



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY NEWS

A U T U M N T E R M 2 5 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

We have had a busy fortnight but I would like to start by saying well done and thank you to everyone for supporting us with our fundraising for Children in Need. A huge thank you to everyone for your generosity when donating; we very much appreciate it.

Also a big thank you too to those children and staff who participated in the recent Friendship Week where the children joined in with other schools across the country by exploring the theme 'Reach Out', coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, reminding everyone whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, to reach out and show each other the support we need. We continue to encourage all children to take action against bullying not just this week but throughout the year so please do email or speak to your child's class teacher if your child has shared any concerns regarding their friendships with you.

Class 3BW led on an excellent excellent assembly to celebrate Inter-Faith Week this morning. All children spoke eloquently about how at Hydesville we celebrate different cultures, with everyone having trust, respect and faith for one-another.

We are now at that stage of year where we are getting ready for the festive period, pupils in Early Years are busy rehearsing the nativity play. The older pupils are preparing for Carol Service and it is lovely to see so many pupils wanting to get involved. We will be sending a letter out shortly with all the details.

Wishing you all a lovely 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

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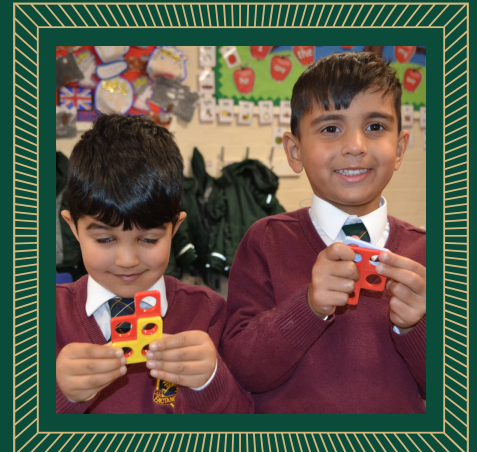
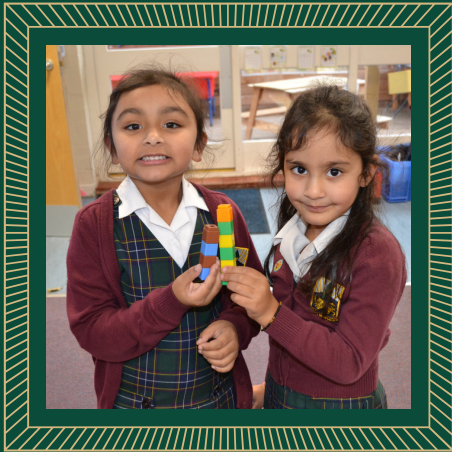
WEEKLY ROUND UP....

Reception

FUN WITH NUMBERS

This week the Reception children have been looking at several ways to find the difference between two numbers. First, we started by looking at the amounts of 'jumps' we would have to take from one number to another to find the difference. We thoroughly enjoyed 'jumping' on our lily pads to find the difference. We even had a frog to help us.

Then we used cubes to make different numbers and compared them against each other to find the difference. Many children enjoyed making the cube tower and comparing them with their partners tower to find the difference between the two numbers. Next, we used a different resource called Numicon and again compared the differences. We had lots of fun completing these activities especially jumping like a frog.



CHILD INITIATED LEARNING

Over the past few weeks, the children in Reception have been working hard in all their chosen child initiated activities, varying from taken on the role of a different characters, cooking dinner for guests, to creating their own vehicles, firework pictures and constructing their own fireworks.

Here are a few examples of their hard work. The children thoroughly enjoyed all these wonderful experiences.



WEEKLY ROUND UP....

Prep School - Year 5

Year 5 are 'Feeling the Force' this half term. We are investigating the forces around us and how they affect our everyday lives.

This week we have been investigating whether Galileo or Aristotle's theories about how objects fall were correct. We used paper to help us work this out using paper we folded different numbers of times and our lap-tops to time accurately how long it took for the paper to fall from a height. You could try this at home. Find out which falls faster, a flat piece of paper or a folded one? Think about why. Try it and see!



Following on from 5K's fantastic assembly on Anti-Bullying last week, our Year 5 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have been continuing to be proactive on the playground each day. Each of our Year 5s are paired with a Year 6 Ambassador who are being excellent role models providing guidance and support. Our Y5s have reported that they are finding the experience really positive-they are pleased to be able to help out and be friends to everyone.

'Our job is making sure everyone is treated the same' (Agamdeep) 'We like making sure everyone feels safe and happy (Rianah)' 'No one feels alone and everyone's culture and background is appreciated' (Shivam and Brogan)



We have been learning all about the 'Day of the Dead' ('Dia de los Muertos' in Spanish) festival which originated in Mexico. If you have watched the Disney film, Coco, you probably already know a bit about it. We have researched lots of information and are currently writing non-chronological reports based on our learning. Year 5 found the following facts particularly interesting; It has been celebrated for over 3000 years, it is celebrated at the same time as Halloween and it is believed that it can even be dangerous as the souls of the dead may seek revenge on the living!!



