

## NOTICES:

### Start Date for Spring Term 2018:

Please note that school will reopen to children and staff on **Tuesday 2nd January 2018.**

### Festive Message:

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a peaceful and joyous festive period. Children, please don't forget to bring in photos and mementos to share how you spent this special time with your families.

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# HILLINGDON NEWS



Issue 4, 2017-18

The school has been buzzing with excitement these past few weeks as children prepared for the festive period: from singing to baking and painting to buzzer games, everyone has been extremely busy. We have seen children conquer their fears and showcase their talent and skills of persuasion as they strived for top place in our H Factor and Dragons' Den competitions: their performances made us all incredibly proud.

The senior leadership team also has some exciting news to share: we have been accredited as a Teaching School! Please read on to learn about all of this and more.

## H Factor Festivities

As many of us are huge fans of shows such as Britain's Got Talent and X Factor, we were extremely excited to be part of the audience for our school's very own H Factor! We were introduced to each performer and listened carefully as they sang beautifully: we certainly have some budding superstars in our school! After hearing all H Factor finalists perform we returned to class to cast our votes. We collected data using a tally chart, something we have just been learning about in Year 2! The votes were close as the standard of singing was so strong, however one person stood out: Asveni in Year 6.



**Our H Factor Winner, Asveni**

Following the H Factor win, the countdown was on for our Christmas Carol Concert at St. John's Church. We practiced our carols in class and met together in the hall for whole school rehearsals. Everyone was prepared and then on the Sunday before our Concert, we were graced with a downpour of snow! Enormous fun for the weekend, but not so much fun trying to get to school the next morning!

On the day of the Christmas Concert we made the difficult decision to stay at school as the grounds outside were too treacherous to walk in. It was a shame not to be singing in the church, however the Rev. Alan Bradford braved the snow to

join us at school instead and the atmosphere in the hall was incredible: everyone sung their heart out!



**H Factor Finalists and our wonderful Readers**

We thoroughly enjoyed listening to the fantastic readers with their poignant messages, and learning more about the Christmas story from Rev. Alan.



**Rev. Alan taught us more about the Christmas Story**

To complete the celebration, everyone joined in with the actions of the Twelve days of Christmas... this is our favourite song as it's so much fun to watch adults and children try their best to keep up with the music and the words.

We can't wait for the Christmas carols in the playground on the last day of term: we hope you can join us!

## Teaching School

Early in the summer term of this year, the Local Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team took the decision to apply for teaching school accreditation in the hope that we would be able to formally share some of the excellent practice at Hillingdon Primary to improve education for even more children.

Teaching schools are strong schools led by strong leaders that work with others to provide high-quality training, development and support to new and experienced

school staff. They are given additional funding to support them in their quest and provide capacity to deliver support to other schools.

Late in the summer term, a representative from the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) came to our school to meet with senior staff to see if our school and staff team have what it takes to be a successful teaching school. We didn't get a response straight away, and had a wait a few nail-biting weeks to find out if we met the grade.

We are very proud to report that we were successful! This marks the start of a very exciting time for our school and staff. Our Chair of Governors, Miss Bramwell, will be writing to you all in the Spring term to share more information about what this means for our school and the way we work, however in the meantime we would like to reassure everyone that our priority remains the children of Hillingdon Primary and ensuring they also benefit from the accreditation as our staff grow.

## Year 1 Nativity

What a marvelous way to finish off the last Friday of term with the Nativity shows from 1C, 1D and 1O!



**Our Fabulous Performers**

They performed brilliantly in the retelling of the Christmas story, told from the point of view of 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'.

Their singing and acting was fabulous and they practiced very hard to make sure their voices were loud and clear which made all of us and their families very proud!

**Well done Year 1!**



**Year 1 in Action**

## Enterprising Year 6

At the start of last week the Year 6 children were set a challenge: to create a buzzer game to be used on our Christmas Fayre stall. In groups they set about designing what their buzzer game would look like. This meant thinking about: the design; the components; construction and the costings. They then presented these ideas in a Dragons' Den style presentation! The children were extremely persuasive and confident at answering questions about their designs; it was incredibly difficult to decide which ones to use!

