



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018



## **The Curious Cat's Adventures at Haydonleigh**

### **Foundation Stage**

An exciting week in Foundation Stage – we are celebrating Chinese New Year! The festivities began with Chinese dragon dancing, trying our hand at Chinese lettering and counting pennies into lucky money wallets. The children have discovered all about the Great Wall of China and beautiful Willow patterned china. Our role play areas have become restaurants and we have made our own menus and have prepared, cooked and tasted a delicious stir fry. We shared the story of the Chinese Zodiac animals and imagine my surprise to find that it is the year of the dog!

Happy Chinese New Year for all!

### **Year 1**

The Year 1 children received a letter from their Knightly visitor, Sir James, asking them to help him remember how to prepare for battle! The instructions he had looked like they'd been clawed to pieces. Thankfully the children have written some lovely instructions to send back to Sir James! In Maths the children have been working out which numbers are greater, less than or equal to but with numbers up to 50. We've also been carefully observing our broad beans plants for any signs of sprouting. As part of Internet Safety week, the children have been thinking about how they can be safe and show respect online, why not ask them about what they know?

### **Year 2**

Year Two have had an interesting week. The children went out on a local walk around Haydon Wick. They were looking for the human and physical features that are around our school. When they returned to school they produced some lovely maps of where they have walked. Later in the week the Year Two children met with the Year One children. They were able to share their Jack and the Beanstalk stories with each other. They had all done a great job and enjoyed practising their story telling.

### **Year 3**

I noticed an empty corridor as I walked through year 3 last Monday. It seems they had all been "whiskered" off to Bristol for a "pawsome" day out at the Science Museum. I did manage to catch up with them over the next few days though and they had learned so much about forces and magnets.

They were discussing the role that friction plays on their school shoes and how magnets had North and South poles that repel and attract one another.

There was also a lot of mystery and suspense going on in their English lessons, with some interesting settings and characters being created. I saw a peculiar looking old Witch Lady in one room, with her jet black cat – I wonder if they were talking about me? I hope it wasn't one of the teachers that were the 'old hag' though?

### **Year 4**

The pawsome Year 4s have been learning to use the Maya number system. It was really very tricky as they had to use lines and dots and write the numbers vertically rather than horizontally. In English, they have been writing some very creepy story openings. They have magpied techniques from other writers to create suspense and mystery. I can't wait to read what they have done. I wonder if a Black Cat will appear in any of them. In Science the children have been making telephones from paper cups and string and investigating noise levels around the school.

### **Year 5**

What a paw-some week we have had in Year 5. There has been a great debate about whether zoos are purr-fect or paw-ful places for the animals that live there. The arguments and reasons for both sides were compelling and I think they agreed there are good zoos and bad zoos but the best place would be in the wild if possible. I saw some real tail-ent during the Year 5 and 6 Maths and DT sessions. I saw su-purr-ior bridges and team work happening. The Maths challenge morning was very tricky but fur-tunately there were amazing mathematicians who solved the problems, but I was still using my whiskers to help me work them out!

### **Year 6**

Shivers ran down my spine, as I walked along the upper corridor this week - Winter Olympic fever has taken its hold in Year 6 with the House Captains running an intrahouse curling competition. I was very impressed by how well organised the event was, which aimed to celebrate the imminent launch of the Winter Games in South Korea. All participants had great fun representing their house teams, thanks to the leadership skills of our pawsome House Captains and the enthusiasm of all the children who took part.

Another fantastic opportunity to earn some team points was presented to the children on Wednesday when they participated in a Maths Day. Solving multi step problems set in real life contexts was the challenge of the day, with training in the use of The Singapore Bar the key to success! It was wonderful to hear so much maths talk as the children discussed their problem-solving strategies and it was an absolute joy to see them learning from each other, proving that we really are talented, but together we are amazing!

As half term approaches, the children are having a great time exploring the work of Mary Anning and have written purr-suasive letters with the viewpoint that she should be remembered in a Science Hall of Fame.

Another busy term for Year 6, with so many successes to celebrate. Well done to them all!

Hope you all have a fantastic half term



**Let's**

**Talk**

The Winter Olympics is on over half term.

Which of the sports would you most like to try and why?

Anything that takes place inside as I don't like the cold, ice and snow!!!

