



## Snow Day Fun

A Rare Snowy Surprise: Our Snow Day on Friday 9th January



## A Welcome from the Headteacher

Despite disruption from Storm Goretti, the Hydesville Tower School community showed great resilience, quickly adapting to high-quality online learning. Pupils also enjoyed engaging activities such as the successful Bear Hunt, making for a positive start to the term.

## SPORT

Year 9 pupils launched into their new Judo programme during the first week of term, embracing an exciting and challenging addition to the PE curriculum.



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# WELCOME

## A WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I don't think any of us expected the new term to begin with quite so many challenges. Storm Goretti certainly surprised us all. However, the Hydesville Tower School community responded with resilience, flexibility, and a strong sense of teamwork.

Despite the disruption, the school adapted quickly to online learning. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all staff at Hydesville Tower School, who returned after the Christmas break with real energy and commitment to our pupils and families, under the direction of Mrs Chand and Mrs Dhadda.

A particular thank you goes to staff for the collective effort shown on Friday, when high-quality online learning was delivered smoothly despite winter conditions disrupting the usual routine. The speed at which lessons were adapted, alongside the care and reassurance offered to pupils, ensured that learning continued with minimal interruption.

The professionalism, flexibility, and collaborative approach shown across the school reflect our shared commitment to maintaining high standards for every child, whatever the circumstances.

It has also been lovely to hear about the Bear Hunt, which was a great success. The children had a fantastic time, and it was wonderful to see such engaging and enjoyable experiences continuing so early in the term.

On a personal note, I am definitely experiencing a little FOMO—fear of missing out. While I am very much here and working remotely, I am truly missing the buzz of being in school and seeing our pupils each day. I very much look forward to being back in the building soon and reconnecting with the school community face to face.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

*Mrs Samra*



## Upcoming Events

**Thursday 22nd January**  
Year 4 11+ Workshop

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January**  
Year 9 Geography  
Fieldwork Week

Year 11 GCSE PE  
Climbing Assessment  
Trip

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January**  
Holocaust Memorial  
Day

Young Voices

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**  
Year 3 11+ Workshop

Year 9 Options Evening

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January**  
Chinese New Year

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**  
Reception Information  
Event

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**  
Year 7 Parents Evening

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**  
Nursery Maths  
Workshop

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**  
Upper Prep Musical

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March**  
Open Morning



# Nursery

## INTERACTIVE BEAR HUNT WITH RECEPTION TEACHING STAFF

### ‘Going on a Bear Hunt’ Reception Workshop

Hydesville Tower School was delighted to welcome children and parents to our recent Going on a Bear Hunt workshop, which provided a highly engaging and interactive introduction to Reception. The morning was filled with storytelling, exploration and imaginative activities, offering families a wonderful insight into how learning is brought to life in our Early Years setting.

The workshop demonstrated a creative and immersive approach to learning, enabling children and parents to experience the joy of shared storytelling while taking part in carefully planned classroom activities. It was a memorable occasion that highlighted how enjoyable and meaningful early learning can be.

One parent, Mrs Suthi, shared the following feedback in full:

“Just wanted to say WOW and thank you.

The bear hunt was by far my favourite event I have attended at the school; it was so much fun.

What a creative and immersive way to bring the book to life for the children and parents. I can imagine a lot of core memories were made today. Lovely introduction into Reception, where Mrs Downen, you showed how learning is so much fun. The activities in the classroom tied in beautifully.

Thank you for putting on such a brilliant event. It was amazing!!!!!!”

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all families who attended and helped make the morning such a success. It was a pleasure to share this experience and see so much enthusiasm from our future Reception pupils.



For families who were unable to attend, or who would like further information, our Reception Information Event will take place on Tuesday 3rd February at 9.00am. For further details, please contact our Admissions Manager Mrs Passi on: 01922624374 [admissions@hydesville.co.uk](mailto:admissions@hydesville.co.uk)

# Snow Day Fun

## A RARE SNOWY SURPRISE: OUR SNOW DAY ON FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY

Friday 9th January brought with it an unexpected but memorable interruption to the school routine, as Storm Goretti swept across the country, bringing extreme winter weather and significant snowfall. Like many schools nationwide, we made the decision to close in the interests of everyone's safety.

