



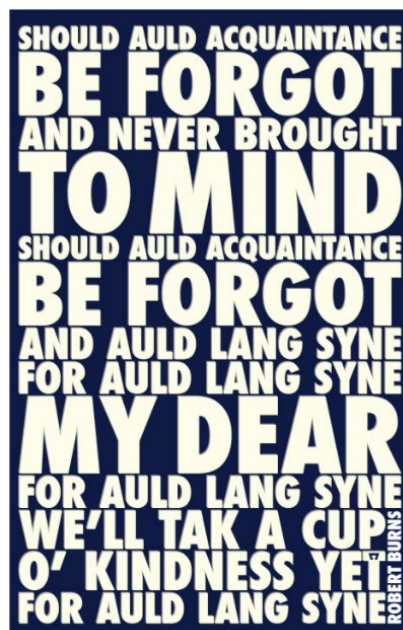
# HILLINGDON NEWS

It has been lovely to welcome back all of the children and hear their news after the Christmas Break. We hope all of our families enjoyed a restful and peaceful break and are excited for the start of the new term. As always, the Spring Term is a busy but very rewarding one and already the children (and staff!) have hit the ground running. Our focus this term is very much on teaching and learning and we hope the newsletter provides a good snap shot of the excellent learning opportunities and experiences that are happening across the school. Additionally, Year 5 and 6 students are well underway with their Rock Challenge preparations and we look forward to providing weekly updates on the progress of our production. It may have been a shorter week, but we have already had our first sporting fixture of the year (read more below) and look forward to the other events that are taking place this term. We would like to wish all of our families a very Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing each of our children progress over the rest of this year.

## Issue 14

### Auld Lang Syne

We have been recreating New Year's Eve in Song Practice this week. The children thoroughly enjoyed linking arms and learning the traditional song "Auld Lang Syne". We discussed the lyrics and the focus upon friendship and celebrating the start of a new year. There were some thoughtful resolutions from both children and staff that were shared. It was fantastic to hear so many of our children choosing resolutions linked to their reading and other areas of school life. Mr Jones is leading by example- "I'm going to try and read a range of books this year. My new year's resolution is to always have a book on the go and have a better reading diet. Wish me luck!"



### WICKED Writing!

The "prestigious Wicked Young Writer Awards" (The Times) was established by the long-running musical WICKED to link the important messages of the production with a competition that would inspire young people to use creative writing to look at life a little differently. Since its launch in 2010, they have received over 20,000 entries to the award. The Award recognises excellence in writing, encourages creativity, and helps develop writing talent in young people between 5-25 years old from all backgrounds and areas of the UK. Each year, they hold a very special prize giving event at the Apollo Victoria Theatre for all 120 finalists. The event is attended by our judges, including head judge Cressida Cowell, Honorary Judge Michael Morpurgo (War Horse) and the WICKED

cast. All finalists also receive a printed copy of their entry as part of the annual Wicked Young Writer Awards Anthology. The 2017 Awards are now open and close on Monday 13th March 2017, so there's plenty of time for writing! Please see Miss Maylor's letter for further information about how to enter.



### Attendance STARS

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. At the start of this New Year we would encourage all of our families to make school attendance a priority-giving your child the best opportunity to progress and develop healthy life habits. Please only take time off when it is absolutely necessary to do so.

Attendance figures for this week are:



KS1	KS2
2A 99.17%	3J 97.5%
2QS 96.67%	60 96.67%

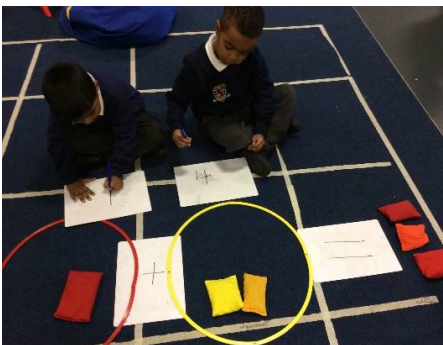


# Look what we've been up to:

**Nursery** - The children have quickly settled back into nursery and have been sharing their holiday news. We have introduced our new topic "Once upon a time" and the children have been keen to explore our castle role-play area.



**Reception** - This week, during our challenges, some of the children were writing about their favourite Christmas present. Some of us took a big challenge and we were ordering numbers from one to twenty and everyone was learning to add one more to a given number. We practised writing a number sentence using the addition and equal symbols.



**Year 1** - The photograph shows the mysterious egg that appeared in the year 1 classrooms this week. Year 1 were so intrigued about how it could have got here and so excited about what it could be! Some children even thought they heard cracking noises... The children did some wonderful writing about their predictions of what they thought it was and described what they thought might be inside. Eventually it hatched and out came a dinosaur!!! This launched our topic of dinosaurs which we are going to be learning about this half term.



Also - 1E and half of 1M (who did not go on our Autumn nature walk due to weather) will be going on a winter nature walk next Friday 13th January. Could we please remind and encourage any parent helpers to join them please!