PREP SCHOOL SPORTS UPDATE

This term has started with a bang with the Year 6 boys participating in the ISA 5-a-side football. They had a great day winning over half of their games. Sadly the Year 4 ISA football tournament was cancelled due to the weather. Fourteen pupils from Year 3 and 4 have started a six week block of fencing. This is taking place in their games lessons with a fencing coach. Pupils are progressing really quickly and are loving learning a new skill. Year 5 and 6 did a fun fun to support Children in Need last week and the two year groups are also back swimming at the Walsall Gala baths and will be developing their range of strokes over until Easter.



Our extra-curricular clubs are also continuing and we have now added gymnastics on a Thursday. We will be adding different clubs throughout the year so make sure you keep a look out!

WEEKLY ROUND UP....

Senior School

AN UPDATE FROM THE HEAD OF YEAR 11

Year 11 pupils up and down the country are half a term into one of the most important years in their academic schooling to date. Y11 pupils at Hydesville have settled in well to the new school term and many have taken on additional responsibilities ranging from well-being ambassadors to prefects.

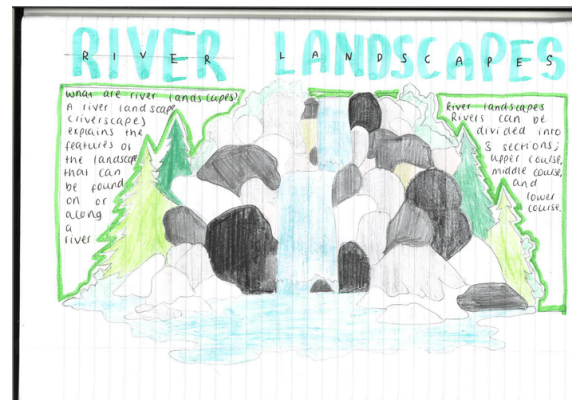
I am pleased to report they are all focused and motivated, with examination preparation now in full stride. There is no anxious face to be found anywhere, and with the level of care and teaching we provide at Hydesville it will hopefully remain so! I look forward to seeing the pupils grow and flourish as the academic year progresses.

Mrs Odunjo

GREAT GEOGRAPHERS!

Mrs Odunjo reports that we have welcomed new geographers into year 7 this academic year; they are eager adventurers with interesting enquiring minds, learning about our world and simple maps. Whilst pupils in Year 8 are beginning to traverse river landscapes and Year 9 pupils are exploring the world's uneven population distribution.

At Key Stage 4, Year 10 pupils have settled easily into the GCSE curriculum, and I'm pleased to report that our Year 11's are nearly ready for May/June 2023. Well done all!



HISTORY ROUND UP

It has been a busy half term in the History department, with pupils participating in a range of activities for Remembrance Day, including assemblies and the decoration of classrooms with poppies.

We also invited a guest speaker from the British Legion into school who gave a talk to Year 7-9 pupils about the importance of the poppy and the work of the British Legion within the local community.

It was lovely to meet so many Year 9 parents this week to explore History as an option choice for pupils for GCSE.

Year 11 have been working well in History lessons to prepare for their upcoming mock exams. Well done to Senior school for all their hard work in History.





PUPILS OF THE WEEK

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



MUSIC PERFORMER OF THE WEEK

NURSERY STAR OF THE WEEK

RECEPTION STAR OF THE WEEK



Preet (Y7) - for her perseverance, leading to excellent performance made in the weekly aural skills tests.

Sahib - for being kind and compassionate to everyone and being super helpful around the Nursery.

Jayan - for excellent effort and progress in writing.

HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS: PREP SCHOOL

Year 1 - Veer
Year 2 - Abu
Year 3 - Alisha



Year 4 - Haris
Year 5 - Asees
Year 6 - Hanson

OTHER AWARDS: PREP SCHOOL

Well done to our super swimmer, Avaani (Y4) for swimming 400m, and to Jayden in Year 3 for achieving his blue belt in karate.

Congratulations to Idrees in Year 2 and Avaani in Year 4 for winning the Inter-Faith Week competition.



NOTICES AND COMING UP...



We're very excited to announce details of our annual Christmas carol service - a highlight of our end of term calendar!

Taking place at the Central Hall Methodist Church on Thursday 15th December at 2pm, everyone is invited!

More details will be sent to parents via Cognita Connect soon.

NEW HOME FOR CRESTED SCHOOLWEAR

Our uniform supplier - Crested Schoolwear - are moving premises. From 1st December their shop will be at 7 Park Street, Walsall, WS1 1LY. The current shop will close on 26th November at 5pm and the new shop will open at 9.30am on Thursday 1st December.



CHRISTMAS FAIR - UPDATES!

We hope that you are as excited as we are about our forthcoming Christmas Fair. If you haven't already, please book your tickets via Cognita Connect.

In order to make the event a success, we would be delighted if the Hydesville Family could donate prizes for the some of our stalls:

Tombola

This year, we would like to invite pupils (Nursery to Y11) to come to school wearing a festive jumper on Friday 9th December in exchange for bringing in an item suitable for tombola gifts.

Donations can include chocolate and toiletries or any other items that you feel are appropriate. We respectfully ask for no alcohol products please.

Raffle

We are also seeking raffle prizes. Please bring your donated prize to the school office no later than Tuesday 13th December.

We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fair; thank you for your ongoing support.



Wednesday 14th December: 5pm to 7pm
A leading independent school in Walsall for boys and girls aged 3 to 16.

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 issues 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 HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING

Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health ... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0808 800 5000

6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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