



HOW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ESTABLISHED 1968

Head Teacher: Mrs C Rowe
Newsletter 9

4th February 2019

Dear Parents,

All future Newsletters will begin with an uplifting quote to help us look on the bright side. I hope you enjoy them.

Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you.



Maori proverb

We have had a good start to the spring term and I have had the pleasure of teaching PSHE in Year 2 and Year 3. The Year 2 children considered how we keep our minds healthy and created 'Happiness is ...' poems.

Happiness is ...

Laughter and love
Calm our minds
Be happy and laugh out loud
Spend time with your family
Be resilient and never give up
Focus on the moment
Don't worry about the future
Or the past

By Maya Bourne

Happiness is ...

Playing with my friends
Playing with my toys
Going outside
Snuggling on the sofa watching movies
Helping and laughing
Eating
Drinking
Playing with my brother and sister
Working
Learning
Sleeping

By Cooper Henry

In Year 3, the children learnt about growing and changing, linking this to caring for a new born baby. As always, all the children were engaged and enjoying their learning and it was lovely to hear their thoughtful ideas and suggestions.

EYFS & Key Stage 1 Phonic Workshops

The Phonic Workshops held last week were very well attended and I hope that it gave parents a clearer understanding of how phonics is taught and how to support their child at home. Thank you to Mrs Parkins, Mrs Reed, Mrs Warner and Mrs Barnes for putting together such an informative event.

Reading

Reading remains a key focus on the School Improvement Plan and the staff are working hard to ensure that every child at How Wood becomes a fluent reader. Having recently analysed our data, it is evident that children who read at home regularly are generally making greater progress than those who don't. Parental engagement and support with reading is vital from Early Years all the way through to Year 6. We understand that when older children become confident readers they prefer to read to themselves, however, hearing them read aloud is still crucial as it allows them to develop their expression, understanding and fluency.

Below are a few tips on how to support your child whilst reading at home.

- Make reading an enjoyable experience.
- Read regularly with your child – 10 minutes a day makes all the difference – little and often is best.
- Maintain the flow. If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction.
- Be positive – Don't say 'No that's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together'.
- Success is the key – Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books.
- Record reading in your child's Reading Record – this includes any other reading material that you may have shared with your child e.g. magazines, newspapers, a library book.
- Question your child on what they have read.
- Point out and read punctuation.

Suggestion Box & Parent View

The Phonic Workshop came about after I was approached by a parent who asked for more information about how to support their child with phonics. Suggestions and ideas from parents are really valuable and help me and the staff team to try and meet the needs of our all our children and parents. From next week, there will be a Suggestion Box in reception where parents and children can post any ideas and suggestions that may help to improve the school.

During Parent Consultation, parents will be asked to complete a Parent View Questionnaire. There will be an extended section on home learning & healthy eating which I would ask parents to complete fully. The Governors and I will analyse the results and publish our findings at our earliest convenience. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

FIRST LEGO League Jr Discovery film

Last term, Year 1 took part in a 10 week, FIRST LEGO® League Jr. Discovery Pilot, MISSION MOON. We were one of only six schools in the UK to be part of the pilot which involved the children working in teams to learn about the Moon, and explore some of the challenges of living there before building a Moon Base. The pilot ended with a celebration event attended by the parents of children in Year 1. This event was filmed for the promotional video. The link to the Discovery film is below:

<https://tv.theiet.org/?videoid=12704>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7r6fUMnf5E&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3ExtEQo6cONKoal5KLtII6-g8M5MSjKjGoalIDL6rBqyeVW-8BMKGSJI>

Maths Mastermind Workshop

On Monday 28th January four pupils represented How Wood School. Kaviyuha Thibakaran, Siena Sahota, Alex Drussel and Ciaran Knowles went to the Maths Master Mind Workshop and learnt things they haven't learnt before. They learnt angles, tessellation, certain shapes and maths relays. The Head Teacher, Mrs Rowe drove the four mathematicians to Markyate School and back. Mrs Stewart was with the four mathematicians for 6 hours, how lucky! At the end they had to say goodbye to Mrs Stewart and Mrs Rowe drove them back to school.