While snow is something of a rarity for us, it certainly did not go unappreciated. Our pupils embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm, wrapping up warmly and heading outdoors to enjoy this special winter moment. From carefully crafted snowmen to imaginative snowy scenes, it was wonderful to see their creativity and excitement shine - proof that learning and fun can happen even beyond the classroom.

We were delighted to see how pupils made the most of the day, creating happy memories with family and friends while staying safe and cosy. Events like these remind us how valuable it is to pause, enjoy something out of the ordinary, and appreciate the simple joys that childhood brings.

We hope all our families stayed safe and warm throughout the storm, and that the snowy conditions added a little magic to the weekend. It was lovely to welcome everyone back to school earlier this week when learning resumed as usual.

Thank you, as always, for your support and understanding during this rare but necessary closure.



# Let The Games Begin

## UPPER PREP MUSICAL: PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY

We are delighted to announce that pupils in Upper Prep (Years 3–6) are busily preparing for their exciting upcoming musical production, Let the Games Begin, and we cannot wait to welcome families to enjoy what promises to be a lively, humorous and imaginative performance.

This original musical follows the story of three technology-obsessed youngsters who visit their grandfather, only to find his patience wearing thin with their constant focus on phones and the internet. Determined to show them there is more to life than screens, Grandad reveals a mysterious pair of seven-sided dice, gifted to him long ago in the Far East by a wise old mystic. Despite his very clear warning never to touch them, the mischievous Marney cannot resist...

With a dramatic roll of the dice, flashes of light, claps of thunder and eerie sounds fill the air, and the trio are whisked away to the strange and surreal land of Lady Fortune. There, they find themselves unwilling pawns in her games, forced to compete for their freedom. Each child must face Lady Fortune in a game of their choice, knowing that failure could mean becoming a permanent piece in her world forever!

Along the way, they encounter a host of eccentric and entertaining characters inspired by classic board games. Audiences can look forward to meeting the pompous Stationmasters and fast-talking Fleet Street reporters from Monopoly, the defensive suspects of Cluedo, and the constantly quarrelling Castles in a dramatic final game of Chess.



Will our heroes learn to play the games for real and outwit the conniving Lady Fortune? And will they discover that sometimes the “real deal” is far better than the virtual world?

Performances will take place on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th March. Tickets will be available soon from Reception, with further details to follow.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work, enthusiasm and teamwork our Upper Prep pupils are showing, and we look forward to sharing this wonderful production with you. Do join us and let the games begin!





# Prep

## YEAR 4 11+ WORKSHOP

On Thursday 22nd January 9am-10am, Year 4 will be hosting an 11+ Workshop for parents, offering an engaging insight into the learning and preparation that underpins the 11+ journey at Hydesville.

The workshop will focus on the development of logical thinking, problem-solving skills, reasoning abilities and collaboration. The morning will begin with a short presentation delivered by Mrs Watson and Mrs Chand, setting the scene for the activities to follow. Parents will then have the opportunity to work alongside the children in small groups, taking part in a range of challenging reasoning and non-verbal reasoning tasks.

This event provides a valuable opportunity to observe how Year 4 pupils are supported in building the skills required for the 11+ entrance examinations. Children will be actively involved throughout, engaging in activities that reflect different aspects of the tests and reinforce the essential mathematical and reasoning skills developed during weekly lessons.

The workshop will take place in the school hall, where all Year 4 classes will be based. Refreshments will be available in the dining hall from 8:45 am, ahead of a 9:00 am start. The session is expected to conclude at approximately 10:15 am.

Parents are warmly encouraged to attend and take part in this collaborative learning experience, which highlights the school's approach to preparation and partnership with families. Attendance can be confirmed via Blenheim Connect to ensure sufficient materials are prepared. The Year 4 team looks forward to welcoming parents on the day and thanks them for their continued support.