**Year 2** - We have returned to Year 2 with a BANG! We kicked off the week with our new topic, looking at the lives of Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale. In 2M we have been comparing the hospital Tom visits, from our new book 'The Midnight Gang', with the hospital Florence first worked in during the Crimean War - we know which one we'd rather visit!

We have also been looking at the fables written by Aesop many, many years ago and how the morals taught are still relevant today. We are looking forward to writing our own over the coming weeks. The Year 2 teachers were thrilled to see so many children returning to school with so many reading diary entries over the holiday period and hearing about all the fantastic books they have been reading - well done Year 2!

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week - well done for coming back to school with an excellent attitude and showing your peers what is expected. Fantastic!

**Year 3** - It has been an exciting start to 2017 in Year 3. The children have shown lots of enthusiasm for their new topic on

Romans. They have eagerly discussed what they already know about the Romans and have enjoyed carrying out initial research into it. In Science the children are now learning about plants with particular emphasis on how they grow. The children enjoyed going on a plant hunt around the school, which proved challenging at times due to the frosty conditions! In literacy the children have begun their focus on non-fiction texts by creating instructions. They really enjoyed writing and trialling their instructions on how to make a jam sandwich. Next week in literacy they will begin to look at writing biographies!

**Year 4** - Year 4 are settling in for an exciting term, learning all about their new topic 'Ancient Egyptians'. The children are really looking forward to learning about Egyptian Pharaohs and the exciting discover of Tutankhamen's tomb. The children will also be introduced to the Ancient Egyptian ritual of mummification. Who knows? They may even get the chance to mummify their teacher!

Swimming arrangements for the Spring Term:

- 4F - Monday
- 4J - Friday

**Year 6** - Year 6 have made a great start to 2017. This term begins the build up to the SATs tests and it's great to see the children coming back to school with a desire to work hard and succeed. They have thought lots about their reading this week and how they can ensure they are making quality choices when selecting books to read in their free time. Some children have recommended titles to each other, a fantastic way to spread the enjoyment of a great book! The children have enjoyed starting their new science topic this week, learning about the heart and the circulatory system. Many children were fascinated to learn just how hard their hearts are working, even when they're asleep! Rehearsals for Rock Challenge have been in full flow this week. The soundtrack sounds incredible and the children are really starting to tell the story through their movement and facial expression.





# Student Journalists Put Pen to Paper

Year 5 had a relaxing Christmas holiday and came back raring to learn! Throughout the week, history has been applied to all aspects of school life. We started the week in the Roman period where most of us used our knowledge of Roman Numerals to decode every day Ancient Roman integers. Others of us learnt how to solve antiquated angles. Zooming forward in time, we rediscovered the streets of England during the reign of Queen Victoria only to find the tale of Jim Jarvis, also known as the poor Street child. Learning about Jim's life, one student felt "empty in her

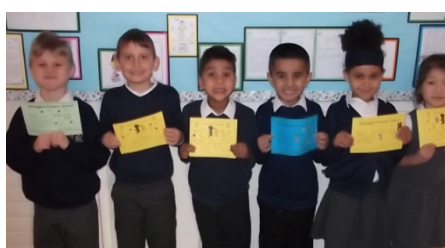
heart" for him. "He suffered a terrible life!" another commented, "Especially when Mr Spink came and kicked his family out of the house!" Over the term, year 5 will be learning more about Street Child and what life was like for people living in the Victorian era. Read on to discover more!

Written by the Year 5 journalists; Oliver, Maddy, Lauren and Krishney.



## Celebration of Success

Celebration Assembly was a hugely positive end to our first week back. It was truly wonderful to hear what a positive start so many of our children had made to the year. Certificates were awarded for positive attitudes, improved handwriting, excellent work ethic, fabulous reading entries, as well as many other skills and pieces of work. Well done to all our children who received a certificate- keep up the good work!



## Students WOW at Sports Hall Athletics

On Wednesday a talented group of young athletes gathered at Hillingdon Leisure Centre to compete in this year's Sports Hall Athletics Competition. The children competed in a range of different track and field events and performed marvellously throughout! The children beat many PB's during the competition and showed excellent sportsmanship. We were particularly thrilled to see such wonderful team spirit, with the children cheering and encouraging each other to be the best they could be. When the final scores were announced, we were chuffed to bits to be awarded second place. Although we would have loved to have won, Whiteheath were worthy winners (they have ranked in the top 3 London Schools for the past 4 years!) and we learnt a great deal from the competition. Well done to all involved.



## Readathon

In keeping with our school focus on **READING**, we are running a "Readathon" (Sponsored Read) from 16th – 31st January and we'd like your child to join in! Readathon is the UK's national sponsored reading event for schools. Readathon encourages children to read for pleasure - an activity proven to increase children's chances of success and personal happiness for the rest of their lives. (Source: OECD) Please refer to the letter sent out earlier this week for full details.



Reading to help children in hospital

