



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY NEWS

A U T U M N T E R M 1 1 T H N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 2

Welcome to #HydesvilleFamily News, our bi-monthly newsletter to keep you updated on all things going on at Hydesville.

Here we will share updates on what's been going on across Hydesville. 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.



A WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Two weeks away from school can feel like a long time so it was so lovely to welcome staff, parents and pupils back to school on Monday. There were plenty of smiles on the children's faces, making me so proud as Headteacher.

Having held Year 8 parents evening this week (face-to-face for the first time since pre-COVID times!), it has been valuable for teachers and parents to have had the chance to discuss progress.

For some pupils, the academic journey is smooth, with understanding developing relatively easily. This may not be the same for everyone, and sometimes there are bumps along the way, resulting in worry or anxiety. Luckily at Hydesville, our teachers know the children and their strengths and gaps so well that the scope for support and improvement is great. Involving parents in that process is a key part of our partnership.

This morning we came together as a community to commemorate Armistice Day with a two-minute silence to pause, breathe and reflect on the service and sacrifices from the Armed Forces community, both past and present. Throughout the week, activities have taken place across school to mark this important occasion, from Senior School assemblies (being led by two of our Year 11 pupils) to the creation of a beautiful 'poppy' dress on display in the main school reception area.

Kindest regards for a peaceful weekend.

Mrs Samra



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

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY NEWS

WEEKLY ROUND UP....

Hydesville Nursery



HELLO FROM YELLOW GROUP

Hello from Yellow Group, we are the youngest children in Hydesville Nursery. We enjoy exploring a variety of activities designed to introduce us to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

We have been busy this term mark making in the foam using brushes, it looked a bit like ice cream but felt soft and fluffy, we have been learning all about shapes and drawing round them this has helped develop our pencil control.

This week we have also celebrated Guru Nanak's birthday by designing a birthday card. We chose birthday related pictures to stick onto a card and we were very good at using the glue stick. We also coloured in pictures of the Guru.

Guru Nanak is an important figure as he founded the Sikh religion, his birthday is an important celebration for the Sikh community.



READY, STEADY, BAKE!



Our annual Hydesville Nursery Bake off competition was held on the day we broke up for Half Term when Nursery and Pre-Prep children excelled themselves by showcasing some pretty impressive culinary skills!

We were very impressed with the quality and creativity produced by all the children. Our guest judges, Mrs Chand and Miss Mills had a difficult job selecting the star bakers.

Thank you to all parents who uploaded their Tapestry photographs and well done to all the children, with an extra special congratulations going to the winners in the following groups:

- Green Group – cupcakes (winner: Angelica)
- Red Group – cookies or brownies (winner: Ather)
- Blue Group – fairy cakes (winner: Nihal)
- Yellow Group – cakes of the chocolate variety (winner: Lorenzo)



WEEKLY ROUND UP....

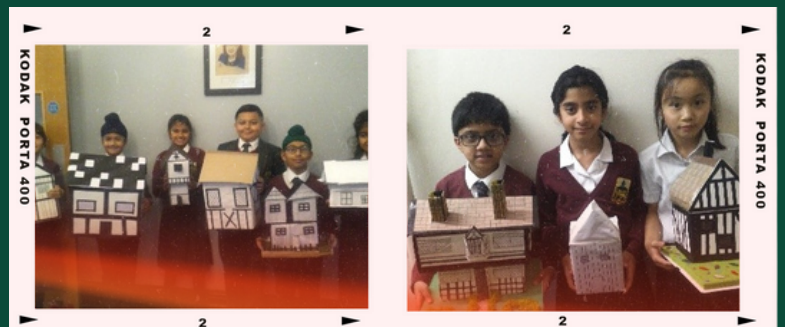
Prep School - Year 4

Even though we came back before half term, we didn't get the chance to share our final pictures from Frank Chapman. Here, we can see the Year 4's enjoying some of their final activities of blind line, where they had to give clear instructions to a blindfolded partner, making their way through a man-made caving system and some wall climbing. While we were away, the children did a great job of developing their listening and teamwork skills. The teachers are looking forward to seeing the children putting these skills into practice now we are back in school. A brilliant time was had by all.