# Prep

## GETTING READY FOR THE 11+: A SPECIAL WORKSHOP FOR YEAR 3



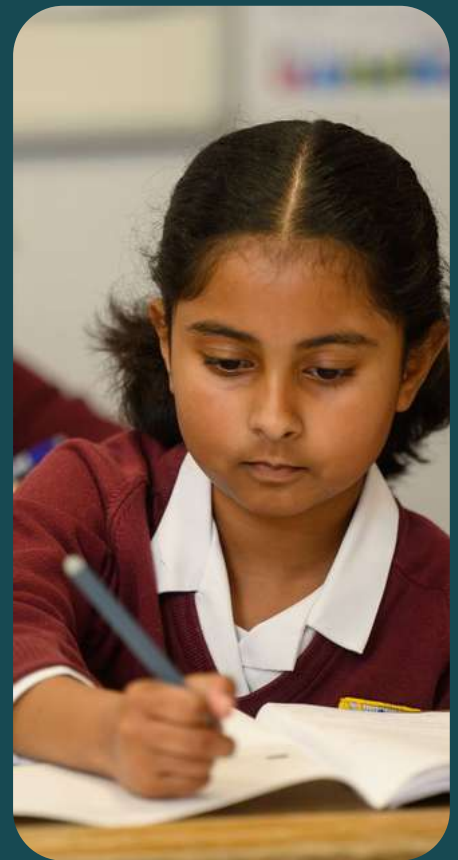
On Wednesday 28th January, we are delighted to invite Year 3 parents and pupils to our Preparation for 11+ Workshop – an exciting opportunity to step into the world of 11+ learning.

The morning will begin with a short presentation from Mrs Chand and Mrs Majithia, giving parents a clear overview of how we prepare pupils for the 11+ from Year 3 onwards. This will be followed by interactive group activities, where parents and children will work together on fun yet challenging tasks, including reasoning and non-verbal reasoning exercises that reflect the style of the tests.

The workshop will be held in the school hall, with refreshments available from 8:45 am. The session will run from 9:00 am to approximately 10:15 am.

Please remember to confirm your attendance via Blenheim Connect (Authorise / Unauthorise) so we can prepare materials for everyone.

We look forward to welcoming our Year 3 families for a lively and informative morning of learning and collaboration.



# Prep

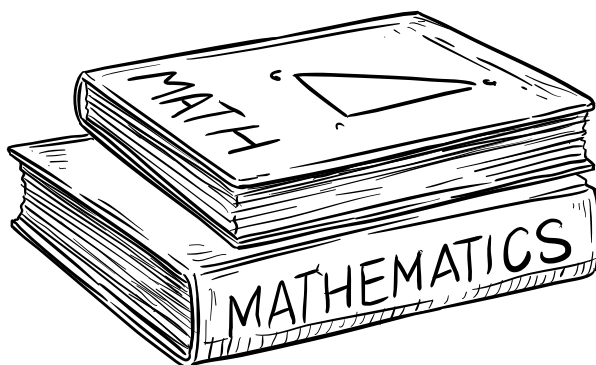
## TIMES TABLES TRIUMPHS: PUPILS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!

Pupils spent time working diligently to strengthen their times tables skills in preparation for this term's Times Tables Challenge, and we are delighted to celebrate their achievements.

Warm congratulations to Saira, Chrys and Arjun for attaining their Bronze badges; to Jayan, Sophia, Jorah, Navan and Sahib for achieving Silver; and to Kuvan, Nusaybah, Dylan C, Bethany, Zikora and Arjun B for reaching the Gold standard. Special praise goes to Jaachi for achieving the prestigious Diamond level – a truly outstanding accomplishment.

There are no new additions to the Hall of Fame, and the impressive record of 50 questions in 48 seconds remains unbeaten.

Well done to all pupils who took part. Even if a badge or record was not achieved on this occasion, your efforts are commendable – keep practising and striving for success.





# Senior

## CELEBRATING CREATIVITY: YEAR 10 ARTISTS EXPLORE IDENTITY

We are delighted to celebrate the exceptional creativity and artistic skill demonstrated by our Year 10 pupils, who used the Christmas holidays to complete a series of outstanding mini-GCSE art projects. Working to the theme of identity, pupils were encouraged to reflect on who we are, how we see ourselves, and how we choose to express individuality through art. The results have been nothing short of inspiring.

