



Hyde Park Infant School

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Friday 10th November

Dear Parents,



It has been a poignant day in school where children have learnt about the significance of the poppy and how important it is for peace. The children were fascinated to learn that during WW1, the children in this school were moved out and taught at other schools and in community halls so that the school could be refurbished and used as a hospital to treat the wounded. The children in Y2 have been learning about WW1 and have been into the shelter with torches and written letters and accounts. The children have been shown pictures of the poppies on the Hoe and I created a picture of poppies growing in the fields after a conflict and linked the red colour of the poppy to red blood. Making the story relevant to our youngest children, we looked at peaceful playtimes and concentrated on our 'Kind' rules.

Governors

We share our governing body with the Junior School and all our governors are busy supporting and challenging the schools to provide the very best opportunities for all our children. Governors have updated their information on our website so I would encourage you to have a look at their pictures and read about their expertise and interests. Our Chair of Governors met many of you on our Wednesday parents' evening too. Our governors are very active and visit the classrooms, talk to the children, monitor the spending, ensure that we have robust safeguarding systems, check that the teaching is excellent and that the curriculum is varied, challenging and exciting. Most of all, the governors check that each child is making the best progress that they can and that they are happy in their learning. Our Chair of Governors has also written a new letter explaining what governors do and he is inviting interest in becoming a governor. We have a healthy number of parents on the governing body and are currently looking for somebody from the Plymouth community who has



finance, PR, buildings or management expertise to bring to governance. If you know of anybody, please encourage them to get in touch.

Plymouth Food Bank

We have received a school certificate for the weight of food that we donated this year. You will be pleased to know that it has all been distributed to families in Plymouth who found themselves in need. Thank you for your generosity.

Maths workshops for parents with children in Ash, Cedar and Oak classes

The 'new style' highly interactive and practical sessions have proved very popular and will be replicated for 'English' shortly. We have an array of photographs of the event which Mrs Rose is collating and will put on our school website to share with other parents. Thank you to all those that came along, often with pre-school children and babes in arms. We hope that even more parents will come along to our next event.

Parents' evenings

These have again proved very popular and staff have been pleased to share important information with you about your child's progress in school, their next steps and also their welfare and wellbeing. Staff are catching up with parents who were unable to attend by either meeting up face to face or talking over the phone. Some parents brought translators with them and other parents met with staff separately where relations between themselves were not conducive to a joint parent meeting. If, for whatever reason, you have not had the opportunity to talk with your child's teacher, then please get in touch. Partnerships between parents and staff help each child to succeed and success for every child is what we aim to achieve.

Book bags

Book bags are £4.00 and available from the office. Please remember to mark your child's bag with a ribbon, a sewn picture, a button or a key ring. If using a key ring, please only use one and choose something that is soft so that it doesn't injure your child or another when the bag is pulled out of the book bag container.

Children in Need

Next Friday is Children in Need day and all children are encouraged to come in stripes or spots or a combination of the two. In searching through my wardrobe, I have found a number of items that I can wear on the day and am getting some money ready to donate too. In the playground there are notices inviting parents to join their child's class towards the end of the day (dressed in spots and stripes of course) Staff will be dressing up too and you may spot them in the playground on Friday morning. I wonder how much money we will be able to raise for Children in Need this year?

I have quickly typed my newsletter today as I need to scurry down the corridor to work with the Y2 children who are involved in a creative writing project. We have 24 English specialists from the University and their tutor working with us on this project and there has been great talking, listening and writing to be seen and heard.

I have a busy weekend ahead planned for making Medlar Jelly, trying out a new recipe from a book that I have been given, starting some letters to go into Christmas cards and the usual tidying up that seems to need doing at the end of the week. If it stays dry, I will aim to get out and kick a few leaves about in the woods or at the park. I wonder what you will all be up to this weekend? If at a loss as to what to do, then try out an idea from the Hyde Park Explorers pack!

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

E.A. Hill

Head Teacher