



HILLINGDON NEWS

We kick-started our second week back with an assembly about New Year. The children loved sharing their resolutions and gave some thought provoking responses about why we celebrate the start of the New Year. We agreed that January is an exciting time, where we are granted a fresh start- a chance to improve, to try new things and to set ourselves challenges. We look forward to seeing and hearing about how the children progress towards their resolutions as the year progresses. The snow caused much excitement earlier in the week; all parents should have received an email with information that explains information about the school's procedures in the event of snow. Please make sure you are familiar with this document in case of further weather disruption. We have lots of exciting plans to tie in with our 'Readathon' event next week; be sure to ask your child about the Drop Everything And Read Scheme, it certainly will keep the children on their toes!

Issue 15

Learning Through Drama: A Creative Approach to the Curriculum

Year 4 have been transported back to Ancient Egypt, where they have been exploring the uncovering of Tutankhamun's tomb! As a year group they have shown incredible creativity and focus, as they have been immersed into Drama sessions where they have taken part in guided visualisations, mimed scenes, developed their characterisation skills and have worked

both independently and as a group. This week they were lucky enough to meet the Water-Boy, it is rumoured he was actually the one who discovered the tomb and not Howard Carter! They came up with plenty of questions for this character and then used their new-found knowledge in both their practical drama sessions and later in their writing. What a week!



Primary Stars with QPR

We are lucky enough to have a QPR Primary Stars Officer working with us over the next term. Mr Charles will be using the 'Power of the badge' and the skills promoted through football to work on raising attainment in reading, as well as building on the fantastic PE opportunities we already have in school. Children can get involved with the activities at lunch time and girls have a brilliant opportunity to join in the afterschool Football Club. There are still spaces if your child would like to attend. (Monday 3.20-4.30pm)

You can access the Primary Stars website and access a whole host of fantastic resources to promote ambition and striving for goals.

<https://plprimarystars.com/>



Winter Walks

Year 1 have been off exploring the local area on their 'Winter Walk'. They really enjoyed looking at how nature changes during the winter months. The teachers were very impressed by the children's behaviour and attitude; they were an absolute credit to the school, balancing their excitement and the need to be sensible expertly! Well done Year 1.



Kit Design

We have not let the wet weather dampen our spirits in PE lessons this week. The children have been designing football kits, considering the importance of colour, symbols and brand. They considered which materials would be best and enjoyed being creative in their approach. There was a competitive edge to the process, with the children voting for the best three designs and the winners receiving a small football figure. Maybe we have some future designers at HPS!



Look what we've been up to:

Nursery - At Nursery this week we have been learning about the story of "The three little pigs". We studied different materials and discussed them before building our own houses.



Reception - Reception have enjoyed thinking about their favourite book characters this week, as our new topic for this term is 'We love books'. They have loved dressing up in the role play area and acting out their favourite book/stories and put on a show as part of their weekly challenges.



Year 2 - This week in Science, Year Two have been learning about different materials. We identified and compared the suitability of some everyday materials for different uses.

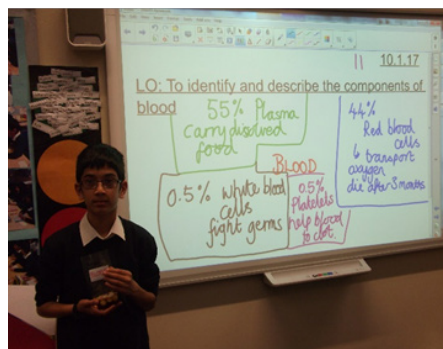
We have continued to read Fables in Literacy, which is a story that features animals and plants. A fable always ends with a 'moral', this is the lesson that is intended to be learnt through reading the story. This week we read 'The Fox and the Cockerel' and 'Town and Country Mouse'. We are looking forward to planning, writing and editing our own Fables next week!

Year 3 - It has been another busy week in Year 3. In Literacy the children learnt about biographies! They enjoyed reading the biographies of Roald Dahl and JK Rowling, as well as having a go at writing their own!

The Romans topic has continued to excite the children as they were able to explore some real life Roman artefacts! The children loved being able to look closely at these artefacts using magnifying glasses. A big thank you to the local library for donating them!

Year 4 - This week, year 4 have started a new and exciting Science unit - 'States of Matter'. This unit will teach the children about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. The children have shown great enthusiasm, especially after finding out about some of the exciting experiments they will be completing over the next few weeks. We look forward to sharing some of our findings with you in next week's newsletter.

Year 6 - There has been lots of creativity in year 6 this week. In English lessons, the children have been brainstorming ideas to write a story to enter into the Wicked Young Writer's Awards competition. Teachers have been so impressed with the enthusiasm and excitement that the children have demonstrated towards this opportunity. They will continue to write their stories at home so do ask to read them - there could be a potential winner out there! In science lessons we have been exploring the different parts of our blood - this produced a rather strange concoction in Mrs Davidson's class this week - ask the children for more details! The backstage team for Rock Challenge have been hard at work making props for the performance this week. They are working fantastically well as a team and the results are looking very promising!



Attendance STARS

"We want everyone at Hillingdon Primary School to be happy, caring and independent. Our school is a place where we learn together, doing our best to achieve success."

A reminder of key information regarding our attendance policy:

- We aim for 100% attendance for all pupils.
- The Local Governing Body have a minimum attendance target of 96% which corresponds to The Elliot Foundation Academy Trust's minimum expectations in relation to pupil attendance at their academies.
- If a pupil's attendance falls below 96%, parents may be contacted to discuss their child's attendance.
- We expect pupils to arrive at school on time and be collected on time.
 - o School starts at 9am for KS1 and 8.50am for KS2.
- The school day ends at 3.15pm for KS1 and 3.20pm for KS2. Registers close at 9.30am, at which point your child will be given an unauthorised absence mark if they are not in school and have not given a valid reason.

A big WELL DONE to our classes below, who are making the most of each and every day in school. We would like to encourage all of our children to be ATTENDANCE STARS!



KS1	KS2
2M 97.99%	4N 99.26%
1E 97.93%	5T 97.93%



Celebration of Success

This Friday we enjoyed another Celebration Assembly, it was excellent to see the children coming up to collect their certificates with such pride and confidence. We always encourage our children to speak out confidently in front of an audience and this week proved we have some very assertive and confident young people! Hearing the children's highlights of the week and celebrating success stories is always such a joy and a fantastic end to the week.



Picnic Day

We would love to see as many of you as possible at our special lunch this Thursday. There will be special reading events happening as part of the lunch... don't miss out!

