

## NEWSLETTER

**Science Week**

This week has been science week and we have had a fantastic time. Some of the highlights from the week include a visit from some animals including a skunk, an owl and a tarantula! On Wednesday we were visited by some Mad Scientists who kicked off with an exciting assembly and then worked with each class doing more fun experiments. On Thursday evening we held science evening and were pleased to see lots of you there, even the Mayor turned up! There was a real buzz around the school and it was nice to see so many parents getting stuck in. We also held a cake sale in order to raise money to buy some planting beds for each class, thank you to everyone who baked cakes. We have ended the week with a sharing assembly where each class presented their work for the week. We have had a fantastic week of science and hope that the children feel inspired to be curious about the world of science around them.

**Gala Performance – Royal Albert Hall**

A group of 20 children had a fantastic day out in London last Sunday. We arrived at school for an early 8.00am start and travelled to London to take part in the Hertfordshire schools Gala performance at the Royal Albert Hall. The children joined with children from other schools from all over Hertfordshire to sing in a concert. The children sang beautifully and were a credit to the school. We also met and sang with 'Gabz' who reached the final of Britains Got Talent 2013. I would like to extend a special thanks to Mrs Harris who has worked with the children helping them to learn their songs over the past few weeks. Thank you to the parents who supported their children by attending the performance.

**Assembly**

The topic in 1YN has been 'On the Farm' and have been very busy looking at animals and what happens on farms. The children confidently acted out the story of Farmer Duck, and ran the lazy old Farmer out of his farm! In science, children have been looking at the topic of growing and showed off the beautiful cress that they had made, finishing off the assembly with a song about a courageous seed who grows up into a tall tree. Well Done 1YN.

**Reminder from the School Council RSPCA**

This year the school council are raising money for the RSPCA.

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March the children can come into school dressed up as animals (e.g. painted faces and headband ears) with a cash donation of any amount that you wish to donate for the RSPCA.

We are still collecting up until Thursday morning any animal supplies.

**Class Attendance**

The classes with the best attendance from Friday last week to yesterday in Reception/KS1 is R-JT with 100% attendance and in KS2 6AP with 100%.... WELL DONE R-JT and 6AP.

Group – Reception/KS1	Possible	% Attend
Reception - Jo Thomson	100	100
Year 2 - Tara Sassoon	100	98.5
Reception - Grace Colhoun	100	98.2
Year 2 - Jenny Gilbert	100	98
Year 1 - Philippa Cooper/Heather Woodward	100	97.4
Year 1 - Yasmin Naher	100	95.3

Group – KS2	Possible	% Attend
Year 6 - Andrew Penn	100	100
Year 6 - Yesim Soyel	100	99
Year 3 - Melissa Newberry	100	98.3
Year 5 - Moira McCarthy	100	98.3
Year 4 - Deborah Harris	100	97.9
Year 4 - Lougene Lillywhite	100	97.5
Year 3 - Chris Marland	100	96.1
Year 5 - Sarah Day/Nadia Parker	100	94.8

## Boys & Girls Football

On Wednesday both our Boys and Girls 'A' Football teams went up to Hertswood School to compete in a round robin tournament; the idea being to catch up on league games which have been disrupted with bad weather. Both teams were fantastic ambassadors for the school playing some great football. Both the referees and Hertswood PE Staff passed on positive comments about the way in which our children applied themselves and the style of football they were implementing. It was a tremendous effort from both teams and we continue to be impressed with their improvement and attitude. Well done to everyone who played.

## EAL Sessions at the BECC

Do you speak English as a second language? Do you have a child under the age of five. If so the Children's Centre (The BECC) are offering a free course to support you in developing your English skills. If your home language is not English this would be the perfect opportunity to learn English in a friendly and supportive environment. If you are interested please sign up at the office and more information will follow.

## Telling Stories (Part 3)

### Playing (not quizzing)

When children are playing you can 'narrate' what they're doing, while they're doing it. This way, you are linking the ideas together and telling the story for your child, giving them the structure for how stories work.

### Reading and telling stories at bedtimes

Reading together can be fun and open up a whole world of stories using pictures and words. You can also make up stories for your child. It doesn't matter if they're made up and don't make sense. The more you tell stories the easier it gets and the less self-conscious you feel. The important thing is that your child loves the sound of your voice and you are spending special time together. Once they are old enough, you can make up stories together and they can add in ideas.

### Use everyday routines

You can make the most of things you do everyday to help children learn about story structures.

Use things like getting dressed to teach children about sequences. "First we put on our pants. Next we'll put on our T-shirt. Then our jeans. And last our socks". Routines are individual; the important part is the structure of 'first', 'next', 'last' and words like 'then'.

Watch out for Part 4 'A Game to Try at Home' in next week's newsletter...

Taken from a blog posted by: Amanda Baxter on Wednesday 5th June 2013. Amanda Baxter is the Communication Advisor for I CAN, the children's communication charity. The full blog can be found at:

[http://www.motherandchild.co.uk/blog/telling-stories/?utm\\_content=bufferf4f97&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.motherandchild.co.uk/blog/telling-stories/?utm_content=bufferf4f97&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

## Cancer Research

The mum of one of our Y3 children is raising money for Cancer Research, in memory of her father who sadly passed away last year and has shaved all her hair off to raise awareness of this excellent good cause. I am sure many of our families have been affected by this dreadful disease and would like to support her efforts.

If you would like to make a donation please put your contribution in an envelope and hand in to the Office Reception before Easter.

## Term Dates September 2014 to July 2015

### AUTUMN TERM 2014

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
Half-Term Week – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October  
Staff Training Day – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September (No School for pupils)

### SPRING TERM 2015

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
Half-Term Week – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February  
Staff Training Day – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January (No School for pupils)

### SUMMER TERM 2015

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
Half-Term Week – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May  
May Bank Holiday – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May  
Staff Training Day – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April (No School for pupils)  
Staff Training Day – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July (No School for pupils)  
Staff Training Day – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July (No School for pupils)  
Occasional Day – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July (No School for pupils)

## Class Assemblies

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 9.15am

Nursery

## Spring Term Dates

Year 4 - Egyptian Day	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March
Full Governing Body Meeting	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March
KS1/2 Base Trip to Dinosaur Safari Adventure Golf	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Girls Football Tournament	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
Dress up Day (Animal Theme)	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
KS1/2 S&L Base Tea	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April
Finish at 2pm for the Easter Holidays	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April

Jon Hood  
**Headteacher**