



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY NEWS

A U T U M N T E R M 9 T H D E C 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

When I look back at my first term here at Hydesville I need to start off by saying a huge thank you to the pupils, parents, and staff for welcoming me.

It has been a fantastic term getting to know the pupils.

This week I have seen the talents of our nursery and reception in 'The Noisy Nativity' and Year 1 and Year 2 having their 'Midwife Crisis'. All the pupils put their heart and soul into their characters. Steve the donkey kept us entertained throughout. A huge well done to them all!

As we draw to the end of term we still have the Christmas Fair and the Christmas Concert next week.

Christmas is a time of joy, happiness, giving and being in the moment. It's one that also represents peace and hope and regardless of religious beliefs, it comes at the end of the year and for many is a time of reflection and looking forward. So whatever your plans I hope you have a restful holiday and enjoy time doing what makes you happiest.

Wishing you all a lovely festive time with those close to you.

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....

EYFS: Hydesville Nursery

A REALLY NOISY NATIVITY



Hydesville Nursery and Reception children certainly excelled themselves during their production of 'A Really Noisy Nativity'. The show enabled the children to retell the Christmas story in a fun and child-friendly way with lots of sound effects using hands, feet, voices and instruments.

All of the hard work that the children put into their rehearsals and practising at home, really paid off as each and every one of the children shone out in their own way for their positive contributions. The children were clearly spoken, vocal and oozed self-confidence.

There is absolutely no denying the joy that parents got the performance and experiencing their children dressed up in Christmas costumes and showing off their acting skills.



SOUND OF THE WEEK

No doubt, many parents have been accessing the Sound of the Week link send through Tapestry as part of the children's homework. The link is really useful to support parents with how to pronounce the pure sounds and a sneak preview into next week's focus sound.



Please follow the link below and share with your child: <https://tinyurl.com/2wskc26c>

WEEKLY ROUND UP....

Prep School - Year 6

BLOOD-CURDLING SCIENCE

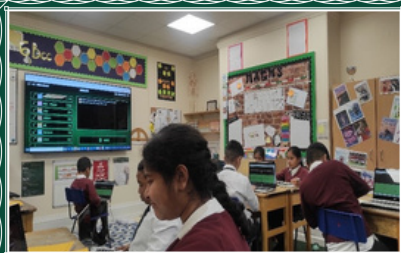
In science, Year 6 have been studying Body Pumps, which explores the inner workings of the human circulatory system. As part of the unit, pupils explored the structure of the heart and how it functions to pump blood around our bodies. Amazingly, they even had the chance to dissect a sheep's heart in the senior science laboratories and then create their own clay hearts to display their learning. This combination of art and science led to some wonderfully realistic models. Later, pupils researched into the four main components of blood: red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and plasma. On completing their research, they 'earned' each ingredient to make their very own blood soup... delicious! Messy, but fun, hands-on learning.



MILITARY MATHS

Linking to our WW2 unit, pupils were recently set a military challenge in our maths lessons. After exploring Alan Turing's ground-breaking work at Bletchley Park, Year 6 were tasked with solving a Codebreaking Challenge using their times tables and reasoning and problem-solving skills.

With skill and determination, many pupils eventually cracked the Enigma codes to reveal the German secrets, bringing WW2 to a close! Pupils later applied their codebreaking skills in a Cryptocurrency Challenge to round off a highly productive morning!

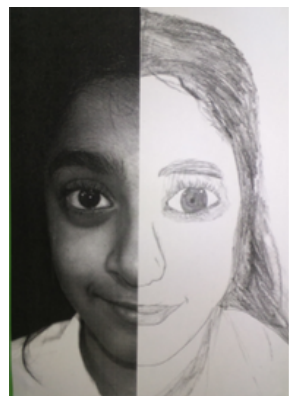
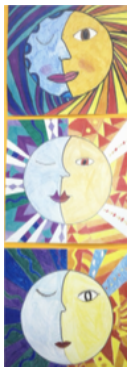


ART UPDATE: UPPER PREP

Year 3 have been creating work influenced by their knowledge of the Vikings, they have made beautiful longboat collages and designed and decorated their own Viking shields.



Year 5 have been creating work influenced by their knowledge of The Aztecs this term in At and DT. They are now creating work based on the 'Day of the Dead' theme, before moving on to festive crafts.