In English for the next few weeks, pupils in Year 4 will be studying the Literacy Shed Media clip, 'Home Sweet Home.' This links in with our topic work where we will be looking at why early settlers chose the locations they did.

Over half term, Year 4 were given the optional challenge of creating a Tudor house. The children found items from around their households and used their knowledge of Tudor homes to help with their designs. Here are some of our wonderful creations.



WHY NOT GIVE GYMNASTICS A GO?

Places are still available on our after school gymnastics club (3.45 – 4.30pm) on a Thursday for pupils in Years 3 – 6, being run by qualified level 2 British Gymnastics coach.

Pupils will learn the fundamental movements of gymnastics, whilst developing their action, balance and co-ordination. Pupils will be given the option to work towards 'rise Gymnastics' certificates throughout the club.

Please book your child's place via the Payments area of Cognita Connect.



WEEKLY ROUND UP....

Senior School

AN UPDATE FROM THE HEAD OF YEAR 10

Year 10 have made a fantastic start to their GCSE studies this year. Thankfully, a very strong foundation upon which to build has already been laid, so pupils have approached their learning with a good measure of confidence, determination and even excitement. Excellent teaching and support from every subject teacher means that our pupils are already making good progress, preparing them for the examinations in 2024.

Pastorally, there is on-going support for different areas of school life, so that pupils can approach their learning with ease every day. I would encourage those pupils who are eager to become prefects in year 11 to begin preparing themselves by leading or engaging with different aspects of school life if they have not already done so.

We will be reminding all our Year 10 pupils, as the school year progresses, the value of sowing good seeds, the value of endurance, and the looking forward to a very strong finish.

Mrs Harding

Introducing our Year 10 form captions and school council representatives who are making excellent steps towards becoming a prefect next year:



10A - Ishika (FC) and Ore (SC)



10B - Ameen (FC) and Davina (SC)

SENIOR SCHOOL ARTISTS IMPRESS

It has been a busy start to the academic year in the art department. We achieved success in the ISA art competition (Midlands region). Ore (Year 10) and Alice's (Year 8) winning pieces will enter the National final later this month..... watch this space!

It is wonderful to be able to display our amazing pupils' artwork in the wider community too. A selection of work for year 7 to 11 is currently on display in the gallery garden in Walsall's beautiful arboretum. (photo of Ore's work attached)

Entries for the 'Inktober' competition are being judged this week, including this stunning biro drawing by Inddy Chhohan (Year 11) (see, left).





PUPILS OF THE WEEK

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

MUSIC PERFORMER OF THE WEEK



Vihan (Y4) - for the excellent progress made in the past two lessons on keyboards.

NURSERY STAR OF THE WEEK



Ziya - for massively growing in confidence.

RECEPTION STAR OF THE WEEK



Sara - for excellent effort progress in Literacy.

HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

Well done to the following Prep School children for receiving the Headteacher's award this week:

Year 1 - Yusuf
Year 2 - Aydin
Year 3 - Avi

Year 4 - Veer
Year 5 - Karam
Year 6 - Laila



Congratulations to Dhian in Year 3 for receiving his orange kelt in karate:



NOTICES AND COMING UP...

WOULD YOU LIKE A STALL AT THE CHRISTMAS FAIR?



We are very excited for our Christmas Fair on Wednesday 14th December, 5-7pm.

During the event there is an opportunity for a limited number of parent/community led stalls.

If you would like to express an interest in hiring a stall (at a hire charge of £15), please send your name, child's name and class and the item/s you wish to sell to info@hydesville.com.

The Senior Leadership Team will consider all applications and notify selected stall holders shortly.

HYDESVILLE IS NOW ON LINKED IN!

We are excited to announce Hydesville is now on Linked In!

Please search 'Hydesville Tower School' and follow our page for lots of exciting news, posts and updates.



HYDESVILLE NURSERY PLACES FILLING FAST!

