP W/C 6.12

(All subject to parental booking via Cognita Connect)

Monday	Year 4 Art Club (3:45pm – 4:45pm)
Tuesday	Years 10 & 11 Art Club (3:45pm – 4:45pm)
Wednesday	
Thursday	Years 3 – 5 11+ Tuition (5:00pm – 6:00pm) Years 3 – 6 Musical Theatre & Drama Club (3:45pm – 4:45pm)
Friday	Prep School Karate (3:50pm – 4:50pm)

ATTENDANCE WINNERS ARE...

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

Prep - RJ

Seniors - 7A, 11A, 11B