

HENDON NEWS

11TH DECEMBER 2020

Headteacher Message

Dear parents, carers and children,

And so, we come to the end of our first term of this academic year. We have pulled together as a team and as a school community during these continuing challenging times, for which I am grateful to you. The children have moved forward with their learning and are happy and super settled. I can only hope, that 2021 brings about a more stable return to normalcy and it was certainly a lovely and cheery sight to see the children (and staff) in their bright Christmas jumpers today!

During the coming break I will be in touch with you if needed or if government guidance relating to London and schools changes significantly.



We also marked the Jewish festival of lights this week - Hanukkah, which started on 10th December and lasts for 8 days. Each day, a candle on the hanukkiyah is lit and fried foods are eaten to remind Jews of the miracle of oil. They also play 'spin the dreidle'. Year 5 had a go at spinning the dreidel in their R.E lesson with Mrs Jacob this week to much enjoyment.

Wishing everyone a safe and peaceful holiday season, however you may celebrate. I look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Thursday 7th January 2021**.

Sending you all my very best wishes,

Mrs Gorasia

School News

Alumni News

Mrs Jacob was delighted this week to receive the following message from Eliora, who graduated last summer, moving onto St Margaret's School in Bushy:

Dear Mrs Jacob

Thank you so much for being an amazing R.S. teacher and music teacher. I have really settled in well at my new school and enjoy doing music and R.S. and have made lots of new friends. I am really looking forward to more trips, fun and memories. Thank you so much.

Introducing our new BM

This term we welcome Mr Steven Allen as our new Business Manager at Hendon Prep. Steve has worked predominantly in the UK leisure sector in key strategic roles for the UK's largest operator. Two years ago he opted to diversify into the Independent Education Sector and has operated as the Business Manager at one of Cognita's largest UK Schools, Akeley Wood, since October 2018. Steve brings a wealth of experience in long term strategy and planning alongside in depth day to day operational insights which will help us towards our aspirations to become even greater in the educational product we deliver for you and your children.



Enhancing Our Curriculum

Computational Thinking

Our Prep students recently took part in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, sponsored by Oxford University and the Raspberry Pi Foundation. The challenges are a set of short problems which are delivered online. The tasks are fun, engaging and based on problems that Computer Scientists often meet and enjoy solving. The aim is to solve as many as you can in the allotted time.

Congratulations to all our students and a special mention in the 'Junior' challenge to Suraj - Best in School and Gold award, Sebastian - Gold Award, Rebecca and Yousef – Distinction. In the 'Castors' category Jack - Best in School and Distinction awards for Pedram, Felix, Nushiika, Eva and Mariam. Finally, in the 'Kits' category, Best in School award went to Nysa and Distinctions for Anwita, Amisha and Ella.



A Winning Entry

The Year 5 and 6 pupils have finished and submitted their entry for the Global Canvas competition. They will now have to wait until March to find out whether their entry will be displayed in the Natural History Museum. Good luck!



Elephant's Toothpaste

In Science Club this week, the children had lots of fizzy fun making elephants' toothpaste. This substance is not exactly used to clean an elephant's teeth however the effect of this experiment produces a substance which looks like something an elephant might use if they *did* use toothpaste. The experiment created a reaction called an exothermic reaction, which means it not only created foam, but it also created heat.

The mixture releases a huge amount of warm, soft bubbles, and the children learned about both chemical reactions and catalysts during this experiment – they also had huge amounts of fun playing with the resulting foam!



Enhancing Our Curriculum

Christmas Tech Workshop

Years 3-6 used their new personal laptops this week as they took part in a special workshop led by Donna Shah, Assistant Digital Learning Adviser at Cognita. Pupils used different features in PowerPoint and Microsoft Teams to make online Christmas cards and learnt how to use creative tools like Flipgrid to create a video message for their families.



Season's Greetings

4CJ has been getting into the spirit of the season by making season's greetings cards for their families.



All the trimmings

A highlight of the festive season at Hendon Prep is always Chef Dusan's Christmas lunch, complete with party songs and crackers. Yum!



Stretch, Diversity and Inclusion

This term pupils have been reflecting on Black History by studying the lives and stories of people who made a difference in our world. As part of their studies our Year 6 pupils connected with fellow historians from Salcombe Prep last week to analyse the life of different civilizations who flourished in Africa. Pupils shared their knowledge and observations about Benin and Timbuktu civilizations and focused their study on the trading practices that existed.

