



Hoo St Werburgh Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As 2016 draws to a close there is lots to celebrate in school. Our 9 page newsletter is one of our longest yet! Accelerated reader and Monkey Maths are now part and parcel of our learning, further increasing our focus on basic skills but in a way that fits with our creative ethos. See the articles for some impressive reading stats!

It has been a pleasure to listen to the rehearsals and finally watch the infant Christmas performance. 'Christmas with the Aliens' was definitely a roaring success. This time of year is so special and magical memories are made. Linking the rehearsals to our spoken language curriculum and seeing the confidence and clarity with which some of our youngest pupils can speak in front of hundreds of people makes us very proud. Our KS2 Carol Service at the church was a moving occasion and the children's singing continues to be spine tinglingly good. Well done to the readers and the choir for a great performance.

A special thanks needs to go to the PTA this term, who have done a sterling job in providing enriching activities for the children whilst raising money for the school. There hasn't been a week without something going on. Their support is invaluable, so please do offer to help at an event if you can, and remember to thank them for giving up their own time so freely to support your children.

We have included a special section on fundraising in this newsletter as the school effort so far this year has been impressive. It is definitely the season of goodwill in Hoo!

Enjoy the Christmas holidays and New Year celebrations. We will see you next year on Wednesday 4th January!

Kind regards

Tara Deevoy
(Head of School)

COURAGE

CONFIDENCE

RESPECT

BELONGING

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Green**

NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

As the weather continues to be nice I can't believe we are coming up towards Christmas and the end of term 2.

The multi-academy trust continues to develop and many good things have taken place between the 3 schools – the highlight this term being the lovely Christmas fayre at the dockyard attended by thousands of people. I understand that much more is in the pipe line which is great because one reason for joining a trust was to enable the school to further develop and grow with schools that want to work together and these early green shoots are showing.

Hoo St Werburgh Primary School and Marlborough Centre continues to provide a rich educational experience with school trips, sporting teams representing us at Medway events as well as in school events supporting the continued good work being done in classrooms of which pupils are really making an impact on their own education.

We do a great deal at school, but we could not have done any of this without the support of parents, pupils and our dedicated staff and for this may I say a big thank you for your continued support.

As I said at the start I can't believe Christmas is nearly upon us so with that in mind I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy new year. Enjoy some quality family time and I look forward to seeing you when you return in January 2017.

Kind Regards

Ian Chappell JP

Chair of Governors

STAFFING

This term we are saying goodbye to Mrs Green, who teaches part-time in Sharks class. She is leaving to spend more time with her young family. We wish her all the best for the future. You will have noticed that Mrs Palmer is no longer on crossing patrol. She will be continuing in her administrative role in school and as a lunchtime supervisor but has given up the crossing patrol due to health reasons. We have strongly



 requested a replacement from Medway Council, who employ the crossing patrol officers directly, but if you have concerns, we would urge you to share these with the council. If anyone has an interest, or knows someone who may have an interest in taking on the role, please let us know and we will happily pass on details to the council if they advertise the post. This is a really important job. Inconsiderate and dangerous parking by some parents presents a very real danger to our children and having a crossing patrol is one way we can help to keep them safe.

PARKING AND ROAD SAFETY



This subject has raised its head again and you will recall recent letters sent out reminding parents to park safely. Without our go-pro camera to monitor the situation, some parents have seen this as a green light to pull up on or park on the yellow zig zag lines. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS. Parking on pavements is also dangerous as it forces those with pushchairs to step into the road. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS EITHER.

Thank you to all of you who park safely and/or walk to school. Our walking bus now has 2 routes, so just ask for details at the office if you are interested. All of the pupils in KS2 have now completed their online road safety training and most were also successful in the assessment of their understanding. Certificates have been handed out in class. We are really pushing the road safety agenda in school to help the children learn how to keep themselves safe and need your support as parents to reinforce these messages.

WEBSITE

Key information continues to be posted on the school website on a daily basis. If you encounter any problems, broken links or out of date information, please let the office know immediately.

Please follow us on Twitter @HSWprimary. We try to post live from events where possible and if you have signed the photo permission slip, your child's achievements will also be celebrated using this media enabling you to share this easily with family members.

VOLUNTEERS



We'd like to take this opportunity to again thank our volunteers who give up their time so freely. We now have regular visitors who read with pupils, run our library and generally help out in class to be an extra pair of hands – always helpful when it is an art lesson or a particularly ambitious science experiment!

