

HENDON NEWS

16TH OCTOBER 2020

Head of School

Dear parents, carers and children,

Thank you for signing up and attending our first set of virtual parent/teacher conferences this week. This, like so many things since March was a new experience for us all and one that has received extremely positive feedback from parents and staff.

I am delighted to say that we are also on-track to receive delivery of the 1-2-1 devices next week and once configured we will be launching these to our Prep students after half term. This is such an exciting EdTech initiative and we are all looking forward to the ways in which we will further enhance and advance our curriculum at Hendon Prep.

Thank you to those of you who have contacted us regarding donations for Harvest Festival this year. As you can imagine the logistics around Covid-safety is a challenge. Chipping Barnet Foodbank have however, set up a JustGiving page in case a monetary donation is something you would like to consider:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/barnet-foodbank>.

As London moves into Tier 2 this weekend, I want to assure you that as a school we are doing all we can to continue with Covid-safe guidance and would encourage you to keep reminding children to wash their hands with soap and for you to maintain as much social distancing as possible. It is imperative that we are all supporting each other as we have done so well throughout this time.

Wishing you all a safe weekend,

Mrs Gorasia

School News

AS Tracking – Prep School

Well-being is at the heart of everything we do at Hendon Prep and to further enhance our pastoral care and systems in the Prep school, we have introduced a pastoral assessment and tracking tool called AS Tracking. AS (Affective Social) Tracking is an online assessment, completed by pupils, twice each academic year. We see it as an additional and important part of the pastoral jigsaw, putting your child's voice at the centre of our pastoral care.

Unlike traditional self-reports that can sometimes ask invasive, even suggestive questions about social and mental health, AS T questions are non-invasive, neutral, accessible. That's because the AS Tracking assessment is not measuring explicit risks such as anxiety, self-harm, bullying, but biases in pupils thinking; called STEERING biases. Teachers have been trained to understand how specific steering biases can be early indicators of future risks, even though they may not be visible in observations. The assessment does not profile or box pupils. It tells us where your child is, not who they are, so we can be proactive and precise in our pastoral signposting. Find out more about AS Tracking from the parents page on the STEER website:

<https://steer.global/en/your-steer/parents>

Football Academy

Our Head of Sport, Mr Kavanagh, would like to invite pupils from Preschool to Year 2 to a free trial session at the Brent Cross Football Academy. This is a FA affiliated community sports club run by Mr Kavanagh and located at Whitefield school in Cricklewood. Visit the website for more information:

<https://www.brentcrossfootballacademy.com/>

Enhancing Our Curriculum

Little Explorers

Preschool pupils have been learning all about their senses. This week they focused on smell and touch whilst they played with shaving foam and discussed how it felt and what the smell reminded them of. *"It smells like anti-bacterial gel"* said Maaz. Using sensory activities to initiate discussion not only encourages language development and social skills, it also helps to build self-esteem by giving children the opportunity to express themselves freely in an activity where there are no right or wrong answers. It is also great fun!



Preschool also spent time in the outside classroom this week, exploring nature and the changing seasons, when they examined and drew some fabulous autumnal leaves and pinecones.



Rivers Running Deep

As part of their rivers topic, Year 6 made 3D models of a river system. The pupils built a base using cardboard and papier mache. They then painted their models and labelled the river features. Pupils worked hard on building the landscape of the mountains and the contours of the land. This amazing project is linked with their investigation on Flood Case Studies around the world.



Astronomical Delights

Year 5, accompanied by Mr Charkham, Mrs Ford and Mrs Karim, went on a trip this week...to Neptune and back! They left the school to make an accurate scale model of the solar system, with the sun as a yoga ball and the scaled planets made by the pupils. Neptune, the last planet, had to be placed 4km away from our sun. Fortunately, the weather held off so they avoided any rain or meteor showers!

