



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY WEEKLY

SPRING TERM | 18TH FEBRUARY 2022

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



If you are reading this, it means that Storm Eunice has not done its worst with our electronic communications. It seems a frightful way to end the week and begin the half-term holiday. Hopefully, it will pass without too much local disruption, and blue skies with crisp late-Winter mornings may return. Whatever you are doing as a family, I hope it will give everyone plenty of time to rest. It has been one of the toughest half-terms with respect to the accumulated impact of COVID. Subsequently, this week should provide scope for everyone to reset and build for the month to come.

One group of children and staff who have earned their rest were the performers at the Valentine's Concert on Wednesday. It was such a delight to stage a live performance again, and with participants from across many age ranges, we had collaboration at its finest. The musicians, dancers, and elocution speakers did a wonderful job, and certainly entertained the audience. It takes a lot of courage to stand on stage and perform as they did, so it is a great testament to their character for doing so with such aplomb.

It is a time when many reports and grades are coming out: almost everyone except Nursery should be receiving something. Having read and written on the reports for Years 3 – 6 and 11, I can honestly state that the children are working strongly academically. I hope seeing their progress brings you as much joy as I experienced when reading about it.

Look forward to seeing you on February 28th...

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY WEEKLY

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

eyfs: Reception



GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU....

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed a whole afternoon based around love. We talked about kindness, how we can be kind to others around us, and what it means to be a good friend. Valentine's Day teaches children about feelings, different types of love and self-expression. We have been on a special look out this week to see who is being kind and considerate.....



ARTISTS IN THE MAKING

Pupils enjoyed drawing a landscape picture of the beautiful Arboretum using pastel colours. Pupils were engaged and involved for the whole lesson. The objective is to introduce the concept of observation and careful looking, but time and space to explore the page, available materials and environment.



OUR OUTDOOR SCAVENGER HUNT

Pupils worked with a partner to explore their surroundings in the Arboretum. We looked for items such as daisies, stones, thick sticks, thin sticks, pine cones and pine needles.

Pupils felt a sense of achievement when they found an item they could tick off their list. This activity encourages children to use and develop their observation skills.



THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR



Pupils have been learning about the main events in the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and learning about the different components that make a book.



Pupils have been encouraged to identify the main events in the story, count to 10 with confidence, recite the days of the week and recognise different fruit. Pupils worked in pairs to sequence the story in chronological order, recalling what happens in the beginning, middle and end of the story.

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Prep - Y6

STEM GLIDERS

In science, Year 6 are currently completing their STEM unit. Each week they are presented with a new challenge designed to test their science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills. Over the last week, they were challenged to design and build a glider, taking inspiration from NASA and the Red Arrows display team. They then performed a series of test flights, taking note of performance to adjust overall mass and improve aerodynamics. Finally, pupils recorded the distance (m) and time taken (s) during flight to calculate and compare the speed (m/s) of their gliders. Challenging, fun and hands-on learning!



MATHS SHOPPING CHALLENGE – ALDI OR TESCO?



As part of their Decimals unit in maths, Year 6 were set a challenge with a real-life context: Tesco or Aldi – which is the cheapest supermarket? Pupils were tasked with applying their knowledge of dividing decimals by integers to calculate the best value items across the two supermarkets. After much calculation, the results were in – Aldi was the cheapest supermarket across our selection of items by a mammoth £0.07! In calculating this, the pupils not only extended their calculation skills, but acquired a broad range of essential life skills too.

THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE



In Topic, Year 6 pupils have been learning about the Transatlantic slave trade and how this impacted the continent of Africa and its people. This links with the novel 'Journey to Jo'burg studied in English in relation to South Africa's colonial past. Children have been able to analyse a range of primary and secondary historical sources to understand what happened in this painful chapter of history. Furthermore, they have studied the abolitionist movement which brought the slave trade to an end.



OUR CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN 11+ PREPARATION

The children have continued working hard in their tuition groups this term, with the focus turning to developing their maths and English skills. In Year 5, the tutors have adapted their lessons to accommodate the changes to the entrance examination for the Birmingham consortium of schools, where there has been a return to using GL as the test provider. Pupils are already exposed to the essential techniques for this style of testing from Year 2, with focused technique lessons in Years 3 and 4 already being part of our reasoning curriculum. However, we are now taking the time to recap these skills in the English tuition sessions to ensure that the children are prepared for both CEM and GL styles of testing. As further support, the Year 5 group have already started using an online learning platform as part of their sessions, and this will be rolled out to Year 4 before the end of this block of lessons.



LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Senior School

LET MY PEOPLE GO!