Year 4 have been learning about the structure of the face and drawing facial features. They have each drawn their own half self-portrait. They have also learnt about the artist Pablo Picasso and cubism art styles and have created work influenced by their knowledge of both the artist and cubism.



Year 6 have been learning about different styles of Japanese Art, they have created amazing oil pastel pieces, Japanese style lanterns, reflective pattern art and comic pages 'Manga' style.

WEEKLY ROUND UP....

Senior School

AN UPDATE FROM THE HEAD OF KS4

Year 10 have now settled into their GCSE subjects, with many pupils taking on additional responsibilities, either as School Council representatives, Form Captains, House Captains or subject specific roles. If your child would like a position of responsibility, please remind them to e-mail me with their application letter. Miss Fairbrother, our Careers Advisor, has started the post-16 preparations with the year group; they have received a talk from a law firm and have had an insight into apprenticeships at the Real Apprenticeship event. Well done to Sannah and Rayna for coming 1st and 2nd respectively. Finally, work experience will be launched after Christmas with Miss Fairbrother leading an assembly to explain the process and expectations.

Year 11 are currently busy completing their Post-16 applications. If you have any questions regarding these, please contact either myself or Miss Fairbrother. We advise that pupils apply to at least six different Post-16 destinations. Pupils will receive their final predictions week commencing Monday 12th December. Pupils should add their predictions to their Sixth Form applications, whether a hard copy or an electronic copy, for approval. If after the mock examinations, any predicted grades increase, we will contact Post-16 destinations informing them of the grade change. Mock examinations are planned for Monday 9th January until Friday 20th January inclusive. A timetable will be sent before the end of term.

Mrs Bhadda



SENIOR CHOIR GETS FESTIVE!

This week Senior Choir (plus Amaya and Jasmine from Prep School) headed over to Deutsche Bank in Birmingham City Centre to perform two sets of Christmas carols at the bank's Christmas Fair. It was such a lovely atmosphere and the choir received lots of warm praise from the audience.

What a perfect warmup to Hydesville's upcoming Christmas Concert on Thursday 15th December. Don't forget to reserve your place via Cognita Connect.



SPORTY SENIORS



Over the last few weeks of this term, Senior School pupils have been focusing on 'House Sporting' events. This began with the Senior School Cross Country competition. It was a hard fought competition with boys and girls posting some very quick times. Mr Lawrence enjoyed seeing the pupils work really hard and get into the spirit of representing their house. The results will be announced in the end of term assembly.

It's great to see our pupils use their skills to help other children at Hydesville. Georgia in Year 11 and Jessica in Year 10 have both attended Prep School after-school clubs to pass their knowledge on to the younger year groups. Georgia has helped at Prep Hockey on a Wednesday and Jessica supports the Prep Gymnastics Club on a Thursday.

Next term, Senior School clubs will slightly change. If you are interested in any of the following clubs please sign up on Cognita Connect during the Christmas break:

Monday: Senior Table Tennis Club 3:45 - 4:30

Tuesday: Senior Netball Club 3:45 - 4:30

Friday: Senior Football Club 3:45 - 4:30





PUPILS OF THE WEEK

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



MUSIC PERFORMER OF THE WEEK



Ismaeel (Y6) - for her excellent progress on the guitar.

NURSERY STAR OF THE WEEK



Rudhra - trying hard and growing in independence.

RECEPTION STAR OF THE WEEK



Mahan – for working hard to improve his letter formation

Well done and thank you EVERYONE for raising £277.62 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2022.



NOTICES AND COMING UP...



A reminder that it's our Christmas Concert on Thursday 15th December.

Taking place at the Central Hall Methodist Church at 2pm, everyone is invited!

Book your place via the payments area of Cognita Connect.

SPRING TERM DATES/EVENTS

The Spring Term's dates and events have now been uploaded to the Cognita Connect calendar. Please do take a look.

It's going to be another busy term!

Pupils return after the Christmas break on Monday 9th January 2023.



CHRISTMAS FAIR - NEXT WEEK!

It's our Christmas Fair next week! Please book your tickets via Cognita Connect. You can also pay cash on the door.

Santa's Grotto slots are still available. If you haven't already, you can book and pay on the night. The cost is £6 per child.

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 next week; thank you for your ongoing support.



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

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18
CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 63 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the "TikTok Now" feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, limit their child's screen time, restrict what they can see, set screen time limits, and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning no one who isn't on their friends list won't be able to see their videos and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are falling to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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