Places in Hydesville Nursery for this academic year are filling fast.

To avoid disappointment, we would urge you to contact us if you have a child who is of (or approaching) nursery age, so we can discuss their admission and begin an application without delay.

Please do also pass this message on to friends or family who might be considering Hydesville Nursery for their son or daughter.

Contact Rachel Passi, Admissions Officer, on rachel.passi@hydesville.com



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBOOK

AGE RATING
13+

With 2.9 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by (among other things) adding them as friends, reacting to or commenting on their content, sharing images and videos, posting status updates, joining groups and playing games. Facebook is free, and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Facebook's quick reward cycle of likes and comments on shared posts can be hugely addictive. It encourages users to keep returning to post things and increases FOMO (the Fear Of Missing Out), which leads to people checking the app even more frequently and finding themselves endlessly scrolling through content.

CYBERBULLYING

A 2021 Ofcom report found that around one in four UK 12–15-year-olds had been cyberbullied or trolled (intentionally antagonised online). On Facebook, this can happen through private messages (on Facebook Messenger); hurtful comments on their profiles and posts; pages or groups set up purposely to torment a victim; or exclusion from pages or groups.

FUTURE IMPACT

Like most social media platforms, anything posted on Facebook leaves a permanent 'digital footprint'. This can have future consequences for young people: many universities and employers, for example, now review someone's Facebook timeline during the application process.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Just like in the offline world, there are people on Facebook with malicious intentions. Ofcom reports, for instance, that 30% of 12–15-year-olds have received a friend request from a stranger. This, sadly, can include individuals seeking to take advantage of impressionable youngsters.

OVERSHARING

Facebook encourages you to post "what's on your mind", but children should be wary of revealing too much about themselves online. Users can give away their location by checking in or using Facebook Live, for example, while some photos can also be traced using file data.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Facebook monitors and removes material like hate speech or extreme political views, while adverts on the platform are now forbidden from targeting under-18s based on their interests. Offensive content isn't always taken down instantly, however, so there's still a risk of children encountering it.

VIDEOS AND STREAMING

Facebook Live lets users stream video live to their friends or watch others' broadcasts. Viewers can comment in real time, which is problematic to moderate. Short, user-created clips called Reels can now also be displayed on profiles and feeds. These video features could contain unsuitable material or allow children to be coaxed into doing something on camera that they wouldn't normally do.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

In the settings area, you can choose whether a Facebook profile is public or private. By far the safest option is to switch your child's to private, so they can only interact with people who they are friends with on the platform. Facebook's settings can also prevent your child's personal information (such as contact details, school name or date of birth) from appearing publicly.

ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING

Facebook can help your child to stay connected with the people and the things that they care about. However, it's important for them to understand that they should only accept friend requests from people who they know. The key questions to consider are "has your child met them in person?" and "do they know and trust them enough to feel comfortable accepting them as a Facebook friend?"

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your child watch you using Facebook – this will demonstrate how it can be used safely and appropriately, reducing the risk of them encountering harmful content themselves. Teach them the habit of thinking before sharing anything online and try to follow the same rules that you set for them – so if you agree time limits on your child's Facebook use, then you should stick to them, too.

SAVVY SHARING

Make sure your child realises that what they share online with friends can end up being shared again by others. It's important that they think about what they share online and who they share it with. Facebook's Audience Selector gives users the option to filter who sees what they are sharing, whenever a status is updated, photos are uploaded or anything is posted.

RESPECT BOUNDARIES

Once you've talked about Facebook safety with your child, give them some space and trust them to make smart choices. Make it clear, however, that you're always open to discussing social media if they need to. In the early stages, you could occasionally review your child's social media activity with them to put your mind at rest – but take care not to become reliant on checking it every night.

BLOCK AND REPORT

On Facebook, you're able to report harmful content and block particular people or groups so they can't contact your child or view their profile. Before they start spending serious time on the platform, show your child how these features work and explain why they might need to be used. Facebook's Bullying Prevention Hub offers advice on dealing with harassment on the platform.

Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: www.facebook.com/safety/bullying



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