If you are interested in volunteering or running a club then please contact Mrs Haskins, our school and community officer. We will need gardeners in the spring!

PARENTS' EVENING

Our 3 drop in evenings have been really positive so we are going to continue to offer these each term in addition to the planned formal parents evening. If you have any concerns that you would like to discuss in private please just drop a note to the office or fill in the slips available during the session at the registration desk.

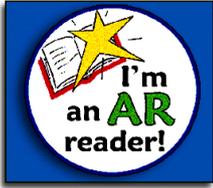
ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

The first data report will be coming out to you in January, which will show your child's performance in reading, writing and maths. Following a pilot in the summer term, we are now using PIRA and PUMA tests to assess reading and maths formally, alongside accelerated reader and monkey maths scores. So if your child has been telling you about their 'tests' then this is what they are talking about. We sit these 3 times a year at the end of terms 2, 4 & 6 and they take about 30 – 40 each per subject.

In the reports, we will be sharing test data with you alongside the usual stages 3B 3B+ 3W etc so you can see more easily how your child is doing compared to other children nationally in their year group. A full information sheet will be provided with the reports, along with drop in sessions.

LEARNING

ACCELERATED READER



The launch of Accelerated Reader has been a resounding success. Our small but dedicated band of volunteers labelled books, our ICT team uploaded the app to all our ipads, the teachers have taught and the pupils have read and quizzed. As a result we now have 2 formal assessments behind us and have taken a huge number of quizzes. Quizzes are important, as the children will not be allocated the words unless they can prove they have understood what they have read! In total, we have read **16,015,264** words as a school since September. That's right – well over **16 million!!! Panda class** are topping our leader board with a massive **4,286,380** words read, but we have some dedicated individuals topping up our table too. It is no surprise that these are also the children who have made fantastic progress this term. Practice makes perfect. **They are certainly putting the effort in and deserve their fantastic achievements in recent assessments.**

Whole school top five:

1. Cara S (860,902) The challenge is on for Cara to become our first word millionaire.
2. Alicia CW (675,751) Alicia won't be far behind if she carries on at this rate!
3. Cody N (452,207) Cody is the only boy in our top five – come on lads!
4. Freya P (392,596) Freya is just a couple of novels away from catching Cody up
5. Isabelle F (374,851) Isabelle is defending her top 5 position with sustained reading – keep it up!

It is no surprise that our most popular books have been 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and 'Mr Stink' (which are class readers in Y4 and Y5). But 'Gangsta Granny' and 'Owl Babies' are also surprise additions to the top 4. Y2 putting in a strong showing with Owl Babies quizzes!

Don't forget that you can use www.arbookfind.co.uk if your child would like to read a book from home and quiz on it in school to earn the points and words read. Please look out for the **personalized 'HomeConnect' letter** which will be coming to you at the end of term. This log-in will allow you to check your child's individual reading levels, quiz scores and words read. You can also set email alerts to receive your child's quiz scores directly, so you can see if they are fully understanding what they are reading.

We have decided that any 'word millionaires' will be provided with a royal blue polo shirt embroidered with the school logo that they can wear whenever they want. We will also be putting pupil names in for a **book token raffle** at the end of term if they have shown particular progress in reading (this makes it fair for all pupils regardless of their starting points). They will be taken out to spend these tokens at the start of next term!



MONKEY MATHS

Monkey Maths continues on Mondays with pupils practising key skills in their year groups.

Years 2 to 6 have all completed their first attempt at the Level 1 Spider Monkey challenge. They had 3 minutes 10 seconds to answer 65 questions on the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. A child in Year 3 completed the challenge in an impressive time under 2 minutes! This is an amazing achievement and a testament to the power of hard work and practice. Examples of the challenge are on our website for home use.

We have children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who have succeeded in outsmarting the Spider Monkey; well done! These children will receive a certificate and are now ready for the Capuchin Monkey challenge.

The next timed challenge attempt will take place in week 1 next term. We will be rewarding children who are working hard to make progress, so although your child **may not move on** from Spider Monkey challenge until they know their 2,5,10 times tables, their progress in scores and times will be recognised.

Flip Out, the new trampoline park in Chatham, have kindly provided free tickets for the Monkey Maths raffle. This is open to all those pupils who have completed a maths challenge and will take place termly. This term's raffle takes place on the last day of term.



