

A message from Mr Copeland

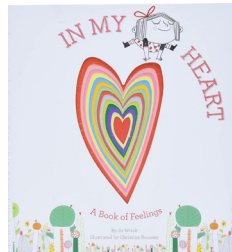
We have been delighted with the way the children have started the new calendar year and it has been a pleasure to hear about the progress that is being made across all age groups. It was lovely to welcome five new pupils into the school on our first assembly of 2023 and, as ever, they have been warmly welcomed by the children who continue to put the CARE code at the heart of everything they do. This is another packed edition of the newsletter and I am sure that you will enjoy reading about all of the exciting activities and topics that the children have been exploring.



This half term I have had the pleasure of taking the Year 1 pupils across to Hymers for their weekly swimming lessons. They have thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and they will continue until the end of the academic year and throughout Year 2. Mr Mills, Mrs Farr and Mr Bailey have been impressed with the children's swimming skills and water confidence and Miss Chapman and I are blown away by the progress in their personal skills such as: speed of changing, organisation and how they have got to grips with sensibly travelling between the two sites. I am sure you will agree that this is a fantastic opportunity

for our Year 1 pupils and continues to build the links that will support the future transition between the two Hymers sites.

Mental health has played a key role in this half term. The staff promote positive mental health in all of the pupils at Hymers Hessele Mount and this



half term we have encouraged the children to be more aware of their own mental health and the feelings and emotions that they will experience. We have also spoken to the children about empathy and imagining that they are in someone else's shoes. This has allowed them to understand that other people have mental health too and that we can support positive mental health for others. As part of this initiative the

children made care packs that were sent home on **Parents' Mental Health Day**. I hope you managed to find time to enjoy these and would also like to thank Mrs

Hill for organising this. Mental health has also been a theme of the assembly programme this half term and in one assembly I read the book **'In My Heart'** to the children. The idea of this story was to help support the understanding of mental health and emotions and encourage children to talk about their feelings with others. On the last Friday of half term, all of the children came off timetable to take part in a number of activities designed to support their own mental health as part of **Children's Mental Health Week**. The staff put on a carousel of activities including: making clay tree spirits in our woodland area,

a calm and mindful yoga session, an art and craft workshop and a sensory experience. The children explored each of these activities in their Houses as



this helped support this year's theme of **Let's Connect**. The vertical house groupings allowed everyone to take part in activities with children in different year groups and encouraged support, collaboration and friendships with pupils that they may not normally get to spend a lot of time with in school. It was also a nice opportunity for children in the same family to work and play together regardless of year group. During the afternoon, I was very proud of how the older pupils supported the younger year groups and displayed lots of kindness. We hope that the children enjoyed the experience and that it helps to support them in understanding that there are many things we can do to promote positive mental health.



Next half term looks equally busy and in the Key Dates section you will be able to find important information for your diary. I hope you and your children enjoy a restful and relaxing half term break and I look forward to more exciting school days as we head into Spring!

PRE-SCHOOL



We have enjoyed another super half term in the Pre-School! We welcomed some new children and their families after Christmas; they have all settled in beautifully and we have loved getting to know them this term.

Our half term topic has been 'Winter'. We have discussed what we know about winter, sharing ideas together and thinking about what we need to wear when it is cold, and the different

kinds of activities we can do. Our focus text was *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats, about a little boy who wakes up one morning to find the world has turned white with snow! The children enjoyed reading the story and sharing their own experiences of snow. They also enjoyed wrapping up warm to go out in search of Jack Frost; they found evidence of him all over the school grounds!

There has been lots for us to squeeze in over the last few weeks: We learnt all about Chinese New Year, finding out

why and how it is celebrated across the world, reading the story of the *Great Race* and making lots of wonderful decorations. The children tried out Dragon Dancing and also enjoyed a delicious Chinese feast - it was amazing to see them trying new things, such as noodles, prawn crackers, spring rolls and sweet and sour sauce...yummy!

Last week, we learnt all about different kinds of birds for Birdwatch. The children were so excited to welcome some real, live birds into school, including some owls, a hawk and a falcon! It was amazing to see the birds, learn all about them and even get the chance to hold the peregrine falcon. What a fantastic experience!

After the half term break, we will be exploring our next topic of 'Traditional Tales'. We have lots of exciting activities planned for this, which we are sure the children will thoroughly enjoy. We will also be learning about how and why Easter is celebrated as a Christian festival. We hope all of the children enjoy a nice rest with their families and friends over the half term holiday. Please feel free to add some photographs onto your child's Tapestry account, as we love to look at and talk about them in school. Have a super break, everyone!

Miss Smith and the Pre-School team.



RECEPTION

What a fantastic half term we've had in Reception! We are super proud of all of the children as they are becoming more independent and making great progress in their Maths and Phonics work!

We have been learning about the winter season, making bird feeders and thinking about how ice melts. We also had fun finding out about Chinese New Year and tasting some delicious Chinese food.

We particularly enjoyed going outside into the Woodland Area for story time with a warming hot chocolate and tasty biscuit!

