



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY NEWS

SPRING TERM 3RD FEBRUARY 2023

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're already over half way through the Spring Term and it's been another busy week of learning; do ask your children what exciting things have been happening in their class this week!

I was extremely proud of Class 3L who led our Prep School assembly this morning, and explained the importance of 'liberty' one of our British Values.

The week began with a fantastic healthy eating workshop for Nursery children in partnership with our catering provider, Chartwells Independent.

Our keen drummers in Prep School impressed us with a surprise flash mob during Tuesday break time. Well done children, and to Mr Hill-Jayne.

Senior School has also been busy. It was lovely to see so many parents at the Year 11 parents' consultations on Wednesday; their last parents' evening before the GCSE exams next term.

It's been an active week for Seniors with Year 8 beginning a programme of team building activities, Year 9 making great progress in their self-defence and martial art classes and Year 10 girls having the opportunity to take part in pilates, abs and toning fitness classes in their recreational PE lessons. I think you have all deserved a restful weekend!

Please do look out for the annual parent survey next week, as your feedback is invaluable in providing us with the insight we need to make informed decisions about change; large or small.

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

#HYDESVILLEFAMILY NEWS

WEEKLY ROUND UP....

Hydesville Nursery: Red Group

CHANNELLING OUR ENERGY INTO WATER PLAY



Red Group have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the water channelling system. Water channels are great fun for children of all ages, as they experiment with water as it flows and pours down the channels. They also develop coordination as they pour from buckets to channels.

When children play, they use and learn language naturally. Words such as sieve, funnel, surface, and flow enriches vocabulary and allows children to express themselves more explicitly. Positional words (beside, above, next to) and words that express relationships (larger, smaller, last) grow naturally out of water-play experiences. All of the children played collaboratively, took turns and shared ideas amongst themselves.



A VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR COMES TO HYDESVILLE



Next week's Sound of the Week is 'h'.

Parents can help children to recognise and write the letter: "down the chimney to the floor, up and over the new front door."



Nursery children enjoyed a Chartwells interactive session based on The Very Hungry Caterpillar story. They identified the different foods the caterpillar ate and discussed which foods helped the caterpillar to grow and stay healthy, and which foods made the caterpillar poorly.

The children then took part in the edible art challenge, where they created a caterpillar made with a selection of fruits and vegetables. They enjoyed tasting their creations!

EXPERIMENTING WITH COLOURS



Children have been very busy this week predicting, examining and discussing colour mixing. Red Group children have been having lots of fun experimenting with colours.

The children chose from a selection of colours to practise their science thinking skills to make predictions, comparisons whilst observing the results when mixing two colours together. Clever little scientists in the making!



WEEKLY ROUND UP....

Prep School - Year 2



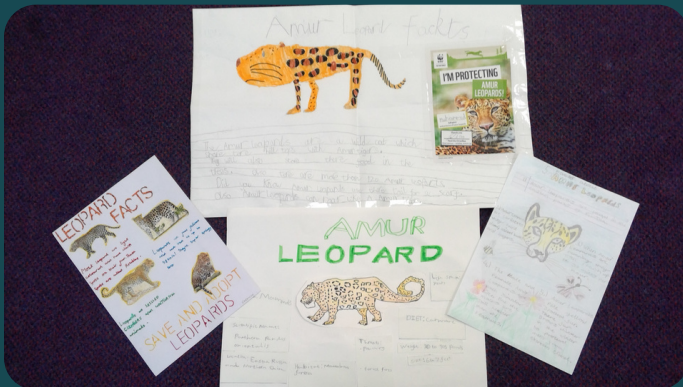
In Science children in Year 2 have been participating in STEM activities. One of the activities required the children to think about how they could build the tallest paper tower. Pupils then worked in small groups to construct and measure their towers.



In Maths, the children have been improving their skills in using money. They have improved their understanding of recognising and making different amounts with coins and notes. They discovered you can make the same amount a variety of ways. They have also used bar models to help them with finding the difference so they can work out how much change they would received from a given amount.