Please continue to use this site to practise key skills at home whenever possible. The app can be used on any tablet or mobile for those families who do not have a desktop computer at home. If you have any issues please let the office know as there is an add-on that can be accessed to make the app work.

We are continuing the 'Bingo Bugs' ipad lunchtime club for KS2 pupils. Some pupils in Y5 and Y6 who still do not know their times tables will be asked to attend for 10 minutes every lunchtime to support them in learning this essential maths knowledge. **If you do not have internet access at home or a smart phone to use the app then your child can complete their Mymaths work at school during lunch club.** Teachers will direct pupils to this as needed if they haven't completed any work set.

PGL 2016

60 children including 10 children from the Marlborough Centre went to the Isle of Wight for a long weekend in October and had a fun filled time learning new skills and developing in confidence. Activities included abseiling, climbing, tunnelling and dragon boat racing. It was quite tricky getting 24 people to all paddle together!



Although there was a lot of excitement, by the last night all was quiet by 10 pm! Part of the challenge was to share a cabin with others and keep their room tidy. Most children managed it, with a few gentle reminders from staff. It was lovely to see how well our pupils supported their peers from the centre and there were also occasions when roles were reversed and we had centre pupils cheering on main school pupils. The food was lovely as usual, with lots of choice at every mealtime and the opportunity to try new things. That was definitely the theme of the trip with new adventures every day!

As well as our fabulous fund raising efforts, our pupils have been enhancing their learning with lots of other activities:

In September:

- Election of our 2016-2017 School Council; congratulations to Bella S, Sophie C, Zac O, Poppy R, Shannon O, David O, Rauri B, Jenny B, Joseph L-W, Chloe H, Harley D, Finley W, who were all voted in by their classmates to represent them.
- 28th September - Some of our pupils took part in an Able Writers Day at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. Children had the opportunity to work with the brilliant fiction and scriptwriter, Harry Oulton. Harry has been running author visits in schools for many years. Miss Lewis went with the children so that they could continue their learning back in school.
- Thursday 29th September - Year 3 visited The Guildhall Museum. This linked with their topic 'Tribal Tales'. The Children had the opportunity to plunge into prehistory with the Guildhall's new exhibition and discover the very distant past. Children saw rich displays of ancient objects and clever reconstructions to show how people lived in the past and how human life developed thousands and thousands of years ago from the Stone Age to the Roman invasion.



In October:

- 3rd October – a photographer from the Medway Messenger came into school to take photographs of our Foundation Stage classes; these photographs were then published under the heading 'First Class' in one of their Friday editions.
- 4th October - Foundation Stage and Year 1 pupils all took part in a Road Safety Walk. Following a short interactive session in the school hall, a safer journeys officer from Medway Council led Year 1 pupils on a walk outside the school identifying street furniture, vehicles, places to cross and a basic road crossing demonstration.
- 11th October - As part of Year 6's local history topic, they embarked on a trip to Hoo Church to see the war memorial. This provided children with a great opportunity to find out more about Hoo's role in WW1 and about local people who fought in the war and what they did.
- 14th October - we marked Red, White and blue day by inviting our children to come to school dressed in Red, White and Blue and having a values themed pop up gallery. This was the culmination of our values week where we looked at the school values and British values and some classes undertook learning linked to black history.
- 17th October - Year 2 became 'Street Detectives' for the morning and investigated our local area. The learning walk provided the following learning opportunities:
 - ✓ Searching for clues about the past and present
 - ✓ Reading a map and drawing additional features
 - ✓ Finding out about changes that have taken place in the local area
 - ✓ Thinking about the people needed to look after the local community
 - ✓ Discussing how the environment has changed over the years

