



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY WEEKLY

SPRING TERM | 4TH 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

Frankly, COVID can clear off!

It has been a frustrating ten days for me, with ailments no worse than a moderate cold but with an annoying pink line refusing to go away on the Lateral Flow Devices. Thank you to those expressing well wishes and I am looking forward to being back in on Monday when the isolation period has ended. Throughout all this, my utter gratitude and appreciation goes to all the staff who step up and keep things going. We are all aware of the impact on workforces in all sectors of the pandemic, but education has an immediacy that cannot delay things by a fortnight until someone returns. The staff have been absolute stalwarts throughout, and my sincere appreciation goes to them.

We are ready to launch our next Voice of Parent survey, and are really grateful for all of you who might take ten minutes to complete it and provide feedback. Last year, two thirds of respondents were "promoters" of the school (9 or 10 out of 10) and yet we were still able to find valuable suggestions for improvements.

These have included addressing concerns over catch-up learning due to COVID absences (our data indicates that the children have closed most or all academic gaps created by the disruptions), consolidating the extent of online platforms and giving clear instructions for access, and improving the experience of using Cognita Connect. Anything you wish to share – positive or negative – will help us keep developing Hydesville to make it the very best school for all within. Enjoy your weekend...I'm grateful to be allowed out to do the shopping!

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY WEEKLY

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Reception

EXPLORING WEIGHT AND CAPACITY THE HANDS-ON WAY

We have been focussing on weight and capacity in our maths lessons over recent weeks. Pupils have been encouraged to identify vessels which are full, empty, nearly full, half-full and nearly empty. Pupils were encouraged to estimate and reflect on how many litres of water the vessels would hold.

We then introduced balancing scales to our lesson and pupils were instructed to choose 2 objects in the classroom. They were encouraged to say which item would be the heaviest and lightest before testing their ideas on the scales.



STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN!



Pupils enjoyed taking part in a Listening Walk around the Arboretum. They listened carefully to the sounds around them and talked about all the different things they could hear such as birds singing, sirens and children's voices. Pupils then used their phonic knowledge to write a list of the sounds they could hear. A listening walk can help and practise listening and attention skills.



LET'S GET BUSY

Child-initiated play has an important role in children's learning and development. It's a time for children to explore and learn from their own thoughts and ideas. It gives children the space to be really creative with what they do and drive their own exploration. Pupils had the opportunity to explore a variety of activities of their own choosing from exploring the treasure island tuff spot tray, to practising their drawing and writing skills.



CHINESE NEW YEAR

Pupils heard about how the Chinese Emperor wanted to measure time and asked the animals to race to decide the order of the years. Children also discussed what they do to get ready for New Year (clean the house, buy new clothes, make good luck signs, lanterns etc). Pupils enjoyed a variety of activities based around Chinese New Year from making their own paper lanterns, to exploring a variety of tuff spot trays filled with glitter, chopsticks and Chinese numbers for them to practise writing.

Prep School - y4

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS



WHAT A STINK!

As part of our topic work, pupils have been looking at what life was like in Prehistoric Britain. As well as doing exciting things, such as creating adverts for a bow and arrow, they have also had the opportunity to become archaeologists and examine some Stone Age poo. Through their investigation they gathered evidence, from the samples provided, and discovered that people living during the Stone Age ate lots of fruit, seeds, nuts, and fish.

SUPER STEM

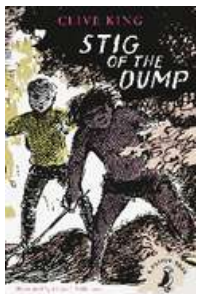
Mr Burnham has challenged the Prep school to carry out STEM investigations as part of our science work this half term. So far, we have investigated the different melting temperatures of chocolates and hypothesised about why different chocolates have different melting points. Next, the pupils were given 3 sheets of newspaper and 30cm and had to design a tower that would withstand Mrs Kenton's hurricane simulator. A team comprising of Ruby, Shivam, Asees and Yusuf proved to be excellent engineers and successfully designed a tower that withstood the test.



In our latest lesson, pupils had to put their engineering skills to the test by designing boats made from aluminium foil and seeing which one could hold the most 5g weights. We had joint winners with both Sam and Tegh's boats proving to hold in excess of 275g, and Ruby came in a close second with her boat holding 270g before sinking.

STIG OF THE DUMP

Year 4 are continuing to read Clive King's 'Stig of the Dump.' They have completed lots of activities relating to the text, including writing a character profile for Stig and a diary entry as Barney. The children have just encountered the Snarget brothers and were challenged with converting what they said in the chapter into Standard English. Soon the pupils will be writing their own chapter, based on the book and I look forward to finding out what adventures Barney and Stig get up to!