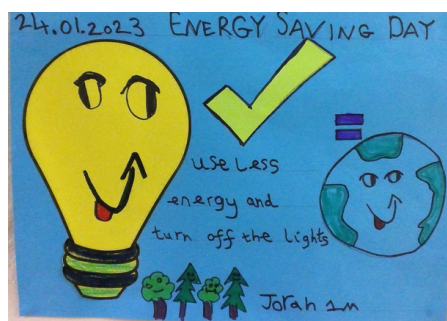
Lucky Year 2 children have been gifted with an adoption pack for an Amur Leopard and they conducted some research for their homework projects.



Year 2's topic this term is 'Being British' which has been incorporated into Art too. The children have been using their artistic talents to draw portraits. There are some very artistic children in Year 2!

OUR ENERGY SAVING PUPILS!

Last week, Prep school celebrated 'Energy Saving Day' run by the Eco-Committee, who made posters to advertise the event and remind everyone to reduce their energy use. Blinds were opened, lights and computers turned off in an effort to reduce our carbon footprint. Hopefully, it will encourage staff and pupils alike to be more conscious of the energy we use in school and at home.



WEEKLY ROUND UP....

Senior School

AN UPDATE FROM THE HEAD OF YEAR 9

It was lovely to meet so many Year 9 Parents at Options Evening to discuss subjects that pupils are considering taking for GCSE, and their thoughts about future aspirations and careers. Options Evening is an important event in enabling pupils to make these important decisions and to take the first step on their GCSE journey.

Pupils in 9B also delivered their form assembly last week on the theme of 'showing gratitude' and Holocaust Memorial Day. Pupils reflected on the life of Holocaust Survivor Zigi Shipper who recently died on his 93rd birthday on Wednesday 18th January. Keep up the good work Year 9!

Miss Thorne

Holocaust Memorial Day

27 January 2022



FANTASTIC FIELDWORK!

For Year 11, this term is about preparing for their final GCSE exams. Part of this involves an element of fieldwork.

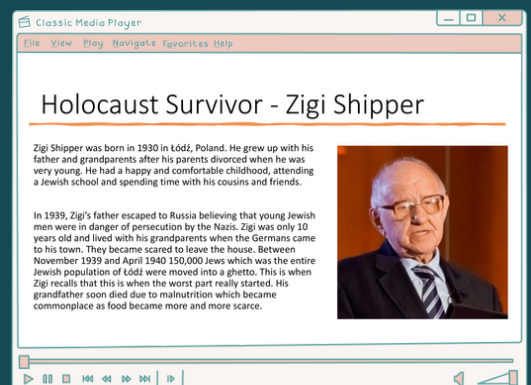
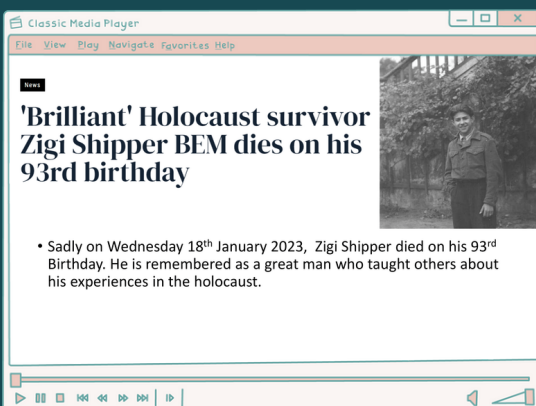
Last half term, our budding geographers went to Birmingham city centre to undertake fieldwork based on the redevelopment of the area, and to research the extent to which the new connectivity has had positive social, economic and environmental impacts.

Aside from learning, the pupils also had lots of fun and we are pleased to report they were very good ambassadors for our school. Amira (our Head Girl) even got a reward from a local business for how articulate she was in explaining their research. Well done Amira and Year 11!



SPOTLIGHT ON...HISTORY

It has been a busy term so far in History. Year 11 have recently completed their mock exams and it has been pleasing to see their efforts in revision and reflection on their attainment and progress.



Year 9 have been designing Holocaust memorial templates as a way of reflecting on Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January. There have been some excellent examples of work on this to encourage reflection within our school community.

SPORTS ROUND UP....