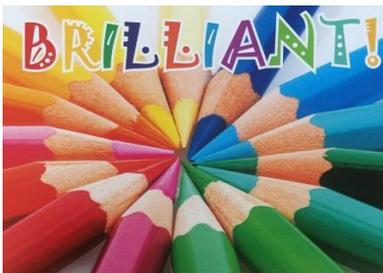
by Siena & Kaviyuha - Year 4

Hall Display

The landscapes of David Hockney were the inspiration for our hall display this term. Every child had a part in painting the landscape which was then pieced together to create our wonderful display. I would like to thank Miss Nixon for her artistic input and time spent creating the final work of art.



Praise Postcards



Alfie Cerri, Courtney Blake, Max Rowland & Ayaan Hussain in Year 1 and Adam Mather and Henry Barr in Year 2 will all receive a Praise Postcard this week for excellent learning. Well done!

Pen License Awards – Year 3

I am very proud to announce the first four children to receive a Pen License in Year 3. They are:

Lyla Peck, Chloe Sykes, Lois Van Oosterhout & Lydia Karpus.

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 5th February is Safer Internet Day. The theme this year is *OUR INTERNET, OUR CHOICE*. Mr Carter will introduce the day with an assembly and the children will then take part in lessons that link the school's Code of Conduct to safer internet use.

Key dates for the term

I have included a list of key dates for the term. Further information about the various forthcoming events will be sent out to relevant classes. ***It is important that all parents read newsletters regularly so that they are aware of all events and any changes that may take place.***

Spring Term 2019

Children back to school – Tuesday 8th January to Friday 15th February 2019

Half-term – Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February 2019

Children back to school – Monday 25th February to Friday 5th April 2019

Summer Term 2019

Children back to school – Tuesday 23rd April to Friday 24th May 2019

May Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May

Half-term – Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2019

Children back to school – Monday 3rd June to Friday 19th July 2019

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July – INSET; Wednesday 24th July – Occasional Day

Key Dates for the Spring Term 2019

Please keep handy for future reference- additional dates and changes will be shared on future newsletters. Please ensure you read all newsletters carefully. Newly added dates in red.

Tuesday 5 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 5 th February	EYFS Chinese New Year 'Wow' Day
Tuesday 12 th February	Maths Challenge – Four Year 5 children
Tuesday 12 th February 3.30 to 6pm	Parents Consultations
Wednesday 13 th February 4pm to 7pm	Parents Consultations – please note change of time
Thursday 14 th February	Year 5 Trip to Saxon Food Workshop @ St Albans Abbey



Friday 15 th February	Pop Corn Friday – School Council Event – letter to follow
Friday 15 th February	Last day of half term
Thursday 28 th February	Year 1 visit to St Albans Abbey
Friday 8 th March – <u>Please note change of date</u>	World Book Day – Dressing-up Day with a Roald Dahl theme
Monday 11th March	'Need a Little Help' performance and workshop – EYFS & KS1
Saturday 16th March	Netball Tournament
Monday 18 th March	Year 6 Crucial Crew Visit
Thursday 21 st March	Maths Curriculum Enrichment Day
Thursday 21 st March 3.15 to 4pm	Maths Fair – All welcome
Friday 22 nd March 9 to 9.45am	Maths Open Morning – Parents invited to join their children and share in their maths activities and learning
Friday 22 nd March	Year 6 Life Expo @ Holy Trinity Church
Wednesday 27 th March	Choir at Alban Arena
Friday 29 th March	The Railway Children Production
Tuesday 2 nd April 9.30am	Year 3/4 Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 3 rd April 6pm	Year 3/4 Evening Production
Thursday 4 th April	Winning House 'Treat'
Friday 5 th April - Finish at 1.30pm	Last day of term

Assemblies

Parents are invited to their child's class assembly at 9am. Year 3 and Year 4 will not be sharing an assembly as they will be performing an end of term production.

Date	Class	
Friday 8 th February	Year 2	Parent Assembly
Friday 1st March	Year 6	Parent Assembly
Friday 8 th March	Year 5	Parent Assembly
Friday 15 th March	Year 1	Parent Assembly
Thursday 28 th March	Reception	Parent Assembly