The projects showcase a wide range of techniques, styles and interpretations. From beautifully observed pencil portraits, capturing subtle expression and fine detail, to bold, vibrant compositions bursting with colour and emotion, each piece tells a unique story. These works demonstrate not only technical ability, but also imagination, confidence and a willingness to take creative risks—key qualities for success in art and design.

We are particularly proud to highlight the following pieces:

- Zoya (Year 10) – Pencil Drawing: a delicately rendered portrait displaying excellent control, tonal variation and attention to detail.
- Kiratdeep (Year 10) – Superstar: a dynamic and expressive artwork that radiates personality, energy and flair.
- Sukhmandeep (Year 10) – Flower Girl: a striking piece combining colour and symbolism to explore identity in a thoughtful and visually engaging way.

These artworks are a wonderful example of the dedication and passion our pupils bring to their creative subjects, even beyond the classroom. Completing such high-quality work during the holidays reflects genuine commitment and a growing confidence in their artistic voice.

A huge congratulations to all our Year 10 artists for their hard work and originality. Your creativity is inspiring to others and sets a fantastic example of what can be achieved through curiosity, perseverance and imagination. We look forward to seeing how these talents continue to develop as the GCSE course progresses.



# Senior

## CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: LEARNING FOR LIFE IN YEARS 7 & 8

Character Development lessons continue to support reflection, confidence and personal growth for pupils in Years 7 and 8, helping them develop important life skills alongside their academic learning.

In Year 7, pupils have been preparing presentations about a famous person who inspires them. After beginning this work at the end of the Autumn Term, they are now ready to present their projects to the class. Through researching and sharing their ideas, pupils build confidence and communication skills, while reflecting on the qualities they admire, such as resilience, kindness, courage and determination.

Following the presentations, Year 7 will move on to a new topic focusing on Social Media. Pupils will explore its role in young people's lives and learn how to use it safely, respectfully and responsibly.

Year 8 pupils have made an excellent start to their topic on Physical Health, focusing on diet, exercise and sleep. As the topic develops, they will also explore the link between mental and physical health, highlighting the importance of caring for both mind and body.

Together, these lessons encourage pupils to make positive choices, develop resilience and build a strong sense of wellbeing, supporting their growth both in and beyond the classroom.



# Senior

## YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS: AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD

Year 9 marks a pivotal moment in a pupil's school journey, as it is the stage at which GCSE subject choices begin to take shape. Over the coming weeks, pupils will be encouraged to reflect carefully on their interests, strengths and future ambitions as they consider the subjects they may study over the next two years.

Earlier this week, pupils took part in informal and supportive discussions with their Head of Year. These conversations focused on identifying individual talents, exploring subject preferences and making provisional option choices. For many pupils, this has been a valuable first step in understanding how their personal interests can shape their GCSE pathway.

To support this process further, the upcoming GCSE Options Evening on Wednesday 28 January will provide an opportunity for pupils and parents to deepen their understanding of the subjects on offer. By speaking with subject teachers, families can gain greater insight into course content, expectations and assessment methods, helping pupils to make informed and confident decisions.

In addition, pupils will receive a GCSE Options Booklet, which offers detailed guidance on each subject available at GCSE. This resource is designed to support thoughtful discussion at home and we strongly encourage pupils and parents to read it carefully together, as well as to undertake further research where appropriate.

When making final choices, pupils are advised to select subjects they enjoy and feel confident studying, rather than being influenced by the choices of friends. GCSEs are most rewarding when they reflect a pupil's genuine interests and strengths, and when they align with future goals and aspirations.

As Year 9 pupils embark on this important stage of their education, the school remains committed to offering guidance and support every step of the way, ensuring each pupil is well prepared for a positive and successful GCSE experience.