Next, the children needed to create their buzzer games by



**Presenting ideas**



**Creating the games**

designing the boxes; moulding the wire; creating a background and, most importantly, creating the circuit.

It was great to see them using their science skills to form a circuit in a practical way. Finally, the buzzer games were completed and were used to raise lots of money at the Christmas Fayre.



**The finished product!**



## Shared Learning in Foundation Stage

This term Reception and Nursery classes hosted shared learning sessions with their mums and dads. The children were very pleased to show their parents how they learn and which activities they enjoy the most.

For Reception's first Shared Learning session we focused on phonics. We took the children, and parents, through a typical Read Write Inc lesson.



**Reception's Read, Write, Inc. Lesson**

It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers coming to support their children and getting involved in the lesson by not only encouraging their own child but encouraging other children in the class as well. It was also the perfect opportunity for the parents

to see exactly how their children are being taught their sounds with many parents voicing that they will now be able to support their children in the same way at home.

In the nursery, the morning children were in the garden when their parents came to play. A child commented that he couldn't see the teacher because another child was in front of him. This sparked a debate about who was the tallest so the teacher suggested measuring their heights and modelled standing against the door and marking her height with a post-it note.

Other children wanted to measure their heights so parents supported



**Who's the tallest?**

them to take turns and to make marks to represent their names.

As a group they talked about who the tallest child was.

In the afternoon, children in the nursery showed how learning through play could be enjoyable and purposeful to all the participants. Children involved a mum in making a bus and looked for objects in the nursery that they could use as props. They worked as a team when counting how many seats they needed on the bus and used their imagination to travel around London.



**Nursery singing 'Wheels on the Bus' as they travelled around London**

When they arrived to their destination another parent joined them to read a story.

Learning is always fun in the nursery!

## Peer Mentors and Buddies

Throughout the Autumn term some of the KS2 children have been working hard during their lunchtimes to help with the smooth running of the dining hall and supporting our younger children.

They have taken on roles such as peer mentors and play leaders. It has been wonderful to see them developing their independence, commitment and responsibilities and we know that many are keen to continue during the Spring term.



**Our proud peer mentors and play leaders**

With this in mind, an advert has been placed and we are once again looking for additional children who wish to apply to take on these roles in the Spring term.

Children will need to get an application form from welfare or the reception area. These applications need to be completed and returned to the boxes by **Friday 5th January**.

Do please support your child in completing the form if they should bring one home.

## Christmas Fayre - A Huge Success!!

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone that supported us at our Christmas Fayre on Thursday 14th December: children, parents and family members, staff, Governors, River Church and local businesses all came together to make it a huge success.

The children created some amazing items and class stalls were beautifully decorated. Most stalls had almost sold out by the end of the Fayre! Special congratulations must go to Year 2 who had the most successful stall, generating a whopping £193 net profit!



Year 2's successful sweet shop

We were also fortunate to be visited by Santa Claus and Mrs Claus who, ably supported by our very own elves, got to meet many of our children: we're sure that they are all on Santa's 'good,' list.



Santa and helpers

We are thrilled to report that altogether the Fayre raised approximately **£2,200** (net surplus) for the school. This much appreciated additional income will be used for extra curricular activities arranged during the school day to enhance our children's education.



Year 5's Yummy Truffle Stall



Year 1 Calendars



Fabulous helpers on the refreshments and chocolate tombola stalls



Year 4 Christmas Tree Decorations



Year 3 Christmas Table Decorations

## Sports News

As everyone else has been busy preparing for the festive celebrations, a small group of children have also been busy training hard for the last event of the calendar year; the Sportshall Athletics Competition.

And what an event it was! Our children were competing against four other schools to secure a place in the Borough Sportshall Athletics Final which will be held in January.

Our children behaved fantastically and showed great



Sportshall Athletics Champions!

skill and determination: they moved through a range of events independently and embraced the sportsmanship spirit of the competition by offering support and

encouragement to their peers from the sidelines when they weren't competing themselves. Some of our children even managed to smash their own personal bests!

The competition was very tough and we weren't sure whether we had done enough to secure our place in the final, so you can imagine our excitement when we learnt that we had won the competition!

Keep an eye out in the next newsletter to find out how we do at the Borough Final at Vyners School.



