

●●●●●●●●●● A message from Mr Copeland ●●●●●●●●●●

The build up to Christmas is always a very magical and special time at Hymers Hesse Mount and this year was no different. Earlier in the month decorations appeared around the school, cheeky elves have been up to mischief in the classrooms, we have celebrated an Advent Assembly lighting the five candles and all year groups have had a great time at their Christmas parties.

The Pre-School pupils enjoyed a fabulous morning of arts and crafts with their parents and I know that many of the decorations created will be displayed proudly at home.



The Year 1 and 2 pupils travelled over to the main Hymers Campus to watch the Dress Rehearsal of the Year 3 Production *'Straw and Order'*, they were a fantastic audience and trips like these contribute to the children getting to know the Hymers Campus better.

On Friday 15 December we enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch and lots of cards have been sent and received within the school community along with well wishes and Christmas kindness.

The Reception children wowed us with their *'Wriggly Nativity'* putting on three



matinee shows for pupils, parents, grandparents and family. They have had a wonderful first term in full-time school and it was incredible to see their confidence and self-esteem as they delivered their lines loud and clear, sang the songs and acted and danced with great enthusiasm. It was lovely to see how proud the parents were and the performances provided much joy to all three audiences. Reception also took the songs from their Nativity on the road and performed at Tranby Park Care Home which is very local to our school site. Again the children were amazing, delighting their audience and were even rewarded with a visit from Santa himself. I would like to thank the staff at Tranby Park Care Home for the hospitality and the Reception teaching

team for the tremendous amount of time and effort they put into the Nativity.

Throughout the term we have been thrilled to witness the growth and development of the pupils both academically and socially. The bonds formed in the classrooms and outside during breaks are the building blocks of a supportive and inclusive school community.

I also feel incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated staff team that have worked tirelessly to create a nurturing environment where each child's unique talents and personalities can blossom. I wish all Hymers Hesse Mount families a happy and healthy Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming our little learners back for another exciting term in the New Year!

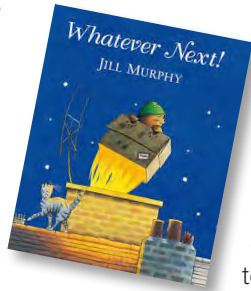


PRE-SCHOOL

Another half term completed and what a busy one we have had! We started this term with our new topic 'Bedtime stories' and the children all enjoyed sharing their favourite stories from home and talking about their favourite characters in the books.

We really enjoyed listening to our school focus text **Whatever Next!** by Jill Murphy and making our own space rockets for Baby Bear to travel to the moon in.

In Maths we have been learning about **AB** and **ABC** repeating patterns and the composition of numbers 1, 2 and 3. The children have had such fun making their own repeating patterns using paints and other media.



In Phonics we have been playing lots of listening games and learning how to recognise sounds at the beginning of words.

We have also been finding out about different celebrations, we talked about the Hindu festival of **Diwali** and how it is celebrated.

The children listened to the story of Rama and Sita and made their own Rangoli patterns using shapes and colours.

We then finished off this term with our topic '**Christmas**' we discussed why it

is celebrated each year and listened to the Christmas story. The children enjoyed sharing their own experiences of Christmas traditions at home and made lots of fantastic decorations. As part of the festive celebrations we enjoyed our Christmas Craft Morning and it was lovely to meet lots of parents and see the children making their wonderful creations.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break and we look forward to seeing all the children after the holidays.

RECEPTION

It's been yet another busy half-term with the main focus on rehearsing and presenting our fantastic "Wriggly Nativity" performance! We were so proud of how the children confidently executed their lines in front of an audience, sang the songs and danced along to the tunes.

We also had the opportunity to sing some of the songs from the play at **Tranby Park Care Home**. The residents were delighted to see the children and we all received a very warm welcome with a special treat of juice and biscuits!

We joined the Pre-School for our Christmas party and had a fun afternoon of festive games and dancing which was enjoyed by all.

The children are doing so well in their Phonics lessons and it is a pleasure to see the progress everyone is making as they start on their lifelong reading



journey. It is so lovely to see the pupils start to write their own words and short sentences using their phonic knowledge!

We enjoyed dressing up in our bright clothing and wearing Christmas jumpers in support of two different charities; Brake and Save the Children. We also had a fun-filled afternoon with the Year 6 Hymers Junior School students who came across to work on some craft activities with us for **Children in Need Day**.



