



HYDESVILLE  
TOWER SCHOOL

# #HYDESVILLEFAMILY NEWS

S U M M E R T E R M 1 9 T H M A Y 2 0 2 3

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

Finally, the weather seems to be improving this week, so it's been lovely to see the children benefitting from the outdoor spaces available to them. Nursery & Reception have access to the beautiful fairy garden, allowing them to explore, learn and have fun in the mud kitchen and other areas, whilst the older Prep School pupils have been making the most of their new playground toys. I've seen lots of happy children playing with their friends during break and lunchtimes this week.

It's been a tense week for Year 11, with GCSE exams now in full swing. I would like to say a big thank you to my Senior School staff who have been running extra revision classes, before, during and after school, to ensure all our pupils are as prepared as they can be for the examinations.

I would also like to wish pupils in Prep School and those in Year 7 – 10 lots of luck for their exams and assessment weeks. I'm sure you will all do yourselves, your parents, and your teachers proud.

I wish you all a lovely weekend – and hope those pupils in the midst of exams manage to have some down time too. It's important to take breaks away from revision to spend time with family, friends and doing things you enjoy.



*Mrs Samra*

We love to hear about what you're getting up to!

Send in your photos, news and updates to:

[info@hydesville.com](mailto:info@hydesville.com) or  
[sarah.archer@hydesville.com](mailto:sarah.archer@hydesville.com)



#HYDESVILLEFAMILY NEWS

# WEEKLY ROUND UP....

*EYFS: Hydesville Nursery*

## MAKING OUR MARK

Red Group have been very busy demonstrating their fantastic mark-making skills. We made the most of the sunshine by mark-making outdoors using water and paintbrushes. As children grow and develop, they begin to learn to better control their movements. They practise using the muscles in their hand in order to draw and their hand-eye coordination develops. These are essential skills for learning to write.

Mark-making also gives children the opportunity to express themselves, communicate their feelings and explore their environment. Through making patterns and swirls, children develop their creativity and imagination.

Children can mark make using a variety of tools, including pens, pencils, paint brushes, sticks or just their fingertips. You don't even need paint; water can be just as fun!



## SENSORY FUN



Children loved exploring the mini-beast sensory trays. Sensory play is great for children's learning and development by helping strengthen connections in the brain. This week children have thoroughly enjoyed messy play with cornflour, these activities help in the development of children's language and communication skills, as well as cognitive, and gross and fine motor skills.



## MAKING MUSIC

Red Group children enjoyed exploring musical instruments within circle time this week. Incorporating music into routines and play in the early years has a positive influence on your child's early development. It can get them moving, thinking and inspire creativity.



## SOUND OF THE WEEK

When we return next week our sound will be: 'sh' – 'put a finger to your lips'. Can you think of any words beginning with this sound? Please support and encourage your child with activities based around this sound and read the weekly sound book uploaded to Tapestry.

sh



sheep



shell



ship



# WEEKLY ROUND UP....

## Prep School: Year 2



It's been a busy term already for pupils in Year 2. In art they have been using materials and tools to sculpt a hand. They achieved some amazing results!



Pupils have been learning about data handling in computing. They collected all their own data by asking questions to their peers, and then put all of the data into a table to see the results.



During Science lessons, the children learnt about the importance of keeping fit and healthy. They designed their own workouts and took it in turns to do them with the class.



In Geography pupils have been improving their mapping skills. They looked at local area maps and found features such as the motorway, railway and canals. We noticed features such as Sutton Park and made comparisons to how the countryside looked compared to the larger towns as there were a lot more roads and houses in these towns.

The children also made comments about the junctions on the motorway and the different symbols for features in OS maps such as the fish and boating symbols.



## 11+ PREPARATION

Year 5's preparation for the 11+ exam in September is well under way. In the coming weeks, pupils will continue to practise their skills in English, Maths, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning and working to time limits. In addition, there will be the opportunity to experience 'mock exams' to develop pupils' test technique and their confidence when facing challenging situations.

Parents may already be aware that the application process has changed and there is now only one registration required. The portal to register your child for the 11+ exam opens and closes on 30th June. You can register by visiting <https://westmidlandsgrammarschools.co.uk/>

# WEEKLY ROUND UP....

## Senior School



### SENIOR PUPILS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Six senior school pupils achieved four bronze, two silver and one gold in this year's UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.

Over 250,000 pupils from across the UK sat the Junior Maths Challenge, which is run by Leeds University.

Approximately 6% of entrants receive a gold certificate, the next 13% silver and the next 21% bronze.

The highest score in the school came from Leo from Year 7 who deserves a special mention. The silver award went to Samraaj and the Bronze awards to Hasmeet, Rohan, Musa and Dhaya.

Well done to all of our high flying mathematicians.



### AN UPDATE FROM HISTORY

It has been a busy term in History across the Senior School. Year 7 and 8 have been busy writing newspaper articles about the coronation of King Charles III to reflect on the coronation and its significance. Well done to Haris for his article on this! It showed excellent research and creativity!

Year 11 will soon be sitting their GCSE History examinations and have been working hard with their revision and exam practice for this. I wish them the very best of luck! I also wish all year groups the best of luck in their end of year History examinations and will look forward to reading their responses and giving feedback in due course.

*Miss Thorne  
History teacher*



### AMAZING ARTWORK, ALICE!

Mrs Shaw has been blown away with Alice in Year 8's artwork this week.

