

HENDON NEWS

26TH NOVEMBER 2021

Headteacher Message

Dear parents, carers and children,

Whilst we would all love to put COVID and everything associated with the pandemic behind us, we are unfortunately not yet at that point. As I wrote last week, we do all need to work together, to ensure that the final 2 weeks of term, with our traditional Christmas activities and events can continue as planned. This means that I will again gently ask all parents to please err on caution before sending children who have been poorly back to school too soon, that you are testing the children who have had COVID symptoms before sending them back to school and maintaining sensible measures which protect us all.

The situation is ever changing, and I understand this requires patience and continuing flexibility. There are times when we are working as a school with an external party eg. St Mary's Church, a sporting venue or the swimming pool, and we need to be mindful of the guidance, risk assessments and protocols they are following. And whilst we endeavour to communicate with parents as much as we can, there are times when we too are awaiting updates. To this point, as soon as I have confirmation on whether parents in Years 1-6 can attend the Carol Service (2-3pm) on **Friday 10th December**, I will absolutely let you know.

Finally, very well done to 5T and Miss Tsepani for delivering such a thought-provoking Assembly which presented the case for whether the school would be better run by the Romans. The evidence the students put forward was strong and compelling, and they did indeed decide that the Romans had more to offer! The children showed a diverse range of skills during the Assembly and ended with a rousing song about Roman achievements.

Wishing you all a warm and peaceful weekend,
Mrs Gorasia

School News

Goodbye and Bienvenida

It is always sad to say goodbye to a member of the team but this is also a natural part of work and school life. Our MFL teacher Miss Fernandez-Perez is relocating back to Spain to join her family in the New Year due to personal reasons. Miss Fernandez-Perez has been instrumental in supporting and developing our MFL curriculum and it has been essential to the school that we find an equally experienced and innovative MFL teacher.

To our delight, Mrs Mateo-Fernandez will be joining the HPS team after Easter to teach French and Spanish. Mrs Fernandez has a wealth of Prep school experience delivering French and Spanish from Nursery to Year 8.

In the interim Miss Rancaite, a MFL specialist cover teacher will be delivering French and Spanish from Preschool to Year 6, and the SLT will ensure continuity of the curriculum.

I am sure you will all welcome Mrs Mateo-Fernandez, and wish Miss Fernandez-Perez all the very best for her future in Spain.



Mrs Mateo-Fernandez

What did the Romans ever do for us?

On Tuesday, 5T presented a fascinating assembly on The Romans, a topic they have been studying in History this term. After researching the Romans and their lives, 5T used their knowledge to discuss whether the school would be better if it was actually run by Romans.

What do you think?



Pupil Photos

Gillman & Soame took individual pupil portrait photographs in September. If you haven't already, please order these photographs as soon as possible (but by **Tuesday 30th November** if you would like them for Christmas). If details have been mislaid, please contact photographers, Gillman & Soame directly at enquiries@gillmanandsoame.co.uk or on 01869 328200 quoting the security password **hendonprep629unprt2021** and they can assist.



Drive & Drop Y1-6

Please can we gently reminder parents who use our drive through in the mornings to please not delay when dropping off children. Students should have bags, coats, water bottles and so on with them and just a quick goodbye please. A number of parents have complained about unnecessary delays. Your support in this is appreciated. The drive and drop is not for our Preschool or Reception children who need to be dropped off at the gate with an adult supervising please.

Gifts to Staff: Guidance for Parents

The partnership between the School and parents is one which we value enormously. At certain times of the year, such as Christmas and the end of the summer term, many parents feel they would like to express their gratitude to staff through tokens or expressions of thanks. These are greatly appreciated by the staff who receive them.

We ask for your support and co-operation in avoiding embarrassment to other parents by ensuring that these expressions of gratitude are not of a large monetary value and that they are made individually, rather than collectively, if possible.

Please can we ask that you also discourage children from spending their own money, to buy gifts for their teachers. Again, small tokens of gratitude, expressions of thanks and cards from pupils to their teachers have as much meaning and are fondly treasured by staff.

COVID Update & Winter Bugs

Following reminders in last week's Newsletter, please be mindful that we continue to follow Government COVID guidance and protocols which changed in September. Currently it is no longer necessary for households to self-isolate as a family if there is a positive case in the home. As long as students are well and do not have COVID symptoms, regardless of a parent or sibling testing positive, they are able to attend school. It is also no longer in the school's remit to track and trace. We do continue to work with PHE/NHS to log staff cases or trends and if advised to then act.

Please note there are a number of cold/flu bugs going around which mirror COVID symptoms, so we are advising children to be COVID tested prior to returning to school.

Sibling Registrations

We have had a great deal of interest in both Preschool and Reception places for September 2022, and have now started to offer places to external applicants. Whilst siblings of current pupils are always given first consideration for places at Hendon Prep, we can only do so if children are registered with us. If you need a place for a younger sibling for September 2022, please contact the Admissions Department as a matter of urgency to request a Registration form, admissions@hendonprep.co.uk

Enhancing and Stretching our Curriculum

Challenging Equations

The Primary Mathematics Challenge is a fun and exciting mathematical challenge that Year 5 and 6 take part in each year. The challenge encourages enthusiasm and boosts confidence in mathematics. It focuses on the importance of problem solving as a means of helping pupils to develop their reasoning skills.

Huge congratulations to the following pupils:

Year 6:

Jai - Gold

Aone - Silver

Zuruchi - Bronze

Year 5:

Jessica - Gold

Taha - Silver

Pedram and Mariam - Bronze



Adventures in space

RP and RJ have been learning all about the adventures of alien traveller Q Pootle 5, and this week they enjoyed their first trip of the year, walking to Sunny Hill Park to find the missing parts of Q Pootle 5s crash-landed rocket ship.

Although the weather was cold, it didn't dampen their enthusiasm for finding of rocket boosters! They even found the site where Q Pootle 5 must have landed.

Aevan : I don't know where the ship was, but we found star shapes that looked like they'd fallen off the ship.

Aria : We found something gold and had spikes that looked like it was from the spaceship and we also found the rocket boosters which were silver.

Oluwaseun: We found a rocket booster. Maybe because it bounced from one hole to the other and then fell into the tree."

Harley: We found holes and then we found the rocket boosters.

Children also benefitted from a nice long walk in the fresh air with their friends and were ready for a delicious, hot lunch when they got back to school.



Sports Report

On Friday 19th November, Hendon Prep welcomed Sarum Hall to Powerleague for a football festival.

With 5 teams involved each team was able to play 3 matches and experience playing against different opposition. Our 2 teams of Year 5 and 6 girls played some tremendous football and managed to win 2 of their matches.

Players of the day were - Jessica and One



Reminder Dates Coming Up :

Wednesday 1 st December	Y6	ISEB 11+ PreTesting	9-12noon
Monday 6 th December	Reception	Christmas Play	2.30pm
Tuesday 7 th December	3CJ	Class Assembly	8.50am
Thursday 9 th December	PS-Y6	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch	
Friday 10 th December	Y1 - Y6	Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church	2pm

**Friday 10th December - End of Term Arrangements – Year 1-6 pick up from the Church at 3pm
 Preschool & Reception pick up from school at 3.30pm
 No After School Clubs or Supervision
 School Closed for Christmas**

Spring Term 2022 begins on Thursday 6th January at 8.30am