



3rd November 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

The Curious Cat's Adventures at Haydonleigh

I am so happy that the children have returned. I was so lonely without them. Just what have they been up to this week?

Foundation Stage

We are all excited to be back in Foundation Stage and have a busy term ahead. We have been celebrating the amazing festival of Diwali and exploring the wonderful traditions that take place. We are also excited about Bonfire Night and have been using the percussion instruments to create our own firework sounds – we have definitely returned back to school with a bang!

Year 1

As I was taking a nap in the Year One corridor, I noticed that things look a little different around there. With the start of the new term, children have come out of transition and are busy learning lots of new things. This term they will be finding out all about their senses and about who Louis Braille was. In English they will be looking at two different stories across the term, The Little Red Hen and Charlie's Superhero Underpants. This will be helping them to write recounts and a description of a setting. In Maths the children will be learning calculation skills such as addition and subtraction. Soon they will be going on their local area walk, using their senses to make observations. It is sure to be a busy term!

Year 2

This week I noticed that the Year 2 children were in the theatre listening to a visitor. I recognised the visitor; it was Bryan the school Caretaker. He had come to tell the children all about his job working on the railways at the Swindon Railway Village. All of Year 2 had prepared questions to ask him and they found out lots of information including what he ate for lunch. The children will therefore be making vegetable soup and writing instructions of how to do this. The children promised they would let Bryan have some soup too! What a purrfect start to the term.

Year 3

Year 3 have been "feline" good this week. They have been enjoying adventuring, with Alice, into wonderland and meeting some weird and exciting characters – I like the sound of that Cheshire Cat – I wonder if black cats can disappear like that too? They have also been getting their paws stuck in to some new methods for multiplication, If my friends Tabby and Felix and I each have 4 legs, how many is that altogether?

Year 4

The children have come back after the half term break and settled in well. An introduction to Archery awaited them first thing Monday morning. I stayed well away with all those arrows flying about!! The children didn't have as much fun in English though. Christmas has been cancelled unless they can purr-suade Mrs. Billinge to change her mind. They have a tough task ahead of them! In maths, they have started real life measuring problems involving purr-imeter.

Year 5

Welcome back after half term, Year 5! Just before the break we had a request from Buzz Lightyear to help him find the most paw-some parachute to help him fall with style! In order to find the best one we had to decide what we were going to test, we tested shape, size and material. We set up a fair test by only changing one variable. Luckily, we had the toy soldiers to help us test the parachute. There were some hairy moments when parachutes got stuck on ledges or drifted off in the wind!! Finally, we wrote a response back to Buzz recommending the best parachute – ask a Year 5 which one they would choose!!

Year 6

As I crept along the upper corridor, I saw the children in Year 6 were having a cat – tastic time in Science learning about how the circulation system works. Taking a moment to curl up in the learning hub, I read some paw-some explanation texts that told me how the heart works and how to keep it healthy. Looking at the children's RE books was also a truly paws-itive experience as they had described places that were special to them – I loved their acrostic poems the most. Alarmingly, when I looked in their topic books, my fur stood on end because they had written about some of the horrific jobs that children did in Victorian times. Pet-rifying!!! Next week, the children are looking forward to visiting Steam when they will be prowling around the backstreets of the Railway Village to see if we can spot any of my feline friends. I know they'll have a purr-fect time.

Hope you all have a fantastic week.





Haydonleigh School are supporting the Poppy Appeal

Poppies are available from the main reception area and a minute's silence will be held on Monday 13th November.



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



Starting Primary School September 2018

If your child is born 1st September 2013 – 31st August 2014 your need to apply for a Primary School place by 15th January 2018.



I would like to remind parents of the protocol when you have any concerns regarding your child/ren. In the first instance please speak to your child's teacher. Teachers are normally available at the beginning and end of the school day. If the teacher is unable to speak to you immediately they will endeavour to make an appointment with you as soon as possible.



Switch Off Fortnight will be taking place from 20th November. In class, children will be learning about different sources of energy and why we should be trying to save energy. Please take the time to discuss with your child ways that they could also be saving energy at home too.



An online social gaming website called Roblox has recently come to our attention.

On our website, under E-Safety, there is more information about this site and some of the e-safety issues associated with it, as well as links to further information.

This information is valuable for any parents whose children regularly use the internet.

Let's

talk

As the clocks turned back, what did you do with the extra hour last weekend?

Oh – boring answer, as I had a late night flight home from my holiday, I'm afraid I slept!!

CHILDREN'S LEADERSHIP

We believe that nurturing children's sense of duty, responsibility and willingness to lead and help others is a key element of preparing children to become productive and considerate citizens in the wider world. Every child is a citizen of our school and as such is expected to take joint responsibility and our expectations of the children increase over time. There are many citizenship tasks that children undertake. Please look at our school website to find out more about Children's Leadership.



Curriculum Evening on Tuesday 14th November for Years 1 – 6

On Tuesday 14th November, from 3.30pm – 5pm, a curriculum evening will be held for parents and guardians of pupils in classes 4 - 20. Unlike the 'Welcome to Year Group' meetings in September, this evening aims to give you an insight into how the curriculum is taught at Haydonleigh. We will share resources, methods and strategies used in Reading, Writing and Maths to support your child's learning. Class teachers will make a presentation at 3.30pm which will be repeated at 4pm, in your child's year group classrooms. There is no need to stay the full duration of the evening, please feel free to drop in any time between 3.30pm and 5pm. Children are also welcome to attend! Should you be unable to join the meeting, the presentation materials will be made available on our school website under the year group page.



I have noticed that some boys have returned to school after the holiday with hairstyles that are bordering on inappropriate for school. Can I please ask that parents exercise common sense and do not succumb to pressure from their child to have their hair cut in the current trend.



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.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Billinge

Headteacher