



Weekly Newsletter

29 January 2021

Making learning a lifelong adventure

Our school value for this half-term is kindness

Dear Parents/Carers

This week a number of year groups have taken part in interactive Zoom workshops in school, as well as their sessions with class teachers. Year 1 classes enjoyed materials workshops led by a professional actor/facilitator in role as Dr Cloth who helped them explore the science of materials through the story of the Three Little Pigs. Today our Year 2 classes have been learning all about the Great Fire of London (pictured above) and those in Year 5 have had a focus on wellbeing (also above), which lead nicely into our big theme for next week.

Next week, we will be observing *Children's Mental Health Week*. This year the week is entitled *Express Yourself* and there will be a number of activities and events throughout the week, as follows. More information will follow from year groups.

- The Governors' Cup wellbeing bingo challenge - see video
- A special assembly from Oak Academy
- Whole school story read by a number of staff members.
- Dress to Express Year group assemblies - Children are invited to wear some clothes or bring an object that expresses something that is important to them in their year group assemblies with Mrs Shewbridge or me next week. For example, this might be clothes signifying membership of a group or club, or an object of importance.
- The introduction of *Freetime Fridays*, when children will not have work set on Tapestry or Seesaw and families and staff are encouraged to do something non-screen-based. Ideas for activities are available on the [pupil pages of our website](#).

Following feedback from pupils, parents and staff members, we plan to add a second class Zoom to the timetable each week from next week, for those who have not yet been doing so. The content and length of the sessions will vary depending on the age, stage and needs of each cohort, however, I expect there to be 1 longer session with some level of interaction and 1 shorter session that may be more informative and less interactive. Please continue to follow our code of conduct for these sessions and remember to ensure your child's name is displayed as their screen name. As you can imagine scheduling and managing these sessions is quite a challenge. However, we will endeavour to avoid sessions clashing from one year group to another and to communicate the necessary information to you in as timely a way as possible. If, however, we experience some difficulties in this respect, please bear with us!

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher

Bess the Snowdog
by Lauren and Darcy
in Y4 Keyworker Bubble this Week



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements that were celebrated in our online year group assemblies this week.

- **Reception Chestnut Class** Leoni - for thinking about our value of kindness and for showing kindness to others.
Asher - for completing some great home learning this week.
- **Reception Oak Class** Sam – for his fantastic retelling of the story ‘The Gruffalo’.
Nina – for working hard to learn new phonics digraphs at home.
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** Harry – for putting lots of effort into all of his home learning.
Harper – for consistently submitting work of a high standard.
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Erin – for writing a fantastic story full of adjectives.
Freddie – for putting lots of effort into his Seesaw work and Bugclub reading.
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Alex Capstick – for putting lots of effort into all his home learning
Harper Butler – for showing dedication to all her home learning tasks
Rhea for working hard and putting lots of effort into her home learning
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Leo for consistently submitting work of a high standard.
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Hudson for a great explanation in maths and consistently making a good effort.
Ernie for giving 100% care and effort to all his online learning.
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Arianna for keeping herself motivated to learn really well during lockdown so far.
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Sophie – for putting a great deal of effort into all her remote learning and producing some excellent work.
Daniel – for doing some excellent research and giving a superb presentation in English
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Kirsty Poynter-Smith –for brilliant work on completing her remote learning independently.
Lucas Maxwell –for a wonderfully descriptive Viking attack recount.
- **Year 5 Ash Class** William B – for showing commitment to his remote learning and setting up an excellent science investigation
Josie- for consistently producing a high standard of work on SeeSaw and completing it thoroughly
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Jacob Davies– for having a positive attitude to remote learning and showing resilience
Thomas Gilhooly – for putting in maximum effort into every single piece of SeeSaw work
- **Year 6 Rowan Class** Roshina – high quality work and always trying her best.
Adam – really focused and detailed work in science.
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** George Neylon – for a sustained effort across the curriculum and producing high quality work
Barney Davies – for his positive approach to his learning and a great week of English work

Further Information and Reminders

Please check on school Gateway that you have paid for any workshops your child’s class has been involved with this week – Years 1, 2 and 5. Thank you.

Please remember that there should be no parking in the staff car park at all at the moment. Please use our car park in Waldegrave Park. Thank you.

Community Matters

Harpenden Library Open for *Ready Reads*

Harpenden Library has a fantastic range of new books on offer to support reading for pleasure, home schooling and your child’s wellbeing, all for free and they are now offering a click and collect service as part of the government’s *Ready Reads* programme, where they select and you collect. All you need to do is fill out their [online form](#) with details of the type of books required and collect.

If you and your family are not yet members, you can join online at the [Hertfordshire Libraries website](#) and will receive a temporary membership number which can be used to access *the online eBook and eAudio library BorrowBox*.

Those unable to access online services can call 0300 123 4049 to speak to a member of the library service team.