Senior School

It's been a busy start to the Spring Term for the PE department across Senior School. Year 10 girls are having the opportunity to take part in pilates, abs and toning fitness classes in their recreational PE lesson lead by a fitness instructor at the Sports facilities at the Walsall Campus at the University of Wolverhampton.



Pupils in Year 9 are learning about self defence in their games lessons over the next three weeks. Being delivered by [Sporting Your Futures](#), the sessions cover a variety of martial arts and self defence techniques. They will learn and implement some general basic moves, various evasion tactics, footwork skills and stances that facilitate either defence, attacking, or both over the 5 weeks. This will be a great opportunity for peer-to-peer learning within a controlled and safe environment.

Our After-School Club programme is proving a hit with pupils. This term pupils can do table tennis on a Monday, Netball on a Tuesday and Football on a Friday. All classes are free of charge and can be booked via Cognita Connect.



This week, pupils in Year 8 have begun a programme team building activities delivered by [Sporting Your Futures](#).



PUPILS OF THE WEEK

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

NURSERY STAR OF THE WEEK



Amaya - for being a lovely new addition to yellow group and doing well in her activities.

RECEPTION STAR OF THE WEEK



Shyla – for good behaviour and trying to complete her work independently.

MUSIC PERFORMER OF THE WEEK



Avaani (Y5) - for working really hard to get her flute piece to performance standard. Keep going Avaani!

SENIOR PUPIL OF THE WEEK



Rayah (Y9) - for helping out in form and making the new starters feel welcome.

PREP SCHOOL PUPILS OF THE WEEK:

- Y1: Alaanvee
- Y2: Lilianne
- Y3: Zayn
- Y4: Kadii
- Y5: Simran J
- Y6: Amrit



NOTICES AND COMING UP...

CAREERS WEEK - WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are still looking for members of the #Hydesvillefamily to help us support National Careers Week from 6th – 11th March. In particular we need:

- A vet
- A dentist
- An architect

Can you help? If so, please contact our careers teacher, Miss Fairbrother, on 01922 624937 or email danni.fairbrother@hydesville.com



We are very excited to announce our 70th anniversary Gala Dinner on Thursday 6th July. Hydesville parents - please express your interest in joining us via Cognita Connect. More details will be released soon!

SCHOOL TROUSERS

We make no apologies for having exceptionally high standards when it comes to school uniform and appreciate the continued support from home in ensuring our pupils are always well turned out.

Can we please remind parents that boys trousers should be of a dark charcoal colour. Our school uniform shop, Crested, sell the correct colour of trouser. Parents can purchase them from elsewhere but please ensure they are the correct shade.

The school office has some charcoal grey fabric samples, please collect one if you wish.

BOLLYWOOD ECHOES INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS
Valentine's Dinner & Dance
SATURDAY, 11TH FEB, 2023

Tickets £20 **Local Charities**

SHAZ VAISHALI
SUNIL RAMESH

WELLINGTON RD COMMUNITY CENTRE
27 WELLINGTON RD DUDLEY
DY1 1UB
TIME: 6PM TILL LATE

3 COURSE MEAL INCLUDED

FOR TICKETS-PLEASE CONTACT
RAJESH PATEL - 07811014454
MOHAMMED HANIF - 07779823975
VAISHALI PATEL - 07502151820
RAMESH - 07973 834371



Please note, the after-school club mobile number is: 07385 935856.

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 games that 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

FORTNITE

CHAPTER 3

AGE RATING
PEGI 12

First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Save the World mode, for example, can become quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £9.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for dedicated players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation), but the rivalry aspect remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or "toxic" behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks or vast amounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developer doesn't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, trades and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

Advice for Parents & Carers

STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Free-to-play games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains. In Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision, however, this can be a great lesson in money management for young people.

TALK ABOUT TALKING

Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with team-mates online helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading, scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours isn't healthy, of course, but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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Sources: <https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/fortnite-crew-subscription> | <https://www.epicgames.com/help/en-US/fortnite-c75/battle-royale-c93/how-to-get-more-vbucks-in-battle-royale-c3274> | <https://www.epicgames.com/help/en-US/fortnite-c75/battle-royale-c93/what-is-the-battle-pass-where-can-i-learn-more-c3271> | <https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/parental-controls>



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