Alice has completed these amazing acrylic paintings whilst exploring the work of Seamus Berkley. She has captured the tonal values wonderfully well.

What fabulous work!





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



## NURSERY STAR OF THE WEEK



Bella - for growing in self-confidence and self-awareness.

## RECEPTION STAR OF THE WEEK



Shyla - for trying extremely hard to show an improvement in all areas of the curriculum, especially her listening skills.

## SENIOR PUPIL OF THE WEEK



Ayesha (Y10) - for being awarded a bursary for her application to attend the Debate Academy in the summer. Only a few bursaries were awarded out of thousands of applicants so Ayesha has done an amazing job to receive this funding for her place.

## PERFORMER OF THE WEEK



Arun (Y11) - for working hard to improve his intonation on the violin and subsequently his GCSE performance scores.



We regularly post school news and updates on our social media platforms - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Please click on the icons below to find out what's been happening, and read on for this week's social media round up.....

## Social media round up



Pupils in Year 4 had a fantastic hands-on lesson in identifying Ancient Egyptian artefacts last week when they were visited by representatives from Sandwell Museum.

The pupils had the chance to hold and explore various artefacts and speculate about what they could be, as well as seeing some replicas of pieces. There was much excitement when they saw a real-life mummified head!



Year 6 pupils completed the 'Expedition' element of their Hydesville Challenge by walking through the Dove Valley in the Peak District.

Mr Burnham explains: "We began in the beautiful village of Hartington and walked at a comfortable pace, trying to avoid cows, cowpats and flies to much hilarity. Eventually, we reached the River Dove and the pupils were in awe of the tranquil setting of steep valley sides and blue skies overhead.



"After lunch, the promise of an ice lolly motivated them to soldier on to Milldale, where they took a well-earned break and devoured their treat. By this time, the pupils realised why it's called the Hydesville Challenge, as their legs were tired, and they still had two miles to reach the finish.

"One final push saw us reach Ilam; the children were super excited to reach the steppingstones and enjoy a celebratory paddle – there were many tired feet after an 8-mile walk comprising 30416 steps! A superb achievement, Year 6!"

What an incredible opportunity this was for the children, and such an important part of their Prep School journey at Hydesville, with a chance to get out of the classroom and learn by exploring the wonderful outdoors and making memories for life.

We're so excited to announce more Independent Schools Association (ISA) success for Hydesville pupils....Mrs Dowen's Reception class are one of only ten winners in the EYFS Young Storytellers Competition!

The super talented class came together to write an imaginative adventure tale called 'Dinosaur Door'. Their winning story will be published in a book.

We are so proud of the whole class - this is the first time that an entry from Hydesville Prep has won in an ISA writing competition.

Wow, what an achievement RD. Well done to you all!



We regularly post school news and updates on our social media platforms - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Please click on the icons below to find out what's been happening, and read on for this week's social media round up.....

## Social media round up



A big Hydesville congratulations to today's #WowWednesday recipients: To Arjun, Jared, Jorah and Rutendo for achievements in martial arts, to Arjun (again!) for being a super swimmer, to Abu for football, Amaya for gymnastics and to Layla for LAMDA successes. Well done as well to Cataleya for her array of Blue Peter badges 😊

Another successful week for Hydesville Prep School children, good work all!



We are delighted to now open the bookings for our Gala Dinner extravaganza on Thursday 6th July, celebrating the end of this academic year and Hydesville's 70th anniversary.

Tickets can be purchased via Cognita Connect and are priced at £35 a head, which include a welcome drink, three course meal and dancing until late!

Please also bring along friends and family, but we respectfully ask for no under 18s. We look forward to seeing you there!

Only a few places currently remain for Reception entry in September 2023. Come to our FREE Reception taster session on Friday 9th June to meet Reception staff and see for yourself what value a Hydesville Prep School education can offer.

We promise an action-packed morning including storytelling, arts and crafts activities and even a trip into Walsall Arboretum.

Inspired by the heart-warming Jasper's Beanstalk's children's story, we will take your little one on a journey of discovery, involving plant growth and beanstalks!

Places are limited so do please confirm your attendance ASAP via [admissions@hydesville.com](mailto:admissions@hydesville.com) or call 01922 748817.





## NOTICES AND COMING UP...



Bookings for our May Half Term Fun Club are now open on Cognita Connect.

The Club is open to all Hydesville Nursery and Reception pupils and is priced at £25 a day. Club hours are 9am - 4pm, and we're open from Tuesday 30th May to Friday 2nd June.

Places are limited so please hurry to book your child's place.

## PARKING REMINDER

Hydesville Tower School actively encourages good relationships with its neighbours, and expects all parents to park considerately, respecting local residents and adhering to the Highway Code.

Can we also draw your attention to alternative parking options, including the FREE use of the Lower Rushall Street car park. Permits to park here are available from the school office. Parents can park here and then walk their children to school (approx. 7 minute walk).

The Year 8 cricket team played against St. George's School this week and started with a win.

Hydesville batted first and scored 209 with Rohan top scoring. Hydesville then we excellent with the ball and manage to restrict St. Georges to 190.

A great bowling performance from Hamza, Abdur and Rohan. We done everyone a great team performance!



**Monday**

**22nd May:  
Y5 meeting**

There will a meeting for all Year 5 parents on Monday 22nd May at 4pm to find out more about the forthcoming residential visit to Blenheim Woods.

During the meeting, staff will discuss the trip in more detail and an equipment list will be made available. If you are unable to make the meeting, we will send details home with your child.