



Friday 26th January 2018

The Curious Cat's Adventures at Haydonleigh

Foundation Stage

G'day from Foundation Stage! We have travelled Down Under to celebrate Australia Day. The children have written postcards from sunny beaches and created floor sculptures of the Great Barrier Reef. We have played the didgeridoo and have made beautiful boomerangs with Aboriginal patterns. Happy Australia Day to all!

Year 1

This week they are learning all about some of the things that will make their stories even better, such as conjunctions and good punctuation, ready for some perfect stories next week! In Maths the children have been practising lots of addition and subtraction in a variety of ways, including Singapore Bar, and applying their skills to some missing number problems. I've also spotted some fantastic drawings of plants with lovely labels as part of their Science! This week I think I may stretch my legs and go with Year 1 children to ask the Reverend some questions over at the Church.

Year 2

I heard a 'Fee Fi Fo Fum' coming from the Year 2 classrooms so I went to see what was happening. I noticed a huge, green plant growing in the corridor. It seemed to grow every day! When I went into the Year 2 classrooms I could see all of the children learning the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, using actions to help them. One of the children told me that the story map helps them to remember the story which is on the Year 2 webpage. The children seemed to know the story really well.

Year 2 have also been exploring fractions, using something called a 'Singapore Bar' to help them. The children have even learnt some new fractions of three quarters and one third. They have found fractions of shapes and numbers!

A highlight of their week was going out onto the North playground to complete a Traffic Survey. The children saw a lot of cars but some other types of transport too! They managed to put all their data into a clear tally chart and answer questions about their data too.

Year 3

Year 3 have been busy as 'pur' usual!

I have witnessed them, this week, working on their editing and improving skills in English and really putting their 'thinking cats' on to show how the characters in their diaries are feeling.

Science has looked 'purr-ty' exciting as I witnessed groups of children planning and investigating how different friction caused a car to slow down. I wonder if rolling my ball of string would be more fun on the grass or the playground.

Year 4

In Year 4, a mystery object apPURRed in the theatre. The children have been exploring what it could be and where it has come from. In P.E., they have been making all sorts of shapes on the apparatus. I've been quite impressed at how they pounce from one shape to the next. On Thursday, I followed along when they went to the local library, where they have browsed through the books before choosing a book to take home.

Year 5

As I wandered along the Year 5 corridor this week, there was lots of discussion taking place about zoos. Nobody seemed to know their own mind though! some were paw-sitive they were good for animals, while others thought the animals were un-fur-tunate to be in them! A lively debate will follow, I am sure. Speaking of zoos, I heard a whisker that Year 5 are visiting Bristol Zoo soon; I wonder which paw-some creatures they will see?

Year 6

The mewment I crept past Year 6, I sensed excitement was in the air as they were launching their brand new Reading Challenge. A claw-some reading task, designed by the newly appointed Reading Ambassadors, to get every member of Year 6 reading for pleasure. Sounds like a purr-fect opportunity for me to help all the children develop a love for reading and to earn some book bucks for their house team. Reading for pleasure got off to a great start in school too. My ears pricked up when I heard a choral performance of 'The Highwayman' resonate around the upstairs corridor – the t-lot, t-lot, t-lot of horses hooves reverberated along the ribbon of sunlight that bathed the carpeted floor.

Later in the week, the children were paw-sitively awesome when it came to identifying figurative language (similes, metaphors and personification) used by the poet to describe characters and to set the scene. I look forward to sharing in their descriptive writing when they use these literary devices themselves. I know this fabulous writing will send shivers up my spine as they continue to develop the skill of foreshadowing. The children are fantastically busy in other curricular areas too.

They are also looking forward to being super Scientists by investigating light and trainee engineers who are able to build bridges according to a very precise design spec. With such excellent behaviours for learning, I am expecting their work to be practically purr-fect in every way.

Hope you all have a fantastic week.

Let's

talk

Our Haydonleigh Library Bus is
almost finished...
Which book would you most
like to see on its shelves?

Easy answer to this one... my favourite book

THE BFG please!!



Our current value is Respect. What does respect mean to you? Children have been discussing respecting others' points of views and understanding how to resolve a conflict at school and in the playground.



Final call for painters for the Library Bus! More volunteers needed for Sunday 4th February please contact lfry@haydonleighschool.co.uk

If you think you can help.



In two weeks' time it will be Safer Internet week (5th Feb-9th Feb), with Safer Internet Day being on the 6th of February. As part of this event, we will be holding our annual Internet Café on Friday 2nd February in the main hall between 1.30 and 2.30pm. There will be an opportunity to learn a bit more about our E-Safety curriculum, what messages we give the children in school and some tips on the support you can provide at home. Miss Osborne, some members of our E-Safety group and also some of our E-Safety Ambassadors will be there to welcome you, chat and also show you some of the ways in which we use the ipads and netbooks.



The number of pupils bringing expensive gadgets and equipment into school appears to have increased since Christmas.

We ask that children do not wear smartwatches, Fitbits/activity trackers or expensive items of jewellery in school please. Not only can it cause great upset to the children and parents when such items are damaged or lost, they can also provide a distraction from learning. We already run a successful scheme for the older pupils, who may wish to bring a mobile phone into school as a means of communicating with parents that they've arrived safely.

We remind you that the school cannot accept any responsibility for property which is damaged or lost on school grounds.

From **Monday 29th January**, I would not expect to see a child wearing a fitbit or smart watch in school.



Year 1 are looking for parent helpers who may be able to donate some time to come in to read with the children.

You can come in as often, or as little as you'd like - even an hour a week can be beneficial! If this is something you'd be interested in please contact a member of the Year 1 team before or after school, or alternatively provide the office with your information and they can pass this on to the Year 1 team.



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.**



Headteacher

Can I please remind all parents of our protocol for contacting a member of staff. All teachers come on to the playground at the start of the day. A quick message can be passed at this time. Should you wish to talk for longer, a meeting time can be arranged with the teacher or through the school office. Parents are politely asked not to come into the school building to find a teacher, especially to go upstairs without having been signed in by the office. It is important for safeguarding and health and safety that parents understand this.

Staff should not be contacted through Facebook or other social media. Whilst I understand that parents may be friends with staff who have children attending our school, all school related matters should be communicated appropriately.



I am aware of some recent discussion on Facebook about school uniform with particular reference to leggings. Can I remind parents that leggings have never been part of our uniform. If your child has been wearing them and you have not been advised that this contravenes policy, I apologise that this has 'slipped through the net'.

Our policy can be found by clicking on this link:

[Haydonleigh Primary School - School Uniform](#)



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.



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

Our final teacher training day will be taken before this date on Monday 4th June.

Yours sincerely,
Frances Billinge