**GCSE OPTIONS EVENING  
WEDNESDAY 28  
JANUARY**





# SPORT

## U9 TEAMS TAKE ON YARLET IN A WEEK OF GRIT, GROWTH AND GREAT TEAM SPIRIT

### U9 Football vs Yarlet

The Year 3 and 4 A Team boys welcomed Yarlet for an exciting home fixture this week. With only a handful of matches played so far, the team faced a significant challenge against a well-organised and experienced opposition. The boys rose admirably to the occasion, delivering several strong individual and team performances throughout the match.

Despite a determined and resolute defensive effort, Yarlet's experience ultimately proved decisive. The result did not reflect the spirit, teamwork and commitment shown by our players, who can be proud of the progress they continue to make.

**Result:** Loss

**Score:** 4-0

**Player of the Match:** Veer

### U9 Netball / Benchball vs Yarlet

The U9 Netball and Benchball team played their very first competitive match against Yarlet this week, making the occasion both exciting and challenging. Facing a highly experienced opposition, our players showed great enthusiasm and courage as they took to the court.

Yarlet moved the ball confidently and demonstrated strong teamwork, but our team never gave up and gained valuable match experience that will serve them well in future fixtures. A fantastic first outing and an important learning opportunity for all involved.

**Result:** Loss

**Score:** 14-1

**Player of the Match:** Rutendo



# SPORT

## YEAR 9 STEP ONTO THE MAT: A DYNAMIC START TO JUDO

Hear 9 pupils launched into their new Judo programme during the first week of term, embracing an exciting and challenging addition to the PE curriculum. Over the coming half term, pupils will be introduced to the fundamentals of this historic and highly respected martial art, with a strong focus on basic self-defence techniques.

Judo, which translates as “the gentle way”, places great emphasis on control, balance and technique rather than brute force. Through carefully structured sessions, pupils are developing essential skills such as safe falling, controlled movement and effective body positioning. These techniques not only promote personal safety but also encourage discipline, respect and self-control.

We are particularly fortunate to be located close to Walsall University, a recognised Centre of Excellence and home to training facilities used by the British Olympic Judo Team. This connection highlights the high calibre of the sport and provides our pupils with the opportunity to engage in a discipline practised at the very highest level.

The physical benefits of judo are wide-ranging. Pupils are strengthening their core muscles, improving agility and coordination, and developing balance and power through dynamic movement. As sessions progress, many pupils are already showing increased confidence, resilience and a willingness to challenge themselves—qualities that extend well beyond the sports hall.

It has been wonderful to see Year 9 approach these lessons with such enthusiasm and focus. Judo is not only an excellent way to stay active and build physical strength, but also a valuable tool for fostering confidence and mental agility. We look forward to seeing pupils continue to grow in skill and self-assurance as the programme unfolds.



# SPORT

## SPORTS PERSON OF THE WEEK



Amreen in Year 9 is our sportsperson of the week. For her exceptional performance in Judo.

柔道



# AWARDS



## STAR OF THE WEEK



Star of the week goes to Sophia for not giving up and persevering when things get tricky and making progress with independent skills.



# AWARDS

## STAR OF THE WEEK



Samaira for her excellent progress in reading.

*Congratulations!*



# AWARDS



## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATION





# CONGRATULATIONS

## EXTERNAL CERTIFICATES



*Congratulations!*

# SENIOR AWARDS



# SCHOOL VALUES



# SENIOR AWARDS



**ZOYA, KIRATDEEP,  
SUKHMANDEEP**

This is in recognition of  
the beautiful drawings  
they completed for their  
'Identity' project.



**PRIYA**

Priya for recording  
her grade 7 violin music



**AMREEN**

Amreen in Year 9 is our  
sportsperson of the week.  
For her exceptional  
performance in Judo.



# CONGRATULATIONS HOUSE POINTS



100

EZE M  
SAMAIRA S  
MARYAM A  
KUSHI S  
ZIKORA N  
DYLAN M  
ZAYDAN R

150

BETHANY H  
DYLAN C

*Congratulations*



# HYDESVILLE TOWER SCHOOL

Open Morning  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

10am - 12noon



We are a leading non-selective independent school for boys and girls aged 2 -16, located in Walsall. Come to our Open Day to find out more.



[admissions@hydesville.com](mailto:admissions@hydesville.com)



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