

HENDON NEWS

18TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Head of School

Dear parents, carers and children,

It was wonderful to see so many of our children (and staff) come to school today wearing their jeans and donate for Jeans For Genes Day. We raised a solid £160 which will go towards supporting children affected by genetic disorders. Thank you all!

This week saw the International day of Democracy and to mark this, our children have been voicing their opinions on the importance of a democracy – voting for Student Council reps and learning about this key part of our Fundamental British Values in the curriculum. Thank you to Mrs Jacob who organised a super virtual session for Year 6 who learnt a great deal about how the UK Parliamentary system works. Who knows if this will have inspired a future PM of the future!

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our teachers continue to prepare for any eventuality as Mrs Davies' article states. Your support and understanding of the government guidance and our commitment to keeping our school community safe is appreciated.

Wishing you a lovely and safe weekend,

Mrs Gorasia

School News

School Photographs

School photographers will be visiting on **Thursday 24th September**. Please ensure your child comes to school in full uniform, including their blazer. Sadly, this year it will not be possible for us to take sibling photos as we need to keep the integrity of our teaching bubbles intact. Whilst we know this may be disappointing, we are sure that you appreciate our position and ask for your understanding on this matter.

Social distancing

Could we please ask parents to be mindful of social distancing guidance, as well as the 'rule of 6' when entering and leaving the school premises? We have been contacted by concerned neighbours who are worried about passing groups of parents congregating outside the school. Could we respectfully ask you to leave the area as quickly as possible once you have dropped off or collected your child.

This is also the case for those parents who are collecting their children and then staying on the school driveway to chat. We all need to be responsible and ensure we are protecting our school community.

Once a child is dismissed to a parent, it is imperative that you are supervising your children with care as you leave the school site.

Relaunching A Parent's Association

After working tirelessly on behalf of our parents over the past few years the current HPPG committee members, Mr & Mrs Vekaria and Mr & Mrs Nathan have decided to step down. We are sorry to say goodbye to both families in this capacity and thank them for the wonderful work they have done organising Christmas Fairs, International evenings, family quiz nights and film nights and of course the extravaganza which was the annual Summer Fair.

In light of this, we would like to launch a new parent body, and are asking for volunteers who would be interested in organising events and represent our parents. If you have any ideas on what you would like from such an organisation and / or would like to volunteer your services please, in the first instance, get in touch with the school office via parents@hendonprep.co.uk to register your interest. We will need a Chairperson, Treasurer and Events Co-ordinator, as well as lots of volunteers.

Sibling Registrations

If you have a child who could be joining our Preschool or Reception class in September 2021, please speak to our Admissions Department to obtain a Registration form if you haven't already done so. Siblings are given first consideration for places at Hendon Prep however we can only do so once your child has been registered for a place. As we already have a great deal of interest in these places we suggest that you either speak to the Admissions team or email them at admissions@hendonprep.co.uk at your earliest convenience.

Global Be Well Day

Teachers and pupils are very much looking forward to Cognita's annual Global Be Well Day next **Friday 25th September**, when we will collapse the timetable for the day and focus on lessons and activities associated with Well-Being, including yoga and meditation, healthy eating, 'good sleeping', 'good talking' and mindfulness. We will be sharing news of what took place during the day via Cognita Connect, social media and next week's newsletter.

As part of Cognita's Be Well initiative this year we have also been challenged to take part in a global competition between our schools across the world to see which school can 'travel' the furthest in four weeks.

We are enlisting the support of students, staff and parents to log their activities – walking, running, swimming, cycling, paddle boarding – essentially, any form of physical activity – so that we can build a total of kilometres travelled. We will be sending our results to Cognita every week.

We have decided on an ambitious target for our school, to travel from Hendon to one of our sister schools in Singapore which is a total of 13417 km/8,337 miles.

We hope that you will be take part in this project to help us travel the distance. Please could you send in your contributions (in metres or steps) to your child's form teacher every Thursday via Housepoint Books (Y1-6) so that we can calculate the total distance travelled and forward to Cognita every Friday.

Our four weeks will start on Monday 21st September and will run until Sunday 12th October – so still time to get into training over the weekend!

Message From Our Executive Head

As we welcome children back to Hendon Prep for the start of the new academic year, we reflect on the enormity of what the school has achieved during what has truly been unprecedented times. After closing the school back in March due to the pandemic, the school has continued to flourish in the virtual learning environment that was created for our pupils.

Our focus on developing and implementing educational technology was well in place before Covid-19. However, the pandemic accelerated our approach and we continued to build on digital learning initiatives already in place. This digital learning approach is intended to complement and add value to the more traditional classroom teaching, and gives our families reassurance that an uninterrupted education, should any further remote learning be needed, is safeguarded.

At Hendon Prep, we were able to deliver the curriculum to its fullest through interactive lessons on Teams and engaging activities on Seesaw for our younger pupils. Currently, we are working with educational providers to develop programs which will support peer to peer collaboration, interactivity, organisation and enable a more personalised leaning approach whether our children are in school or being educated at home.

It is a reality, which we have truly embraced, that educational technology is re-shaping the classroom experience for all our learners. As part of Cognita schools, we will be able to support our Prep children with our 'devices for all' scheme to ensure that no child gets left behind during lockdown. This ensures access to educational software to allow children to fully engage with our enriched curriculum.

Part of Hendon Prep's strength has always been to evolve the curriculum each year to meet the needs of our children in the ever changing world. The pandemic has shown us how ready our staff and children were for the acceleration towards blended learning. We are proud that all our children have continued to meet their learning goals throughout the pandemic and in doing so have developed exceptional resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

Sarah Davies, Executive Head.

Enhancing Our Curriculum

Bringing Westminster to Hendon

On Wednesday, Year 6 developed their knowledge of political and Parliamentary process in an informative and interactive Houses of Parliament workshop. It was a great opportunity for our oldest pupils to ask questions and deepen their understanding of democracy and the significance it holds in our society.

If any pupils (or parents) would like to extend their knowledge and understanding of Parliament, they can use this link to explore the House of Lords and the House of Commons in a virtual tour:

<https://learning.parliament.uk/resources/360-tour/>



Growing plants and young minds

Preschool pupils have been learning about the lifecycle of plants this week and so decided to plant some daffodil bulbs in the outside classroom to put their learning into practice. They worked as a team to plant the bulbs and water the soil.



Whilst they wait patiently for their flowers to appear they used their time being joyfully expressive through painting.



Celebrating success:

Look out Lewis Hamilton!

We are so very proud of Year 4 student, Antoni, a very talented Go-Kart driver, who came 3rd in the Rye House IKR race last Sunday. Antoni was racing against drivers who are 4 and 5 years older than him in a race of 26 drivers. His skill during the race also earning him Driver of the Day. Antoni is now preparing for the British Championships next year and quiet possibly the Grand Prix in a few more years! Well done Antoni, what a super achievement!