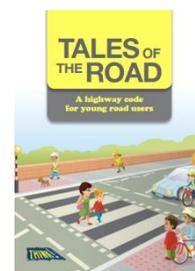


- 18th October - Some pupils took part in an Able Maths Day at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. Children had the opportunity to work with one of the UK's leading Maths tutors, Pete Hall, who has been involved in many primary maths projects nationally and internationally. His motto is 'Making Maths fun!' Miss Mills from Year 6 accompanied the children so that we can continue to build on some of their learning back in school.
- 19th October – Our pupils enjoyed the M & M Production of Jungle Book. Whilst being a really fun activity, experiences such as this also bring learning to life and provide great opportunities for discussion back in class and at home.
- 21st October - Foundation Stage pupils enjoyed a Superhero dress up day as part of their topic of 'superheroes'. They learnt lots about real life superheroes as well as their favourite fictional ones and also learnt about their very own super powers! On this day, children came in as their favourite superhero, and wore the mask and capes that they have made during this week.
- 21st October - Year 4 pupils held a Roman Day as a celebration of their 'I Am Warrior' topic learning this term. During the day, they made Roman bread as part of their maths lesson, weighing and measuring out ingredients. They also held a Roman banquet in the afternoon, allowing children to experience what it was like to eat like the Romans. Children were invited to come to school dressed like a Roman.



In November:

- 24th November - Year 2 visited Rochester Castle and the Guildhall Museum for the day. The visit was planned to consolidate and extend the children's learning of their topic 'Castles'. Whilst in Rochester, the children visited the castle keep and participated in an artefact handling workshop at the Guildhall Museum.
- 26th November –.
- 16th, 17th, 21st & 22nd November - Year 6 Bikeability, 32 of our Year 6 pupils undertook their level 2 Bikeability course, which teaches them to cycle safely as road users.
- 16th November - Year 3 'Around the World Tasters' sessions. Children were introduced to the cuisine and dining etiquette of a variety of countries from around the world, they also talked about the nutrition of foods and children were invited to sample tasters of food representative of each country
- 21st – 25th November - National Road Safety Week – KS2 children undertook Road Safety Skills Tests at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.
- Friday 25th November - PTA Disco – Best dancer award goes to Bobby!
- 26th November - many children took the opportunity to visit the Hoo St Werburgh stalls at the first Rivermead Inclusive Trust Christmas Festival at Chatham Dockyard: our PTA attended the fair and it was great to see lots of pupils and their parents there. Thanks to Connor, Toby, Luke, Zach and Faye for all their help.
- 30th November - Year 2 Opposites workshop; pupils took part in a classroom based session based on the use of opposites – safe/dangerous, left/right etc.
- 29th November & 1st December - Advent Assemblies were delivered by Rev Sue from Hoo St Werburgh Parish Church who started our Christmas season with thoughtfulness.



In December:

- 1st & 2nd December - pupils bought Christmas gifts for loved their ones in the PTA Gift Rooms
- 8th December - Year 4 took part in a Junk Percussion Workshop as a celebration of their 'Playlist!' learning this term.. Pupils had fun pushing the limits of music and rhythm to another level and had fantastic fun playing 'musical instruments' whilst gaining valuable experience of working as a team to form a "Junk" orchestra under the direction of a real musician. The children then performed in the school assembly to pupils and parents in a special event.
- 13th,14th & 15th December – The FS & KS1 Christmas Production of Christmas with the Aliens, saw 3 sell out shows!
- 16th December – We went all out for Christmas in a day where we wore our Christmas jumpers, all had Christmas lunch together with crackers, then we all had fun at the PTA Christmas Fair with a visit from a special guest.
- 20th December – Our Christmas celebrations end with a calm and thoughtful event. The KS2 Carol Concert at Hoo St Werburgh Parish Church. Beautiful singing and



AWARDS AWARDS EVERYWHERE



Thank you to our lovely Y6 ambassadors and Y5 buddies who have done a great job this term. The grounds team have also fought the never ending battle against the rubbish blown in from the park with admirable tenacity.

Attendance and house point certificates will be handed out at celebration assembly on Thursday. We will not be having non-school uniform days as a reward this year. We do try to value the ideas from our school council and give them a go, but it was very difficult to organize so we have asked them to come up with something more manageable! We know that the children love to wear their own clothes to school, so will be looking for other ways to incorporate that into our schedule of events.



It is lovely to see the children wearing their green and gold frog badges from last year with pride. We will be celebrating **239** pupils' behavior on Thursday. These pupils have been 'green' every day since the start of September - consistently show good manners and good learning in class. Their plain green 'two term' badges will be waiting for them on the first day back so they don't get lost in the present unwrapping frenzy of Christmas.

In addition to the 239 pupils who have been green all year so far, we have
42 pupils who were green in term 1 & 59 pupils who were green in term 2

These pupils will be working extra hard next term to get their 'two term' Green badge.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL THE STAFF

