



Husborne Crawley Lower School
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Finding Everyone's Full Potential

December 2016 Newsletter

Heads Update

What a superb term of learning we have had; everyone has tried their best to find their full potential, and the children have really enjoyed the 'Long Long Ago' learning journeys. I know that the teachers as well as the children have discovered all sorts of new information about Stone Age people, dinosaurs, rocks and soils.

I would like to thank the staff for their dedication to the progress of the children; my lesson observations and a book scrutiny this term have given evidence of very good teaching, with children being well supported and also challenged in their learning by both the teachers and the learning support assistants. Many thanks must also go to the Governors, and to the PTFA for all their support this term.

Happy Christmas Everyone! Mrs Isaacs

Changes at HCLS

We say goodbye next week to both Mrs Neve-Davis and Mrs Vincent. Mrs Neve-Davis, as you may know, is starting her own business; we wish her well in her new career. Mrs Vincent has been successful in gaining a higher level teaching assistant position at Wootton Upper School.

I plan to take early retirement next year. I have been privileged to teach at our lovely school for 15 years now, the last 5 years as Head teacher. I feel I've worked hard for the school and I am really proud of what we have achieved *together* during this time. I am thankful to have been a part of such an amazing team of children, parents and staff. Mrs Isaacs

Christmas Dinner this year is on Wednesday 14th December. It is not too late to order a meal for your child.

Winter closures

As winter is beginning to bite I would just like to remind you of the procedure should we be closed for any reason. If we cannot provide sufficient teaching staff or hot meals or a safe environment for your child and we have to take the decision to close the school we will notify you in the following ways:

1. We will send out a text to all parents.
2. We will post a message on the home page of the school website www.hclowerschool.co.uk
3. We will use Central Bedfordshire's Schools Open System (SOS) for school closures. Visit the following website for details. <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS>

Tinsel and Tea Towels The children sang their hearts out and did a fabulous job! Many thanks to all involved, but especially to the children, who put such effort into this year's performance. Well done.

Winter! Be ready for January 2017! We learn and play outside in all weathers; do ensure your child has a warm coat, gloves & hat in school, & jogging bottoms for PE. Wellies or boots on snowy days!

Christingle Sunday 11th December 3:15pm

Do join us for the magical candlelit service at St James' Church. Christingle oranges are given out; the children will be making these in school today.

Pantomime Tuesday 13th December We will all be travelling by coach to Milton Keynes to see Dick Whittington. We will return around 4:15pm. Thanks so much to the PTFA for funding this super trip.

Carol Concert Thursday 15th December is at St James' Church at 10:30am. Do join us as we celebrate Christmas with traditional carols and the retelling of the Christmas Story. If you can walk with the children to and from Church please let us know.

Charity fundraising Your generous donations at the Nativity play mean we can send £82.76 to the 'CHUMS' charity. £64 was raised for Children in Need. The Poppy appeal raised £34.

Christmas Bazaar We had a very successful bazaar, thanks to the tireless efforts of the PTFA. Thank you so much to everyone who came along to school and supported us, as we were able to raise more than £1000 towards our new Clevertouch boards! Huw and his staff at Argos made a superb donation to the raffle and auction. Nevilles in Woburn Sands gave generously as did many other organisations.

What we're learning next term, Spring 2017:

Please remember to check the school's website for more detailed information about the curriculum; timetables and newsletters are all on the individual class pages.

Foundation Stage: 'ONCE UPON A TIME'

We will be reading traditional tales from around the world such as 'Tiddalik', as well as the Fairy Tale favourites of Red Riding Hood, The Enormous Turnip, Cinderella and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The language in the stories will be investigated, as well as traditional beginnings and endings. We will investigate alternative versions of some of these fairy tales, such as 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes, and Mr Wolf and the Three Bears, and in Maths we will play the game 'What's The Time Mr Wolf?' to help us in our learning about time. Our role play area will be set up to reflect the different stories, and we will continue with our learning outside and in the garden.

Class 1 'TURRETS AND TIARAS'

We will be reading fairy tales and traditional stories which feature castles, finding out about the features of these stories, how to describe characters and writing our own stories. In Numeracy we will be learning about place value and how to read and understand numbers that are in the tens, hundreds and even thousands! We are also sequencing numbers, identifying odd and even numbers, and solving problems.

In Science this term we will learn about different types of materials, and how to describe and sort them. Our investigations will focus on finding the best materials to build a castle, or make a knight's armour. In History we will be going back in time to learn about the different types of castles and how they were built. We will find out about the people who lived in a castle, the jobs that they did and how a castle was attacked!

Class 2: AN ITALIAN JOURNEY!

Year 3 and 4 will be travelling back in time to the time of the Romans in Britain as well as flying overseas to spend some time in Italy. We will discover that the Roman Empire began in Italy, and we'll read the mythical story of Romulus and Remus. We will see how life changed in Britain when the Romans invaded and settled here. Our class story 'The Thieves of Ostia' by Caroline Lawrence will help give us an insight into the Roman way of life. In Science we will look at the habitats of animals, investigate that Roman delicacy the dormouse and wonder how Hannibal's elephants coped when taken out of their natural habitat.

Progress towards our School Development Plan 2016 - 2017

This year we have continued our major focus on improving the writing of all groups of children. Across the school teachers have been modelling and teaching the new cursive handwriting style. This has started in Foundation Stage with many practical activities to support the development of little hand muscles and control of a pencil, the modelling of writing stories by the teachers and an emphasis on the correct formation and joining of letters, as well as giving many opportunities for the children to write freely and develop their 'emergent' writing.

From year 1 upwards the children take part in 'Big Write' each week which involves talking about, planning and writing both stories and pieces of non-fiction. All children have embraced the new style and enjoy joining their letters. We are carefully following the National Curriculum requirements for Reading, Writing and Maths. In Science we are building on the success of our Silver Science Award, and developing the skills of independent observation and experimentation, and how we assess the children's understanding.

Dates for your diary

December

12th Storytellers to assembly
13th PTFA meeting 9:00pm
13th All to Pantomime 'Dick Whittington'
14th Christmas Dinner for all children, teachers and Governors.
15th Carol concert at the church 10:30am
15th Class 2 Fabulous Finish 'Martian Soils' with visiting scientist
16th 'Save the Children Fund' wear a Christmas Jumper Day, bring £1 for this charity
16th Parents invited to assembly 9:10
End of term

January 2015

3rd Teacher training day – joint training with local lowers, 'Fusion' Mindfulness training with Frances Masters
4th Term starts for all. We welcome our new 'Nursery' starters
10th French Club begins
10th SWIMMING for Class 2 begins
13th Deadline for starting school and transfer to middle applications for Autumn Term 2017
19th Governor Visit – progress in writing focus
26th Vision screening for Reception children
30th Buildings and Finance committee meetings
7pm and 8pm

February

1st Strategy and Curriculum meetings
7pm and 8pm
2nd Personnel committee 6pm
10th PTFA Film Club (no Kidz Zone After School Care Club tonight)
13th to 17th – Half term holiday
21st Y4 Sports Leader training