



Friday 8th March 2019

Dear Parents and Children



A reminder of expectations at the beginning of the school day.

The school day at Haydonleigh starts at 8:45am.

There is a whistle for Key Stage Two children at 8:40am to remind children to line up and parents to begin leaving. At this time only Year 6 children enter the building.

This ensures that the other Key Stage Two children can then lead into class and be ready to learn for 8:45am.

As Key Stage One children line up directly outside their classroom doors, they do not need an 8:40 whistle to get ready to line up. Therefore, Key Stage One classroom doors will be opened by class teachers at 8:45am each day.



The choir are really excited for their performance at the Wyvern Theatre next week.

They have been practising songs from The Greatest Showman, Mamma Mia and Bohemian Rhapsody.

The performance is at 7:30pm on Wednesday 13th March.



Congratulations to the Year 5 debating team who won the Swindon Inter-schools debating competition on Wednesday night at Brook Field School!

All the team (Jack – Chairperson, Callie – questioner, Sophie and Daniel – presenters) worked tirelessly to research, write, edit and practice their argument – ‘We should have a settlement on Mars’.

On the night, they were an amazing team, working together, supporting each other and fully deserved their first place. Many thanks to their parents for their support on the night and helping the children prepare their debate.

Mrs Rochester was immensely proud of their achievement and to be part of their team.

Let's

talk

**Our value this term is
'ENTHUSIASM'.**

**What do you love to
do?**

That's easy – I love to walk, hence my Isle of Wight Challenge in May. ☺



Our football team recently visited Abbey Meads Primary school and this is an extract from an email I received the next day from the head teacher ...

‘Just a quick note to comment positively on the approach and attitudes displayed by your children, supporters and of course Mr Brock at our recent football match.

It was the most competitive we have had and played in the best spirit.

Ryan – Captain at the back - was not only a superb footballer, but a credit to your school for his manners and calmness under pressure.’

But for some luck and some ridiculous saves the match could well have gone either way, as it was Abbey Meads won 2-0.

Some Year 5/6 children braved the poor weather in a football festival at Lydiard Park Academy after the event was cancelled twice last year due to adverse weather.

Congratulations to Jasper Woodfield who was recently accepted into Swindon School Boys Representative Football squad, and has contributed to their last two wins.

The after school Performing Arts club run by Miss Rickards, recently took part in the Wiltshire School Dance Festival at the Wyvern Theatre. With the theme ‘Around the World’, Haydonleigh performed a dance that celebrated India's Festival of Colour to signify fire, mischief, light and calm to the music ‘Jai Ho’ that means ‘Let victory be yours’.



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.

In order to try and reduce the number of families who take holiday in term time and being very aware of high costs, the Governors and I have decided to extend the holiday in academic year **October 2019 only**.

School will be closed to children from Monday 21st October 2019 for two weeks; children would return to school on Monday 4th November 2019.

Three Teacher Training Days will be allocated, making the holiday period a full 2 weeks.

I hope that the advance notice will enable many of you to find a holiday at a reasonable price and keep your children in school throughout all term times.



I have been asked by a parent if we can collect crisp packets for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. A box will be placed by lost property and children can place empty packets in here. Whilst we promote healthy eating, I am not suggesting that we all start eating copious amounts of crisps! However, it seems silly not to send the empty packets that we do generate to a worthy cause.

The bin will be clearly labelled with the packets that will be accepted, please save your empty packets from home as quite a lot are needed each time to send off.



Congratulations to Mrs McFadyen and the catering team who were once again awarded 5 stars this week when the environmental health officer visited school.



If you wish to move your child to a different Swindon school, the system for doing so has recently changed to an online system. This means that the school does not know of the names of children possibly leaving until a much later date.

Could I please ask that if you do make an online transfer application that you inform the school office either before or as you do so?



Black Cat News

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 children have been delving deeper into the features of stories, thinking about the main characters and the story setting. They've also been working well in a group and practising their speaking and listening. In Maths the children have been measuring various objects and considering the benefit of standard measures. In Topic the children have begun creating their lovely owl sock puppets, thinking carefully about the design and the best ways to join materials. In Science the children have started grouping animals based on their category in preparation for their trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park. Which category do cats come under?

Year 2

During the holiday a silver parcel arrived addressed to Year 2. It was from an old man called Tom who lives on a rubbish dump. The parcel contained some mysterious, silver balls. I smelt them but they didn't seem very good to eat! Tom wants the children to imagine what might grow or hatch from these tiny, silver balls. I have heard that the children are being very creative and have thought of some amazing creatures and plants. I look forward to reading their non-chronological reports about these things. There have also been lots of parcels floating around Year 2 in Maths as they have been weighing different parcels. I had to hide my cat food tins just in case they wanted to weigh them!

For their science work the children have each planted a sunflower seed, I am looking forward to watching them grow.

Year 3

What a busy start to term four!

Year 3 have settled back down and are working hard on their 'behaviours to learning'. As I wandered down their end of the corridor, I heard some strange vocabulary being used. It sounded like bonfire night had come early. I listened more closely and realised the children were demonstrating our school value of 'creativity', by writing some fantastic Kenning poems, based on the Firework Maker's Daughter.

Later on, I had a peep to see what they were up to in Maths and could see lots of measuring, comparing and problem solving with length going on. Maybe they could help me solve an argument with Tom down the road who thinks his tail is longer than mine!

Children have also been getting all geometrical and have been learning how to measure and calculate perimeter and have started a new Science topic all about Rocks and Soil - Geology Rocks!!!!

Year 4

The children in Year 4 have been busy planning and building Roman hut prototypes in preparation for their final designs. In Science, the children have been looking at the particle structures of solids, liquids and gases. I managed to show off my catching skills in PE too. I wonder if anyone can beat my personal best!

Year 5

As I walked around the Year 5 classes, I noticed some very strange looking people. They seemed to be looking forwards but their bodies were facing the front; apparently, they were walking like an Egyptian and the Year 5's were using this as inspiration for art. There was some weird writing that looked like pictures – hieroglyphics – and some unusual symbols, all of which were important to the Ancient Egyptians – pawsome!

Meanwhile on Tuesday I thought I had been transported to Outer Space! All over Year 5 there were litter-ally hundreds of planets in a variety of ways. I saw models, leaflets, presentations, posters and even cakes (no-one offered me a slice!). What a tail-ented group of children we have. I was universally impressed; they were out of this world!

Year 6

This week Year 6 had a wildly exciting time with a visit from Zoolab. They had the chance to meet, and handle, a number of interesting creatures before learning about how they have adapted and evolved over time. The sight of tarantulas, scorpions and cockroaches sent shivers racing down my spine. The children however, were full of interesting questions and went back to class buzzing with curiosity, keen to find out more about how other animals survive in their habitats. Fascinated by the diversity of life, this term they will learn more about the work of Darwin and his ground-breaking Theory of Evolution.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, Year 6 have been reading myths and legends and researching mythical creatures like the Minotaur, the Kraken and Medusa. Inspired by their research, they have designed their own monsters and described them in great detail. I can't wait to get my paws on the stories that will follow. They are sure to be a paw-some.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Billinge
Headteacher