

## Hartford Infant and Preschool & Hartford Junior Newsletter 18 20.1.2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

*Hello / Witam*

I hope this newsletter finds you well. This week the school had a visit from The Cam Trust Directors of Learning who were looking at **personal development** and **diversity** across both schools' curriculums. Some children and staff were interviewed and it was a joy to hear how many say they love their school and how their personal development is supported. However, we are reflective in our practices and always welcome feedback to help us on our journey to bring out the best in everyone.

This week **Year 6** children in **Holly class** went to St. Peters School and they participated in a **science lesson** which all children enjoyed, it was lovely to hear that some of them saw it as an opportunity to develop their transition to Secondary. I believe that Willow Class will be visiting next month.

On Wednesday, all of our teachers visited other local schools as part of their professional development. Staff returned and shared ideas that they would like to adopt in their year groups, how exciting! A huge thank you to Mrs Jo Eagle, our Early Years Lead who hosted 12 schools and shared the good practice that happens in our Reception classrooms. We had lots of lovely comments about the school, which is always a pleasure to hear.

Thank you to all those parents who popped into school to see **math gym** in classrooms and listen to Mrs Smith's maths presentation, I apologise that the presentation PowerPoint was obscured by sunlight. Hopefully, you found the workshop useful and will be able to support your child at home with their maths learning.

Have a lovely weekend folks. Best wishes/Wszystkiego najlepszego Rae Lee [Headteacher]

### *Strikes / Uderzenia*

You might have seen in the news this week that teacher members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted to strike. This is in response to an ongoing national dispute with the government over pay and conditions, not against our schools. You can find further information about the strikes and NEU's motivation on their website. The strikes in our region will be taking place on: Wednesday 1st February, Wednesday 1st March, Wednesday 15th March, Thursday 16th March.

As members of teaching staff who are taking part in the strike action are not required to let their school know in advance, it makes it difficult for us to judge the impact this action will have on our school. However, we currently believe that on **Wednesday 1st February all** classes will be **open**. Should this change we will of course inform you immediately.

The NEU is one of the largest trades unions for teachers and support staff, and we are aware that some of our staff are members of the NEU. It is, therefore, possible that we will be impacted in some way on future strike dates, and that the school may be closed for some year groups on the dates above. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. We will be in touch as soon as we can to confirm the arrangements for these dates.

### *Dates for the Diary / Daty do Pamiętnika*

PATHS meeting	Infant School	Monday 23rd January	Everyone welcome to our 2nd meeting at 2.15pm, refreshments provided
Victorian Day	Infant School	Monday 30th January	Infant children are invited to wear Victorian outfits
Y5 Space Centre visit	Junior School	Wednesday 1st February	Children <b>will</b> [despite <i>any</i> strike action] be visiting the <a href="#">Space Centre</a> as part of their space work
School Discos	All Schools	Thursday 9th February	Do come along to our next PATHS meeting to support this fundraising initiative
Half Term	All Schools	Monday 13th February	All Schools closed for this week
Zoo Trip	Infant School	Tuesday 21st February	<b>All</b> children invited to go on our Sparky Start Whole School visit to the zoo [see letter sent 20.1.2023]
Year 5 Swimming	Junior School	Tuesday 21st February	All <b>Year 5</b> children will walk to the St Peters Recreation Centre for their swimming sessions
Last day of term	All Schools	Friday 31st March	All children return to school on Tuesday 18th April at 8.45am

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### Preschool

This week, preschool children have enjoyed making and tasting porridge to link to their core story of 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears', they used their gross motor skills for mixing and we recalled the sizes from the story. We also explored the frost outside and made marks in it. We then used chalks for our large scale mark making and also tried to 'free' the bears who had been frozen into ice blocks, linking it to the world around us. **Next week**, we will be continuing our phonics learning by going on a treasure hunt to find objects that 'sound the same' – rhyming.

### Reception

This week in **Class 1 and 2**, we have been sequencing the story of 'The Enormous Turnip' and writing words and captions using our phonic knowledge. Maths learning has focused on adding 'one more' and thinking about the relationships between the numbers 1-5, we have used lots of practical hands-on resources to support this. In our enquiry sessions we have been getting musical, learning new songs and using percussion instruments to tap out a steady rhythm. **Next week**, we will be beginning to learn about Queen Victoria and about what life was like for people living in the Victorian era.

### Year 1

This week, in **Class 3 and 4**, we have begun to recognise how sentences have been punctuated using a capital letter and full stop. In maths we have been finding one more and one less and comparing numbers. We enjoyed our grown ups coming to watch us in maths gym too. In enquiry we have been using historical sources to find out about the Victorians and place events in order on a timeline. **Next week**, we will be writing our own sentences to punctuate correctly and using a numberline to help us add by counting on.

### Year 2

This week **Class 5 and 6**, in English we have enjoyed learning about the features of letters and postcards. We are improving our exclamation and question sentences. In maths we learnt how to add 2-digit numbers that required us to cross the 10s boundary. The children were interested to learn about the differences between modern and Victorian homes. **Next week**, in English we will think of adjectives with suffixes e.g fearful and friendly and learn how to subtract 2-digit numbers in maths.

### Year 3

This week in **Beech and Chestnut Class**, we began reading the story 'Sulwe'. The children have shown compassion towards the lead character. In maths we have just started to look at division linked to our 4 times table knowledge. The children have been working well on their spellings on 'Edshed' and have been able to use the spellings in their writing. The children performed a wonderful 'mechanical' dance in PE, we were very impressed with their synchronicity with their partners.

### Year 4

This week in **Pine and Sycamore Classes**, we have really enjoyed reading our class text in English 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and learning all about the characters in the story. We can't wait to read on! In maths we have been thinking about multiplication and have been using a range of practical resources to explore making arrays and recording multiplication. In art we have been getting creative with the paints and creating 3D images using toning and shading – we have had some really impressive artwork! **Next week**, in maths we will be continuing our work on multiplying, applying some of our reasoning skills and in science we will be thinking about sound and volume and experimenting on how height changes the volume produced.

### Year 5

This week in **Oak and Ash Class**, we've developed our understanding of parenthesis, extending our writing by adding more information using brackets and dashes, while reading the next chapter of 'Kensuke's Kingdom' - which we're all enjoying! . In science we completed an experiment on friction, by measuring the distance toy cars travelled across different surfaces. In maths we're persevering with fractions and can now compare fractions of different sizes. In history we re-enacted the story of Boudicca's dramatic battle against the Roman legions. Finally in RE we looked at how Jesus found his disciples and discussed valuable moral lessons such as forgiveness and peace making.

### Year 6

This week in **Willow and Holly Classes**, some children visited St Peter's School for a science session. Willow class will visit on the 8th February. The children really enjoyed the opportunity to experience a secondary science lesson in a real lab and carried out an experiment using universal indicator to create a rainbow in their test tubes. In English, we are enjoying reading 'Street Child' and working on the features of a diary entry. **Next week**, in science, we will learn how invertebrates are classified.



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