

A message from Mr Copeland

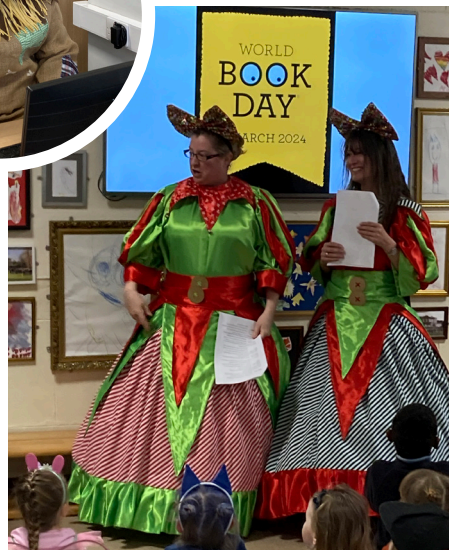
It has been a busy five weeks this half term with some major school events packed into a short space of time. I was delighted with the display of talent and creativity in the Year 1 production of *Rock Pool*. The play took the audience on a fun, light-hearted, rocking adventure under the sea filled with friendship, determination, acceptance and community.

Every pupil had a speaking part and brought the play to life on the stage. It wasn't just the acting that stole the show - the children's art work created a wonderful backdrop, the singing captivated the audience and the dance moves were well choreographed to create the movement of the sea creatures throughout the play.

At the end of the production week the Year 1 pupils took their show on the road to perform the songs at **Tranby Park Care Home** which was a valuable experience for them and brought much joy to the residents that were fortunate enough to watch. I would like to thank Miss Ayre and Mrs Burns for the huge amount of time and dedication they put into the preparations and I hope that the Year 1 parents, family and friends

enjoyed it as much as I did.

Plays and performances hold significant importance at school and go beyond the confines of traditional classroom learning. They inspire creativity, nurture confidence and foster collaboration amongst the pupils. Rehearsing and staging a play promotes perseverance and resilience. The children make mistakes, bounce back from setbacks and develop skills that will serve them well in the future. It also brings the year group together



and allows the pupils to collectively achieve a goal forming good friendships along the way. We are already looking forward to the Year 2 production and the Pre-School performance next term!

As I write my article for this newsletter I am looking back at photos from



the wonderful **World Book Day** celebrations that took place in school. It is always an important day in the school calendar where we can celebrate the power of books and reading to inspire, educate and ignite the imagination. It was lovely to see the creativity and variety in the costumes of the pupils and staff! Miss Harvey kindly wrote an assembly play for all the staff to perform to the children. Some were a bit nervous but others were absolutely delighted to take centre stage! In the play, Gangsta Granny kept taking the other characters' books causing them to get very confused. Where's Wally just wanted to be seen, Harry O'Hay the scarecrow was scared of crows and Cinderella's Ugly Sisters were kind, polite and helpful! Fear not, the children did a great job in solving the clues and managed to restore order by returning the books to the correct characters.

In the Key Dates section of this newsletter you will see the range of experiences we have on offer for the children next term and there will be a number of opportunities for parents and families to attend events. With school trips, productions and performances and sports day planned we aim to enrich the learning and development of all pupils. Throughout the Summer Term we will also be supporting the children in the transition to the next part of the exciting journey through their Hymers education. I wish you all a happy and healthy Easter break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 8 April.



PRE-SCHOOL

This half term the Pre-School children have been enjoying our new topic of Traditional Tales! We have listened to some fantastic stories that included magical settings, good and evil characters, talking animals and lots of happy endings.

Our favourite stories were the *Three Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Jack and The Bean Stalk*, *the Gingerbread Man* and *Little Red Riding Hood*. We had lots of fun creating houses for the three little pigs using straw, sticks and bricks; we had to make sure that our houses were very strong so that the big bad wolf could not blow them over. As part of our work on *Jack and The Bean Stalk* we talked about the season of spring and how it is a time for new growth. The children all enjoyed



finding out about different seasonal changes and going on a spring walk to spot the different signs! We found out about plants and what they need to help them grow. The children then spent the final week learning about Easter and why people celebrate. We made cards, hats and went on an Easter egg hunt!

The children have been very busy mathematicians this half term finding out how to measure different objects by height, length, weight and capacity. We have also been learning and practicing

how to write our names carefully using the correct letter formations.

It was lovely to share lots of the children's favourite stories on **World Book Day** and it was great fun to see the children and staff all dressed up as their favourite characters!

After the holidays we will be starting our new topic Minibeasts. We have lots of exciting activities planned for the children! Finally, we would like to wish you all a lovely Easter break.

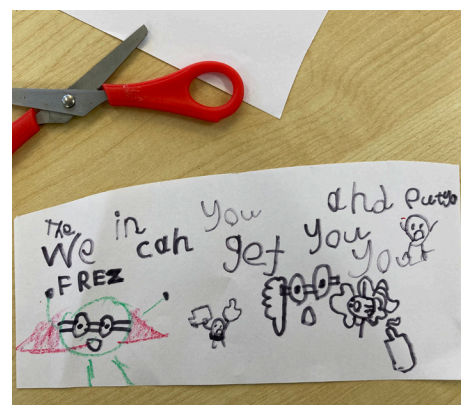


RECEPTION

We have had another fantastic term in Reception! Our most recent theme has been Superheroes. We have had a great time dressing up in our role play areas - always ready to save the day!

