



Welcome to term 2!

Term 2 2013-2014  
November 2013

# UKS2 Newsletter



## Water

This term we are going to be investigating water and linking the whole of our curriculum around this, including maths.

Over half term the children were asked to think about how to conserve water. They will be sharing their findings with the rest of the school as we try to reduce our water footprint. In addition, we asked them to keep a water diary and we will be using this data in maths.

We will be looking at the importance of water to the human race and learning about the water cycle in science, linking this back to the research the children completed over half term.

In literacy we are working hard at improving our key skills especially using higher level punctuation such as brackets, colons, semi colons, dashes and speech marks.



## How can you help?

- Talk about where in the world we can find water, day to day and over time.
- Watch the weather report and have a go at creating your own at home
- Discuss the weather, linking to the water cycle or other scientific areas that involve water.
- Work together at home to save water
- Look at a water bill together and explain how it works. Then set challenges such as 'how much will water cost for ten years?'
- Spend some time at the library researching different rivers

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**P.E. Information:**

- Y5 P.E. Monday and Tuesday afternoons
- Y6 P.E. Monday and Friday afternoons
- Y5 will be swimming in term 4
- Y6 will be swimming in term 5

With the changeable weather at this time of year, please ensure your child has a suitable P.E. kit for both indoor and outdoor activities.

Their P.E. kit must be different to the school uniform they are wearing for hygiene reasons.

## Mathletics Mad!

There have been lots of changes in Maths during term 1 here at Hoo! Every week the children are having a maths gap test which tests the breadth of their mathematical knowledge. The scores are added into our weekly house point totals.

We are using this information to inform our planning for the next week to ensure that all children make as much progress as



## Reading!

As you're aware, reading was a key focus in term 1. Thank you to all of you who took photos, designed costumes, helped with ideas for book covers and, most importantly, listened to your child read.

As we continue with this focus in term 2, please remember the importance of reading with your child at home. We ask that you

## Get Caught Reading!

Thank you for all the effort that was put in to the Get Caught Reading Competition. This was a great success with some pictures of children reading in some very unusual places. Some of these included— on a digger, on some monkey bars, in a dog's kennel and many more!

possible.

Alongside this, the children can now receive house points for the number of Mathletics certificates they achieve in a week.

To achieve a bronze certificate they need to score 1000 points on Mathletics during one week. Once

they have five bronze certificates they work their way towards a silver certificate. then after four silver certificates they can achieve a gold one! Certificates will be given out in assembly.

*How many certificates can you earn this term?*

*"When I was a child I devoured every book I could get my hands on. I loved losing myself in colourful and dramatic stories - and my absolute favourite was 'Charlie And The Chocolate Factory.' Everything about it electrified me, and when I re-read Roald Dahl's books as an adult it surprised me."*

*David Walliams*

heart hem read for at least 10 minutes and sign their yellow reading record so that they can work towards their reading certificates!

Each morning children are expected to place their reading record on their desk when they

arrive at school and it will be checked by an adult in their class.

Well done to Abbey-May 5U, Shannon 5T, Kelly 6X and Sally 6Y who read the most on their classes in term 1.

This term it's a competition of girls vs boys in each class!

Congratulations to the following students who won the raffle and picked a book from the current top 10 children's book!

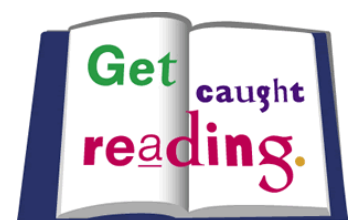
Christopher 5T

Alexis-Laya Harris 5U

Sam 5U

Matthew 5V

Amelia 5T



## Homework



Your child will continue to receive three pieces of homework a week

- Maths
- Curriculum
- Spellings

Their maths homework will be based around key skills they need to improve in order to progress and will be something they've been working on that week. It may be set on Mathletics.

Curriculum homework will be continue to be linked to the topic they've been studying in class that week, or may be based around one of the Thinkers' Keys.

We will continue to use the learning platform to set homework and will discuss further with children how to access and submit work on it.

If you don't have access to a computer at home, we can organise for children to access one of the computers in school.

Your child will receive between

10 and 20 words to learn for spellings each week. These will then be tested the following Wednesday.

If homework isn't completed on time, your child will be expected to stay in and do it during their lunch hour. If they're struggling with it, they need to let us know by Monday so that we can plan in time to support them— Wednesday morning is too late.

## Learning Platform



The incredible new Facebook-style learning platform has so far been a success! This is a safe and secure way for your child to keep up with friends, post statuses, update their blog as well as work!

Every child has been sent home with a log in so that they can access this at home, please let us know if you need a new one to be sent home!

The platform can be accessed on computers and tablets. It can be found at:

[hsw.dbprimary.com](http://hsw.dbprimary.com)

There will be continue to be new forums, communities, help pages and much more on here. Please do

log on with your child to access both their homework tasks and take a look at some of the work they have produced in lessons!

Please remind your child about E-safety as this continues to be a focus in school. The whistle icon will report any problems straight to school to be dealt with.

Thank you for your patience with the launch of the new the learning platform!

## Get Involved!

Children have most success when their school and parents work together to help them progress. Thank you to everyone who attended their child's parents' evening in term 1. All questions and queries from this should have been followed up by now, so if you're waiting to hear about anything, please let us know.

We hope that receiving a set of targets to focus on with your child was useful. We'd appreciate your feedback on this.



New targets are now in place for term 2 in reading, writing and maths. Please ask your child what their target is and come and talk

to us if you'd like more detail.

We will continue to host the open classroom sessions on a Friday afternoon from 3:10pm-3:30pm. This will give you an opportunity to pop into your child's class, have a look in their books and get a good understanding of what they've been working on and what you could practice further at home.

## Absence

It is **ESSENTIAL** that your child doesn't miss out on a day's learning. Therefore we will be continuing to follow-up any child's absence with phone calls home and visits from Mrs Haskins and our attendance officer. In order to give your child the best education, we need them in school.

[www.hoo-st-werburgh.medway.sch.uk](http://www.hoo-st-werburgh.medway.sch.uk)

## **Weekly Write**

This will look slightly different in term 2! Instead of being sent home with a separate sheet of paper, your child will be preparing for their weekly write in class. They will still have a weekly write every week, but this will also allow us to teach them some planning skills.

To help you keep up-to-date with your child's writing, why don't you come along to one of our open classroom sessions on a Friday?



## Key Dates

### November

Friday 8th—Y6 Expectation meeting  
Friday 8th—Disco  
Friday 15th—Children in Need  
Monday 18th—June Noakes assembly  
Tuesday 19th—PTA Gift Room  
Friday 29th—Wrong Trousers Day

### December

Monday 2nd—June Noakes assembly  
Friday 6th—Christmas Fayre  
Tuesday 10th—Christmas Dinner  
Tuesday 10th—Pantomime  
Wednesday 18th—KS2 Carol Concert at Church  
Friday 20th—Last day of term

**Term 3 Starts Monday 6th January**

## Useful Websites

[www.mathletics.co.uk](http://www.mathletics.co.uk)

[hsw.dbprimary.com](http://hsw.dbprimary.com)

[www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2science](http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2science)

<http://www.everyschool.co.uk/geography-key-stage-2-water.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/reading/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/writing/>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling\\_grammar/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/)

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/swater.html>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/9\\_10/changing\\_state\\_fs.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/9_10/changing_state_fs.shtml)