Since the beginning of the Spring term Year 7 pupils have been exploring the beliefs and practices of the religion of Judaism. Having previously completed a unit of work on 'Why do people believe?'

Pupils began the year well equipped to explore a world faith in depth. So far pupils have explored different Jewish beliefs about the nature of G-d and important patriarchs within the Jewish faith.

They have looked at the figure of Abraham and the significance of Israel to the Jewish faith.

Of late, pupils have predominantly focused upon the prophet Moses and the exodus from Egypt. A story which also holds importance in both Islam and Christianity.

UPDATE FROM THE HEAD OF YEAR 10

Year 10 pupils have had a good first half of the spring term, with assessments in various subjects in full swing. It is fair to say that they already understand the rigours of GCSE studies, and are taking it in their stride.

Strong winds and heavy rains aside, the focus is good and the determination is strong- this year group has been upbeat and enthusiastic this term, and they are intent on hitting all their targets before the end of the year!

As far as social responsibilities go, there are already whispers about prefectship... many very keen to take on duties that will keep them in good stead when the time comes. A very good excuse for me to delegate!

Mrs Odujo

WORD OF THE WEEK



WELCOMING OUR CHILEAN COGNITA COUNTERPARTS

On Monday 28th February we will be excited to welcome 14 Chilean pupils and a teacher from our partner Cognita Schools. The Chilean pupils will be assigned buddies in Miss Jenkins' Year 10 & Year 11 Spanish GCSE groups.

Our Senior School Spanish Ambassadors - Arjan (Y10), Kerinda & Hashim (Y11) - will play a key role, supporting Miss Jenkins with the organisation of the visit.



The Chilean pupils will follow their buddies' timetables for their two-week stay and will experience English school life and culture.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the GCSE Spanish pupils to also learn more about a different culture but more so, it is a valuable opportunity for them to practise their Spanish speaking skills, develop their fluency and perfect their pronunciation.

Miss Jenkins hopes the Chilean pupils will lead on some Spanish extra-curricular activities for Senior pupils during their stay. We are also optimistic for a return invite for Hydesville pupils to visit Chile...

PUPIL AWARDS

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

PREP SCHOOL STARS OF THE WEEK



R: Kavi
Y1: Seerat
Y2: Dhiyan
Y3: Hannah
Y4: Asees
Y5: Laila
Y6: Gavish

SENIOR SCHOOL PUPILS OF THE WEEK



8A - Raya, Leo & Shona.
8B - Safa, Shria & Anisa.

NURSERY



Arjun - for working extremely hard and taking pride in his learning.

ENGLISH STAR OF THE WEEK



George, Y10 - for an excellent piece of narrative writing, demonstrating many of the skills required for a high level response at GCSE.

PERFORMER OF THE WEEK



Georgia, Y10 - for the resilience shown in the recent Valentine's concert performance.

NOTICES AND COMING UP...



NO NUTS PLEASE

Can we politely remind all parents and carers that we are a **NO NUT SCHOOL**. Children **must not** bring any nut products onto the school site at any time. We have children in school with severe nut allergies so it is imperative we keep these children safe.

Please check ingredient labels of any items your child is bringing into school to ensure there are no nuts present.

Thank you for your support.

CAMP WILDERNESS

This is a really exciting opportunity for member of the #Hydesvillefamily this summer!

Cognita is offering Hydesville staff and parents a 15% discount on bookings made before 28th February.

Find out more: www.campwilderness.co.uk



City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

The CBSO has spots available in all three of its choruses for young people. Being a member of a CBSO Chorus not only offers weekly rehearsals but also free musical theory lessons and vocal coaching sessions too! Their three choruses are as follows:

- CBSO Junior Children's Chorus (All in school years 3-5)
- CBSO Children's Chorus (All in school years 6-8)
- CBSO Youth Chorus (Girls in school years 9-13)

You can audition at any time of the year so if you would like to go along for a taster rehearsal then please email Alex Parker, Chorus Officer, at: aparker@cbso.co.uk for more information.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS COMING UP W/C 28.2

Monday	Year 3 Art Club (3:45pm – 4:45pm) KS3 Art Club (3:45pm – 4:45pm) Years 3 & 4 Football Club (3:45pm – 4:30pm) Years 1 & 2 Multi Sports Club (3:45pm – 4:30pm)
Tuesday	KS4 Art Club (3:45pm – 4:45pm) Years 7 – 11 Football Club (3:45pm – 4:30pm) Years 7 – 11 Drama Club (4:00pm - 5:00pm)
Wednesday	Years 3 – 6 Hockey Club (3:45pm – 4:30pm)
Thursday	Years 5 & 6 Football Club (3:45pm – 4:30pm) 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 100% attendance this week:

Prep - 3BW

Seniors - 7A