We've also found out about the different "superheroes" in our community who help people every day: Nurses, fire fighters, vets, doctors, dentists, police officers, opticians, lollipop people and many more. Our Literacy focus text was *Supertato* by Sue Hendra. We even had our own Supertato visit our classrooms in school as we

needed help investigating an incident which occurred: It all started when the Reception children came back from lunch one day to find their classrooms had been turned upside down! We had great fun trying to guess who had done it and soon realised that it was the pesky Evil Pea! We had to catch him! We spent the afternoon designing and



RECEPTION (cont.)

building traps for the Evil Pea but in the end it was Supertato who came to our rescue, caught the Evil Pea took him back to the supermarket freezer!

We have also enjoyed **World Book Day** this term with all the children turning up in costumes which represented their favourite book characters. They all looked fantastic and were able to tell each other about their costumes and books. The children have had a great term and have worked very hard. We are so proud of the progress they are making, particularly in reading, phonics and maths.



YEAR 1



Wow! We have ended the Spring Term on a high with our amazing Rock Pool performances! The children made us so proud and entertained a variety of audiences, from three to ninety-three!

First, we had the dress rehearsal in front of everyone at Hymers Hesse Mount and visiting Year 4 children from the Junior School. Then to our families and friends, and finally to a lovely audience at Tranby Park Care Home. The rehearsals went swimmingly as the children dived into learning their lines and they rocked at singing the seven upbeat songs with actions.

When we were not rehearsing, we were discovering that things can be measured in different units. We are beginning to use a ruler to measure centimetres and we measured mass by making the scales balance. We finally investigated the capacities of small containers without

getting too wet! We could even link our Maths to our materials unit in Science, investigating which material makes the best umbrella to either save the knights' armour from rusting or Little Ted from getting soggy.

In English, we started with word level adjective work, including them in our bright colour poems. We next read *The Paper Bag Princess* story and learnt to label a knight's kit and make interesting breakfast menus. We read a variety of *Winnie the Witch* stories during the week of **World Book Day**. It was great to see the children's love of books come alive and they shared a special reading session with Pre-School.

We finished the term with reading clues for an RE Easter scavenger hunt in the school grounds, learning about Christian Easter symbols. We even enjoyed hot cross buns under the budding willows and had an egg and spoon race!



YEAR 2

We have enjoyed another fantastic half term in Year 2! We have been so busy, it is not easy to mention all of the exciting things we have managed to squeeze in. The children have once again worked really hard and we are so proud of their amazing effort.

In English, we have been reading some of the Katie Morag stories, which has linked to our Geography topic about Island Life. We have thoroughly enjoyed sharing these fabulous stories, exploring them through role-play, discussion and some super written work. We have been blown away by the children's imagination, perseverance and how they have used the texts to inspire their own work.

We were excited to celebrate our love of stories and reading by dressing up as part of **World Book Day**. The children had some amazing costumes, from Mary Poppins to Winnie the Pooh and Tigger, too! We watched the teachers perform a play and then made up our own in small groups. The children did a wonderful job performing their shows and had great fun creating their own stories. We also welcomed the children from Reception into our classrooms and read stories with them.

Our budding artists have been creating some wonderful pieces in Art, which included designing and making clay jewellery pots as Mother's Day presents. They worked so hard on their creations, moulding the clay to form

flower shapes and painting them in lovely spring colours.

The boys and girls spent a wonderful day at Hymers earlier on in the term. They enjoyed lunch in the dining hall and then settled down to watch part of the Senior School's dress rehearsal of *We Will Rock You!* The children absolutely loved seeing the show and were singing the songs the whole way back to school. We also enjoyed watching the Year 1's fantastic performance of *Rock Pool*. The children are beginning to get very excited for when it is our turn to perform in the Summer Term! Watch this space for further details about this.

We have been getting hands-on with lots of practical learning this term including some exciting experiments in Science such as making bottle rockets using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. It was very messy and so much fun! Haytham



confirmed afterwards "that was the most coolest thing I have ever seen in the whole world!"

After all that hard work, the Year 2 children are definitely ready for a break. We wish a happy Easter to all who celebrate, and look forward to hearing about the children's adventures when we come back to school.

Meanwhile we are busy behind the scenes, organising our Year 2 trip to Eureka! in Halifax, which will take place next term. We just know the children are going to have a fantastic day exploring the science museum!

Key Dates for next term

April

- Mon 8 – Summer Term begins
- Fri 19 – HHM Open Morning 9:15am-11:15am

May

- Wed 8 – Year 2 Trip – Eureka
- Fri 10 – Year 1 Trip – Yorkshire Wildlife Park
- Mon 13 – Year 2 & 3 Swimming Gala
@ Hymers College 9:45am
- Tue 14 – Reception Trip – Hall Park Farm
- Mon 20 – Pre-School Trip – Pink Pig Farm
- Fri 24 – School closes for half term normal time

June

- Mon 3 – Summer Term begins
- Mon 10 – Year 2 Production Dress Rehearsal 2pm
- Tue 11 – Year 2 Production 2pm
- Wed 12 – Year 2 Production 2pm
- Mon 17 – Induction Day and New Parents' Evening
- Fri 21 – HHM Sports Day @ Hymers College 1:30pm
- Sat 22 – HCA Garden Party @ Hymers College from 11am
- Fri 28 – Pre-School Performance, Graduation & Picnic pm

July

- Mon 1 – Summer Reports sent home
- Thu 4 – Year 2 Leavers' Party
- Fri 5 – School ends for summer: EYFS 11:30am & KS1 11:45am