All in all we've had a very successful Autumn Term and we are all ready for a well-deserved rest over the Christmas break! We wish you a very peaceful and relaxing holiday and we hope that the children receive a visit from that special someone!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas everyone!

YEAR 1

This term, the Year 1 children have continued to deep dive, not only in swimming, but into all areas of the curriculum.

In our English lessons, we started with road safety which was in tandem with the road safety campaign, **Brake** and our **Be Bright Be Seen Day**.

The children enjoyed looking at **The Owl Babies** and how the owlets' anxieties proved unfounded by the safe return of their mum. The children completed some thoughtful work on their own worries and how to overcome them. They also wrote an amazing adventure of their own where the owlets helped the very one and only Father Christmas! We finished the term with an old favourite, **The Jolly Christmas Postman** and enjoyed our very jolly Christmas party!

We completed our science topic, 'animals, including humans', in November, looking at designing better zoos for the future. Then we learnt about the key characteristics of the English seasons with a focus on Autumn and measured the weather. Of course, we had what felt like the only dry days of this term when we left our rainfall gauges outside!

In History, the children have learnt about popular toys through the 20th and the early 21st century. They have thought about their favourite toys and how they are similar/different to their parents' and grandparents'. We have to say a huge thank you for your support in answering our toy survey and sending in some super photographs.

Our Maths lessons have been full of practical problem solving linked to 2D and 3D shapes. The pupils have also looked at fact families and continued their work on place value, addition and subtraction. The children are starting

to 'think logically' when solving open ended problems.

Our DT lessons have taken us into the world of traditional tales, where the children linked their understanding of mechanisms such as levers, wheels and sliders to their work on stories such as **Jack and the Beanstalk** and **The Three Billy Goats Gruff**.

The children thought long and hard over who could be the troll under the bridge!

We are very much looking forward to continuing to help your children spring into next term's learning!

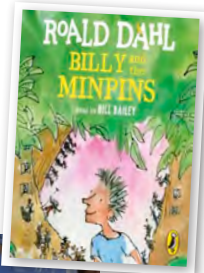
Have a super Christmas! Well done Year 1!



YEAR 2

It has been another busy half term in Year 2! It is quite amazing to reflect on how much we have managed to squeeze in, but the children have worked incredibly hard and we are so proud of how excited and engaged they have been in their learning.

Our first English focus was *Billy and the Minpins* by Roald Dahl. We read the story, went into the Woodland Area to try and imagine what it might have been like for the character Billy going into the forest, created our own Minpin characters and even built our own Minpin houses! They have been displayed in our



cloakroom area and look fantastic! The boys and girls worked so hard on them and produced some wonderful creations. We have been

doing a lot of work on celebrating ourselves and others this term. We wore odd socks to kick off **Anti-Bullying Week** and created some graffiti-themed artwork, thinking of kind words we can use to describe ourselves. Our PSHE sessions have been focused on how to be kind friends, what we might look for in a friend, the different communities we belong to and complimenting others. We have been so impressed with the children's thoughtful comments and contributions to this theme.

With Christmas on its way, we have of course been engaging in some fun, festive activities. We have been looking at the story *The Christmasaurus* by Tom Fletcher, about a mysterious egg and a little boy who is passionate about dinosaurs. The children have

been exploring the characters and created their own rhyming Elf Jingles! We have also enjoyed watching the Reception Nativity performance and the Year 3 production at Hymers. This was topped off nicely by our joint Year 1 and 2 Christmas party, which was a happy and fun afternoon.

The children - and us! - are definitely ready for a rest. We wish a Happy Christmas to all who celebrate, and look forward to seeing the children back in school in the New Year.

Congratulations to Holderness for collecting a huge amount of House tokens this term and being rewarded with a treat on their last day.



Key Dates for next half term

January

- Mon 8 – INSET DAY
- Tue 9 – Term Begins
- Mon 29 – Bird Week commences

February

- Mon 5 – Children's Mental Health Week
- Fri 9 – Chinese New Year Assembly
- Mon 12 – HALF TERM to Fri 16 Feb (inclusive)
- Mon 19 – Return to school
- Tue 20 – House Pancake Relay Race

March

- Mon 4 – Parents' Evening
- Tue 5 – Parents' Evening
- Wed 6 – Parents' Evening
- Thu 7 – HHM World Book Day
- Mon 11 – Y1 Production Dress Rehearsal
- Tue 12 – Y1 Production
- Wed 13 – Y1 Production
- Fri 15 – Red Nose Day
- Wed 20 – Grades sent home
- Fri 22 – Last day of term (finish normal time)