



Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents and Children,

Thank you for your understanding during the recent snow closure. It is never an easy decision and I apologise for any inconvenience caused. I for one am very pleased that the snow has now melted!



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

#### **Foundation Stage**

An amazing object has been discovered in Foundation Stage – a huge egg has arrived and we are only guessing what will be inside! Our role play areas have become caves and we are enjoying exploring and finding out all about dinosaurs. The children have excavated different sized bones from the sandpit and used them to create amazing floor sculptures of T Rex and Stegosaurus! We have given Spikey the dinosaur back his spikes, ordering them from one to twenty and have measured and weighed dinosaur figures. We have written stories about a little caveman and have even imagined what kind of creature we would be if we were a dinosaur! I wonder what a Cat-o-saurus would be like!

#### **Year 1**

This week the Year 1 children have been seeing if they measure up to each other in Maths, using words like longer, shorter and taller. They've also explored the height and length of things in the classroom. In English they've been continuing to be dramatic and I've seen them become more confident already! They've also been trying to improve their adjectives – I am massively impressed at the huge number of words the children could think of for big!

#### **Year 2**

My ears pricked up as I heard a rattling sound when the Postman delivered a parcel. The parcel was for Year 2 and when they opened it up it was a packet of silver seeds. The children read the letter included in the parcel and it was from the old man from the Tin Forest story. He had found these seeds while sifting and sorting through his tin junk. He told the children how the silver seeds were magical and with a bit of imagination could grow into any magical plant or creature. The children spent the rest of the week designing their own creature or plant.

On Friday I noticed that the children were all moving around the Year 2 classrooms.

Apparently they were having a Maths Day and did nothing but Maths all day! The children learnt how to solve 2 step problems, missing number problems and how to balance an equation. The children had great

fun completing their challenges and spending time in the different classrooms with different teachers.

#### **Year 3**

As I prowled down the Year 3 corridor this week there was a lot of commotion going on and lots of people seemed to have their whiskers in a twist. It seemed somebody... or something... had broken in to the school and wreaked havoc. There were bits of scrap metal dumped in the Small Hall, tyres left scattered on the playground and some damage even caused to the metal around school. Children have since had their 'cat eyes' peeled looking out for evidence as we fear it may have been caused by the notorious Iron Man – please be vigilant if you do spot anything unusual as the Police are yet to locate this Iron Giant. Please be on the lookout for a character with eyes like headlamps and a head shaped like a dustbin, but the size of a bedroom. He is thought to be taller than a house and possibly missing one ear.

#### **Year 4**

In Year 4, the children have been reading 'The Iron Man'. They have written their own poems using powerful adjectives to describe this mighty giant and this week they are writing letters to the Iron Man. In Maths, they have been learning about how to add and subtract fractions and how to find fractions of quantities. In P.E. the children have been practising their agility, balance and co-ordination in order to play squash. In topic, they have been expawing what the Maya used to eat and how we still eat some similar foods today.

#### **Year 5**

Year 5 had a paw-some visit to Bristol Zoo last week; they saw many puff-ect creatures of the Animal Kingdom, including my cousin, the Asiatic Lion. The fur seals were great, penguins cute and meerkats funny. I don't think the bugs and reptiles were quite so popular, although they were amazing. According to my feedback, many of the children were surprised how many of the animal species were endangered or threatened in the wild. Luckily we discovered Bristol Zoo is doing a great job with animal conservation by developing breeding programs and supporting organisations in their own habitats. The Year 5's felt claw-ful as much of the animals' difficulties are caused by man, especially habitat loss!

#### **Year 6**

A friendly alien, named 'The Varmint' has paid a visit to Year Six. He has helped the children to celebrate everything that is beautiful about the planet (the water, the oxygen, the diversity of life). Dip into any Year 6 book and you will see that the children have written some amazing descriptions using very precise vocabulary. However, he had also drawn their attention to the fact that the planet has been damaged by the human race in the name of progress. Animals have lost their habitats, the air is polluted and global warming is having terrible consequences. Together, they are drawing up a set of instructions designed to improve the environment and to ensure that the Earth earns its title 'The Jewel of the Solar System'. It should be a fascinating read. Year 6, are also looking forward to 'World Book Day' when they will be reading for pleasure and visiting the new Library Bus. It will be a purr-fectly enjoyable day and I am sure to e

found on the library bus curled up with a good book about my feline friends.  
Hope you all have a fantastic week.



**Let's**

**talk**

We're really excited about our new adventure, the Haydonleigh Library bus, which opens on Thursday! Where do you think it will take you?

To infinity and beyond!!!!



All World Book Day and Library opening activities will take place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Children should come to school dressed as their characters, please.



We have had a number of children arriving late for school. It is important that children arrive in school on time every day for a number of reasons:

- It is the legal responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that children attend their registered school on time each day.
- If a child is late they miss important information about the day's activities.
- A child late will miss school work.
- Children who arrive in good time for registration are able to talk to their friends before school and settle into the school day with them.
- A child who is late disrupts staff and other children.

**Lateness = lost learning - A child who is 5 minutes late every day will have 3 days lost learning over an academic year.**

Our school day starts at 8.45am and pupils should be on the playground by 8.40am to line up with their class for registration. If there is a particular reason why you are finding it difficult to arrive in school on time please discuss this with your child's teacher.



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.

It has come to my attention that some of our younger children are walking home unaccompanied by an adult.

There is no law prohibiting children from walking home alone - it is a matter of judgement for parents to decide when children are ready for this responsibility. However, the school recommends that pupils up to and including Year 4 should still be brought to and collected from school.

As a school, we are responsible for the welfare of our pupils and therefore have to consider what we believe is good practice in ensuring the safety of our pupils. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:

- Do you trust your child to walk straight home?
- Check the route that their children will take.
- Will they have to cross main roads? Is your child road-safety aware?
- Would your child know what to do if he/she needed help?
- Would they know what to do if a stranger approached them?
- Ensure there is someone at home to meet the child.

**If you are not confident about how your child would react then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to walk on their own.**

The class teacher and the school office must be informed of any arrangements for children walking to and from school alone. Please note that only children in Year 5 and 6 are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school if they walk to and from school alone.

The school reserves the right to refuse permission for a child to walk home alone depending on the distance and concerns the school may have at that time.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Billinge

Headteacher