We had a great time when the birds from SMJ Falconry came to visit us in school. We learned lots of interesting bird facts and we were so brave holding the Peregrine Falcon on our hands! We can't wait to work with the children

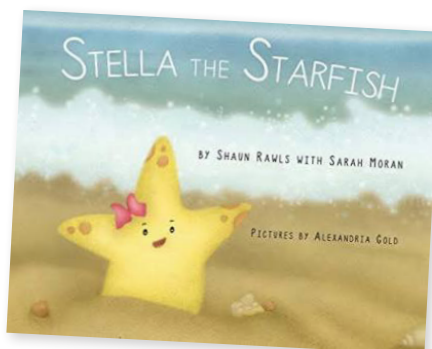
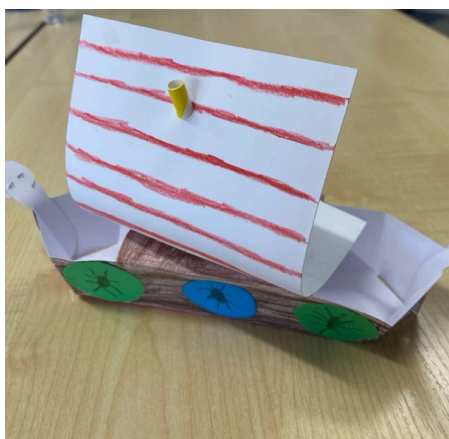


next half term! Enjoy a restful break with your families. Happy half term everyone!

YEAR 1

Firstly, we just want to congratulate all the children on working so hard to learn the songs for our Year 1 play *Stella the Starfish*. They are super excited to be performing this to you next half term!

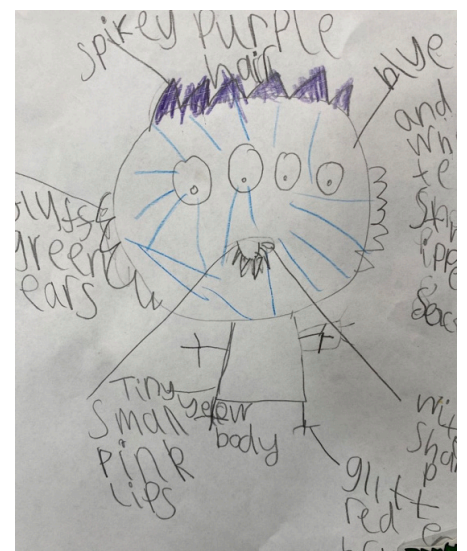
In English, the children have visited an unusual place called 'Scary Farm' where they befriended sharks, crocodiles and lions. They learnt how to use adjectives to describe their own monster for the farm. Following this, they researched birds that live in our gardens and how we can help them.



History has seen us research transport throughout the years. The children were keen to learn about the Viking longboats and why they had such scary figureheads. The children even created their own Viking longboat using card. We also researched cars and trains, finding out that the first ones were powered by steam. We looked at how the first modes of transport were quite slow but that today's vehicles can travel a lot faster.

Science has led us to look at materials. The children had fun going on a material hunt around the classroom and learning about the properties of each material. We have learnt that some materials share the same properties as others.

The children must be driving you mad chanting their 2,5 and 10 times tables but please can you join in with them as this will assist their learning. Please can you also help your child play the number bond game to 10 using their fingers.



We are very much looking forward to creating new memories with your children after half term.

Well done Year 1! You have worked hard and made us so proud!

YEAR 2

Gong hei fat choy!

Year 2 spoke loud and proud in their Chinese New Year assembly to the school. Puppets were used to retell the story which explains the order of the animal calendar and we had fun working as a team to parade the dragon in time to the drums.



Overall, we have enjoyed a very busy half term in Year 2. Our English focus has been the story *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson, which has generated amazing discussions, some super comprehension work and excellent writing opportunities, such as diary entries, setting descriptions and fact-files. The children have loved this story, and also enjoyed our supplementary texts which included *Orion and the Dark* and *A Tale of Two Feathers*. In addition to this, the children created

their own fact file book about owls which they are very proud of. We have done some super problem-solving in Maths, learnt all about the uses of everyday materials in Science and the children have really enjoyed learning all about the life and work of Florence Nightingale. They were particularly fascinated to find out how she travelled to Scutari, they all assumed that she would have simply taken an aeroplane! Super work Year 2! You have worked extremely hard this half term.



SMJ Falconry visit

During Bird Week we had an exciting and informative visit from SMJ Falconry.

Chris from the falconry brought some beautiful

birds along and explained all about their habitats, appearance and characteristics: Tyke the burrowing owl spends most of his time on the ground, JD the barn owl enjoyed flying

several rounds over our heads in the hall, Oslo the harris hawk showed us how well he could fly through the smallest of spaces and Geoff the peregrine falcon was happy to be held by anyone

brave enough to give it a try! The visit was a great success and it turned out a whole morning was nowhere near long enough to spend with these striking animals.



Key Dates for next half term

February

- Monday 20 – Return to School
- Tuesday 21 – Pancake Day

March

- Thursday 2 – World Book Day
- Monday 6 – Parents' Evening (all years)
- Tuesday 7 – Parents' Evening (all years)
- Wednesday 8 – Parents' Evening (all years)
- Monday 13 – British Science Week commences
- Friday 17 – Red Nose Day

March

- Monday 20 – Y1 Production Dress Rehearsal
- Tuesday 21 – Y1 Production 14:00
- Wednesday 22 – Y1 Production 14:00
- Friday 24 – Hymers Hesse Mount Open Morning
- Friday 31 – Finish for Easter - normal time

April

- Monday 3*
 - Tuesday 4*
 - Wednesday 5*
 - Thursday 6*
- } Hymers Hesse Mount
Easter School 8:30 - 17:30
*Bookings must be made in advance