

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

It is hard to believe that half term is here already as the time has flown by since returning to School on 9 January. In just five weeks there has been a wealth of learning, both academic and personal. During this half term we have celebrated many different themes including Bird Week, Children's Mental Health Week and Chinese New Year. Throughout the newsletter you will see what each year group has been busy with and there are some key dates for your diary in the run up to Easter.



At Hymers Hesse Mount we value each individual pupil's personal development on a par with their academic progress. This is shown in our **Merit Assemblies** where children are rewarded for many different things in school. Some examples of achievements this half term include: Improving number bonds to ten, excellent blending in Phonics lessons, super handwriting, being a good friend,



looking after a new pupil and showing kindness to others. Pupils' excellent academic work is rewarded but the children's character development does not go unnoticed by the staff. We want each pupil to achieve what they are capable of and help them develop into well-rounded individuals.

As a school we provide a nurturing, safe and supportive environment with clear expectations for behaviour. We help children understand and manage their emotions and feelings



and have our CARE Code at the heart of everything we do. The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health week was **My Voice Matters**, which is about empowering young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. In school, all the children know that they have adults that they can talk to should they have any worries or concerns, as well as each other. The children are very aware of keeping each other physically safe and are able to think about their actions.

We are also supporting the pupils in being aware of each other's mental health and encouraging them to be good listeners, empathetic and supportive of each other. This was highlighted on the last day of this half term when the children took part in a

carousel of activities within their House groups. Children from all four year groups worked together collaboratively, supported one another and shared smiles and laughter throughout the afternoon.

It was also lovely to see the Year 2 and Reception buddies working together for an afternoon of games and activities recently. The older pupils took responsibility for organising games and made sure that everyone was involved and having fun.



We are already looking forward to some exciting events next half term including our **House Pancake Relay Race, World Book Day** and the Year 1 Production of **Rock Pool**. I hope that you all have a restful half term break and look forward to welcoming the pupils back to enjoy, hopefully, a warmer and drier second half to the Spring Term.



## PRE-SCHOOL

Pre-School began this half term by looking at the season winter and exploring how the weather can affect different animals. The children particularly enjoyed learning how birds survive in the cold. They loved finding out how we can help birds by creating feeding stations and providing fresh water for them in our gardens and outdoor areas.

The children also enjoyed the visit from SMJ Falconry, where they had the opportunity to learn about falcons and owls. They even had the opportunity to hold an owl called Geoff.

We ended this half term with a week learning about the celebration **Valentine's Day**. We enjoyed learning about why people celebrate Valentine's Day each year and we thought about the people who we love and care for in our families. The children had lots of fun creating a special Valentine decoration to take home for their families.

After half term we will be starting our new topic **Traditional Tales**. Please feel free to send in any fairy tales that the children have at home - we are looking forward to sharing lots of our favourite stories together. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely



half term break and we look forward to seeing all the children after the holiday.



## RECEPTION

We can't believe how quickly the last five weeks have flown by and we are now halfway through the academic year! We started the term by making New Year's promises and hanging ribbons on the trees outside to cement them.

We've explored our winter café role play areas and thought about seasonal changes from autumn to winter. We've spent lots of time outdoors in the woodland area making snowflakes with twigs, clay animal faces and birds' nests using salt dough.

The most exciting part of **Bird Week** was the visit from SMJ Falconry and we had a super time learning different facts about the birds. Some of us were even



brave enough to hold one of the birds on our arm!

We had a fun packed afternoon with our Year 2 buddies who had kindly planned different PE activities for us. We perfected our football skills, played a game of Banana Tig outside, and took part in a game of Corners inside the Hall.



## RECEPTION (cont.)

We have been perfecting our number formation using mnemonic rhymes in Maths and enjoyed listening to **Lost And Found** and **The Emperor's Egg** in our Literacy lessons. It has been really interesting to find out lost of new facts about Polar animals.

We ended the half term on a high by taking part in different calming and sensory activities for **Children's Mental Health Week**. It was lovely to spend time relaxing, focusing on our well-being and, above all, having fun with our friends!

We can't wait for a well-deserved rest over the holidays but are looking forward to the second half of the Spring Term as the teachers have told us it's going to be very exciting!



## YEAR 1

**Firstly, we just want to thank all the children for working so hard to learn the songs for our Year 1 play, Rock Pool. They are super excited to be performing this to you after half term!**

In Literacy, the children visited **Bumble Farm**, where they wrote a wonderful adventure for some of the characters. They used their knowledge of story writing and included a story beginning, middle and ending. Following this, they researched birds that live in our gardens and linked this with the story **A Tale of two Feathers** and made a simple bird feeder to take home.

History has seen us research transport throughout the years. The children were keen to learn about the first aeroplanes, why Viking longboats have such a scary figurehead and even created their own Viking longboat using card!

Science has led us to look at different materials that we could find during a hunt around the classroom. 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 it would be great if you could 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.



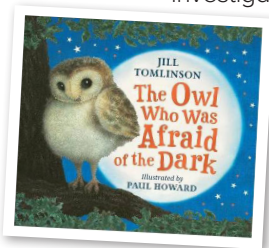
Well done Year 1 - you have all worked hard and made us so proud!



## YEAR 2

We have had such a productive half term in Year 2! The children have worked really hard and are making fantastic progress. In Maths we have learned all about money, including the different values of coins and notes, including how they are used to pay different amounts. We are also starting to learn how to multiply one number by another with great success!

We have loved our topic on *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* and finding out all about Plop the baby barn owl. We wrote brilliant diary entries as Plop, sounding just like him as we said how we did not like the dark 'AT ALL'. We met another character, Orion, who was also afraid of the dark. This lovely story has just been turned into a film and it



was fantastic to hear how many of the children had watched it at home. The visit from SMJ Falconry during **Bird Week** was fascinating and a great inspiration for our research into different types of owls; the information booklets we produced were full of super facts!

In Science we continued to enhance our prediction and investigative skills as we learned about everyday materials. We discovered a lot about how birds eat when we matched tweezers, a spoon, a pipette and scissors to different bird beaks and tried to pick up different food with them, with varying degrees of success!

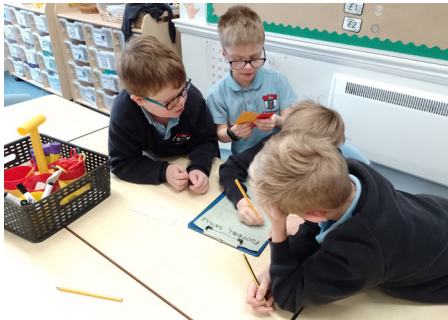
Our study of **Florence Nightingale** showed us how amazing the children are at using sources such as photographs, paintings and newspaper reports to discover facts, as well as infer what may or may not have happened in the past. One of the highlights was our hot seating session where some children took on the role of Florence and gave excellent answers to very thoughtful questions asked by others.

We have very much enjoyed our sketching sessions in Art, where we have experimented with different

techniques and different grades of pencil to produce some incredible pieces of work. We went onto the field to make observational sketches of our school; these were beautiful with an impressive level of detail!

The Year 2 children showed what a group of kind and responsible children they are when we spent the afternoon with the Reception classes. They planned games and activities in groups and taught them to the younger children. They were well organised and thoughtful, making sure the little ones knew what they were doing and that all were getting involved. We were incredibly proud of them!

We hope you have a lovely break and look forward to seeing you all after the half term holiday!



## Key Dates for next half term

### February

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)