



Hyde Park Infant School

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24th February 2017

Dear Parents,

It has been another exciting week at Hyde Park Infant School with highlights of a visit from the fire brigade for Y2 children. I heard their squeals of excitement as they jetted the water across the playground and then their silence and good listening when the firemen talked about fire safety in the home. In Y1, as part of Design Technology week, the children have been building bridges using a range of materials and construction kits and are also mastering sewing techniques on binka material. Our youngest children in the Foundation Stage are finding out about Space in readiness for their visit to the Plymouth University planetarium next week. All children are constantly working on acquiring 'Basic Skills' in Maths and English and I would encourage you to support them on a daily basis (a little and often approach) to learn phonics, recognise words, spell words, spell words correctly within a sentence at whatever level has been suggested by your child's teacher at parents' evening. For maths, staff will be able to suggest areas to work on but for additional challenge, it is helpful and fun for children to take on mathematical challenges and to problem solve using a range of mathematical skills. If you want some ideas for the maths, try a puzzle book from the library or look online (BBC Bitesize for KS1 could be a starting point), make up your own challenges or try this one...

*3 birds laid some eggs
Each bird laid an odd number of eggs
Altogether they laid 19 eggs
How many eggs did each bird lay?
Find different ways to do it.*

Mrs Hill's Head Teacher Challenge for the week ahead is to try out the challenge above or to send me evidence (chart, writing, pictures, graphs etc.) of a maths challenge that you have tried out at home.

World Book Day

A reminder that we are taking part in World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March. Special £1.00 book vouchers will be issued to each child which can be used in bookshops to go towards the purchase of any book and bookshops will also stock a limited number of special World Book Day books that can be purchased for £1.00.

In school, we encourage every child to bring a copy of a book that they have read and loved (still in good condition) that they would like to swap for a different book. From past experience, we do have children who don't have books at home so if there are any families who can donate more than one book, we will be very pleased to receive them so that every child can go home with a 'new'



book on Thursday. Send this book to be swapped in to school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning. Thank you for your involvement.

Beginner guitar and recorder class/club

There is a beginner guitar 7 week course opportunity (7 weeks for £35.00) starting on Monday 27th February at lunchtime. Children can borrow a guitar if they don't have one already at home and then Vicky can advise on a suitable and inexpensive purchase.

After school on Monday, there are spaces in the recorder group and a 6 week course is offered here for a cost of £21.00. Please send your child with a recorder if you have one but Vicky has some to borrow in the first instance. Monies can be sent to school in an envelope on Monday morning labelled with your child's name and the club that they want to join. To book a place for both guitar and recorder, please e-mail Vicky on vicpenlan@hotmail.com

FizzBug Club

The FizzBug Club started last week on a Tuesday for Y2 and Y1 classes and was very popular with the children. There are a few places available for Y1 children and more for Y2 children so if you want to register your child for this club, please e-mail Kate who can be contacted on kate@fizzbug.co.uk Payment can be sent into school via the usual cash in envelope method.

Universal Free School Meal

Every infant-aged child is entitled to a free school meal. Any clubs that operate at lunchtimes will ensure that children get their lunches either before or after the club in the usual manner. Therefore, please do not send your child with a packed lunch (unless that is your child's normal choice) as a free, healthy and yummy meal will be cooked for them each day.

Questionnaires

We have received a good number of responses to our Ofsted-style questionnaire and would welcome any last minute contributions before we analyse the results, share them with you and then look to address issues that have been highlighted. Thank you.

Dangerous parking

There have been several near misses involving cars being reversed towards children, car doors being opened near children and cars pulling off quickly when children and parents are crossing the road. The situation is exacerbated by poor visibility in drizzly and foggy conditions. Please, act safely in your vehicles, act safely as a pedestrian and all work collectively to keep our very precious children (and adults) safe.

School Allotment update is as follows:-

Spring is coming – the next family working party morning is set for Saturday 4th March 9am – with plans to also meet the following two Saturdays as needed. The work involves getting the ground ready for spring planting which means we need to clear some couch grass, dig, abolish and maybe?? Rebuild three of the beds. If we can we'll also dig in some manure. We want to recreate the paths with matting. If you want to come, prepare to get muddy and if you're able, bring a spade or fork. The site is safe now for kiddies as all the hazards have been removed. There is also a compost toilet on site. Please let the PTFA know if you are planning to join them. Somebody with carpentry skills is needed, please! Thank you (PTFA Allotment group)

Have a lovely weekend!



Yours sincerely,

E.A. Hill

Head Teacher