HUMANITIES UPDATE

In Lower Prep, Year 1 pupils have been learning about life as an Inuit and making comparisons between their lives and ours, while Year 2 have been exploring 'Being British' by looking at the Geography of our country. Meanwhile, in Upper Prep, Year 3 have been exploring Space as Year 4 have headed to the past to look at life in the Stone Age. Year 5 have spent time learning about the impact of the Shang Dynasty whereas Year 6 have discovered more about the Slave Trade. Pupils in Upper Prep also commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day last week, with some pupils lighting candles in the evening to mark the day.



LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

A NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF YEAR 11

The Spring term began at a rapid pace for Year 11, who undertook official mock examinations during the first two weeks of the new term. Since then, pupils have received most of their results back and are hard at work addressing misconceptions and misunderstandings in their relevant GCSE subjects.

As the Spring term progresses pupils will be working closely with their classroom teachers, form tutors and Head of Year to set targets for the Summer GCSE examinations, as well as devising effective revision strategies to help propel their learning forward.

Miss Hamilton

WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

What would you see if you walked through your entire city taking a photo every eight steps? This is geography! We will end up with a most fascinating picture of where things are found, we will understand why they are there, and how they develop and change over time.



Our Year 10 geographers are exploring the global climates of different eras, statistics that prove that the evidence is reliable and give a compelling argument for climate change.

Some pupils are already preparing to become climate change ambassadors, and will begin to make changes in our immediate environment. The picture is about to change some more...

Senior School



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Our Senior School History Ambassadors and members of the Anti-Racism Alliance delivered a powerful commemorative assembly last week as part of our Holocaust Memorial Day events. (A photo of the pupils involved is below).

In addition, all members of the Senior School community were encouraged to individually commemorate the victims of the Holocaust by participating in the national #Lightthedarkness event and submitting entries into the Holocaust Memorial Day Competition.

In lessons pupils in Year 9 have undertaken an in-depth study into the events that lead to the Holocaust and considered the experiences of those involved. This has proven to be a very thought provoking and emotive topic and pupils have demonstrated maturity and empathy throughout.



SENIOR WORD OF THE WEEK

LITERATURE:
"A dictionary definition of the verb."

PHILOSOPHY:
"Our definition of what constitutes poetry."

DEFINITION
NOUN *define* (Latin: set bounds to)
1. The exact meaning of a word.
2. The degree of clarity in outline of an image or sound.

MEDIA STUDIES:
"Computer graphics can aid the definition and clarity of pictures."

SYNONYMS:
1. meaning, sense, interpretation, description
2. clarity, sharpness, focus

Who might use this word?
Researcher, Academic, Author, Translator, Interpreter, Poet

plural noun: definitions

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:

Receptio - Rutendo

Year 1 - Jasmine

Year 2 - Layla

Year 3 - Jasmine

Year 4 - Avaani

Year 5 - Lara

Year 6 - Adam

NURSERY



Amana - for settling well into the nursery routine and trying hard with her work and activities.

SENIOR SCHOOL



Senior School Pupils of the Week:
Coming next week!

MUSIC PERFORMER OF THE WEEK



Hanson, Y5 – for demonstrating ever increasing confidence in choir and excellent rhythmic skills in lessons.

NOTICES AND COMING UP...



A huge congratulations to our Year 6 teacher, Mr Leslie, who ran a marathon in January to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK.

Thank you to everyone in the #Hydesvillefamily who supported Mr Leslie. He is delighted to announce he raised a fantastic £534!



NURSERY & RECEPTION FEB HALF TERM FUN CLUB

Bookings for our February Half Term Nursery & Reception Fun Club are now live on the Payments area of Cognita Connect.

Fun Club will take place week commencing 21st February. We will be open each day, 9am - 4pm, at a cost of £25 a day.

Places are limited so please hurry so as not to miss out!

ANNUAL PARENT SURVEY

Our annual parent survey is going live next week! Parents/carers – please keep an eye on your inbox.

The survey is invaluable in providing us with the insight we need to make informed decisions about change; large or small.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete it...your feedback is very important to us.



ATTENDANCE WINNERS ARE...

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

Prep - 1E, 2S, 3BW (100%)

Seniors - 11B (98%)



AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS COMING UP W/C 8.2

(All subject to parental booking via Cognita Connect)

Monday	Year 6 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)