## Christmas Decoration Competition

Yet again this year, we have had a fantastic response to the Hillingdon Primary School Christmas decoration competition! The school's Christmas tree has looked wonderful with all the children's imaginative and bright creations. A big thank you to all children who took part and to their families supporting them - you



have made a wonderful contribution to the festive celebrations in school. This year's winners are: Saiyan (Nursery), Heenal (RE), Roman



(1O), Chevon (2A), Karyn (3Y), Chloe (4M), Savraj (5D) and Aanayah (6J) - a big well done to you all!

## Digital Leaders Visit Brunel University

On Tuesday December 5th 2017, our Digital Leaders attended the Elliot Foundation's first ever Digital Leader event at Brunel University organised by our very own Head of Computing, Mr Jacobs, to celebrate the growth of Digital Leaders within the Trust.



**Our Digital Leaders arrive at Brunel**

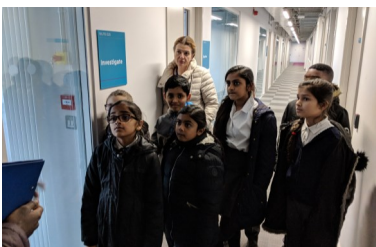
Six schools from within the Foundation attended Brunel University to enjoy an exciting day of activities. The day was opened by Mark House, Senior Product Manager at RM, who gave a keynote speech about the exciting possibilities now present to children as they move forward into the digital age.



**Mark House giving his keynote speech**

This was followed by a tour of

the campus led by a group of Computer Science students, ranging from first year students developing their first real-world programs, to third year students working with artificial intelligence to develop drones that can enter fires to assess safety for firefighters.



**Children touring the Campus**

Children enjoyed the opportunity to talk with such students and hear their thoughts on attending university and how technology is changing our future. They visited the on-campus student accommodation and the wide range of facilities available to students, such as the indoor 100m running track, frequented by Usain Bolt when training in London, and the Computer Labs which had been modelled on modern-day technology companies to promote collaboration between students and teacher.

After this, children from each school were invited to present their ideas and learning in a university lecture hall. Our Digital Leaders shared some of the work they have completed using

Google, and spoke about their vision for the future. There were many complimentary remarks made about the quality of their presentation, and how confidently and clearly their message was delivered.

Brunel University then provided each child with a lunch voucher worth £6. The children were tasked to visit the university cafeteria and apply their mental maths skills to select a lunch that fell within the £6 limit.



**Listening and learning from others in the lecture hall**

Following lunch the Digital Leaders took part in a robotics workshop led by university students. Working with Ozobots,

the children were challenged to think outside the box to solve a series of coding challenges in the fastest time possible.

A huge thank you to Lesley Mortimer, Brunel's Widening Participation Officer, and to Mr Jacobs for their work in organising the event.

We now look forward to further Digital Leader events later this academic year!

## Attendance Update

A huge well done to our **Attendance Stars** in KS1 and KS2 for having the highest rates of attendance so far this year.

★ Attendance Stars	
KS1	KS2
1C - 96.95%	3CM: - 97.56%

**Reminder:** We recognise that it can be difficult to maintain attendance at this time of year, with so many coughs and colds going round, however attendance is critical to ensuring your child succeeds at school.

Please speak to our Welfare Team about the ways we can support your child to get back to school if he / she feels slightly under the weather.



**Attendance by Class - Autumn Term 2017**

*Children & parents, you are invited to . . .*

# Christingle & Carols

Christmas  
Eve

3.30pm  
or 5pm

Sunday 24 Dec  
Come as you are  
or with prop/costume



St. John's Church  
Royal Lane  
Hillingdon UB8 3QP

## Dates to Remember:

### JANUARY:

**Tuesday 02/01:** Children return to school.

**02/01 to 12/01:** RE Week

**Monday 15/01:** Reception Parents' Phonics Workshop

**Tuesday 16/01:** Year 1 Parents' Phonics Workshop

**Thursday 18/01:** Special Fairy Tale themed lunch

**Tuesday 23/01:** Year 6 Parents' SATs Meeting  
**w/b Monday 29/01:** Assessment Week

*Please see the latest Spring term dates sent to parents at the end of the autumn term for a full list of dates and event details.*