#### **Year 2 – 6 Winter Olympics intrahouse competition**

The Haydonleigh House Captains have done a fantastic job of planning and running another intrahouse competition over the last week. Children in years 2 to 6 competed in a curling event in our main hall, attempting to score as many points as possible by sliding a curling stone towards a scoring zone. We were so impressed with our fabulous house teams who demonstrated our values of 'Unity' and 'Enthusiasm' throughout the event.

The results of the Key Stage 2 tournament were: 1<sup>st</sup> Panthers (1,410 points), 2<sup>nd</sup> Cougars (1,200 points), 3<sup>rd</sup> Pumas (1,150 points) and 4<sup>th</sup> Tigers (960 points).

The Year 2 tournament results were: 1<sup>st</sup> Panthers (1,350 points), 2<sup>nd</sup> Cougars (845 points), 3<sup>rd</sup> Pumas (770 points) and 4<sup>th</sup> Tigers (615 points).

A big congratulations to our overall champions - the Panthers! Also a huge 'thank you' to the House Captains who committed their free time to organising this brilliant event. We all look forward to tuning in to the Winter Olympics over half term!



#### **Our current value is Responsibility.**

This week we have been discussing our responsibility for the world around us. Children have been thinking about helping our local environment and the bigger picture of our responsibility for our global environment and the impact we can have on global pollution.



#### **E-Safety Message**

A message from Miss Osbourne

I would like to say a big thank you to anyone who attended our Internet Café. It was good to hear some of your questions and thoughts and I hope you found the information helpful. Learning how to be safe online is an important part of children's education and the stronger the partnership is between school, home and community, the more prepared and protected the children will be. One of the questions I was asked during the internet café related to setting up parental controls.

The 4 big internet providers, Sky, BT, Talk-Talk and Virgin Media all have their own parental control packages available to download or set up for free.

These then apply to all devices connected to the internet account.

They can be tailored to suit your households needs and are easily adjusted as required. If you follow the link you will find instructional videos created by each internet provider, which are no more than 4 minutes long, that demonstrate step-by-step how to set up the parental control features.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-your-home-internet-provider>



Thursday 22nd February is Thinking Day/Founders Day

Members of Girlguiding and Scouting are invited to wear their Rainbow, Brownie, Guide, Beaver, Cub or Scout uniforms to school on this date to remember their founders, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, both of whom were born on 22nd February. On this date members of Girlguiding and Scouting think about their Promise as well as their organisations' heritage and members around the world.



Can I remind all parents that only children in years 5 and 6 are permitted to bring mobile phones in to school. If younger children are found to have devices in school, they will be removed and parents called to come and collect them.

A separate letter is being sent to parents in year 5 and 6 to explain a new protocol to be introduced after the holiday.



You may have noticed that we have been closing the main school gate at 8.40am. This is because a number of parents have started flouting the protocol and using the front of school as a drive through to drop off once our Caretaker has left his morning post.

Please be reminded that **ONLY** staff and disabled badge holders should be coming through the front gates. **This also applies to parents dropping children off at Breakfast Club or morning clubs.**



#### Breakfast Club

It is now possible for parents to book Breakfast Club sessions directly on the scopay system in the same way as lunches. This will enable parents to manage their accounts more effectively. The system will work in the same way as lunches, with payment at the point of booking. If payment is not received sessions may be cancelled by the school. The booking system is only available a term in advance. As with lunches, sessions must be booked a minimum of two days in advance. For example, a Monday session needs to be booked by the previous Saturday.



#### **Family Holidays in term time.**

A reminder that the Headteacher may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any request for leave must be made in writing. A response will be returned indicating whether leave is authorised. Any absence not authorised may be liable to a local authority penalty notice.



School dinners a reminder to order your child's meals for after half term. Menus are on the website up to week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> March.



Parents/Carers please contact the school on the first day of absence by 9.30am by way of a telephone call to provide the reason for absence and where possible on each subsequent day of absence. Parents/Carers should provide a written explanation on their child's return to school.



As previously communicated school will be closed to children on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June for teacher training.

**Our final teacher training day will be taken before this date on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June.**

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable week and look forward to seeing children back in school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – can you believe it's term 4 already!

Yours sincerely,

Frances Billinge

Headteacher