

Value of the week:

This week's value is "understanding of others" and we have been trying to look at things from someone else's perspective. The children we are celebrating this week have supported others, encourage others to make the right choices, look outside their own perspective and understanding what others need.

Achiever of the week:

Minibeasts: Kelly M
Minibeasts: Ezmay M-D
Tigers: Isabella McL
Zebras: George S
Penguins: Valentin D
Giraffes: Theo D
Lions: Rafal S
Meerkats: Bridget F
Eagles: Charlotte S

Value of the week:

Minibeasts: Helden E
Minibeasts: Maya R
Tigers: Jacob H
Zebras: Daisy J
Penguins: Benjamin W
Giraffes: Neema E
Lions: Luke M
Meerkats: Nathan C
Eagles: Ruby Y

Catching up from last week:

There were two names missing from last week's newsletter – completely my fault and I am sorry! These were both from the Giraffes class and were:
Eva W for the value of perseverance and
Zach T for achiever

A Plea for some jars! From Miss Curtis and Miss Chalmers:

Please could all parents of children in Giraffes and Lions classes send in a clean jar with no label by Monday 11th? It's something to do with Christmas...

Key Stage 1 performances next week:

On Tuesday afternoon, the KS1 children will have a dress rehearsal for their performance, for KS2 children and those in Reception to watch. This means that any siblings in the primary part of the school will see the performance then.

There are then two "public" performances, Wednesday afternoon at 2pm and Thursday at 6.30pm

For the evening performance, children will need to be brought back to the main entrance of the school between 6.10 and 6.20pm to enable them to get ready to perform.

Note that neither event is ticketed – we think we will have enough capacity in the hall to accommodate all those who would like to come and watch.

Please make sure that all costumes are named and in school by Monday 4th December.

PE next week:

No classes will be going to the Specialisms Campus for PE next week due to performances etc. Please collect children at the normal times from the main site.

Zebras and Penguins will not be doing PE on Tuesday, so children can come in school uniform (however if you forget, please don't worry!)

KS2 Christmas Carols:

On Monday 18th December at 2pm, Years 3 - 5 will be performing some carols and poems and parents and carers are invited to attend. Children can choose to wear their Christmas Jumper as well as a festive hat (Santa hat), although please ensure it is small so it doesn't block someone standing behind. This is not a ticketed event – all are welcome. If you do bring young children, please make sure that you leave the hall for the readings if the little ones are making a noise so that others can hear the reading. The carols should be heard regardless!

Attendance: update from Mrs Dallas:

Attendance 97.7% Well done everyone!

Wraparound – a message from Steph:

Last day of term:

The school will close at 2.00p.m. on Tuesday 19th December. The Wraparound service will therefore be available from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. Please note that there is no Wraparound provision after 4pm on this day.

If you have already booked a place until 4.00p.m. please note the fee will be £10.00. If you wish to amend your booking, please contact me at swoodman@heyfordparkfreeschool.org If you wish to book, there are places still available.

Wraparound – Payments:

Thank you for all recent payments received. Please remember that your individual Term 1 and 2 invoice needs to be paid by 19th December 2017. If you have any concerns, please contact me to discuss.

Residential Trips – first thoughts:

We are currently looking at booking residential trips to take place when children are in Year 4 and Year 6. The Year 4 trip would be a two-night stay which would take place in June/July at Hillend in Oxfordshire, with an approximate cost of £95. This would include outdoor activities such as orienteering, pond dipping, den building and bush crafts.

The Year 6 residential trip would take place in early September and run from Monday to Friday (4 nights), and would be for our current Year 5 students. We are looking to go to Devon to CRS Adventures where children will take part in amazing outdoor pursuits such as kayaking, mountain climbing, caving and tree top activities with an approximate cost of £380.

We have looked into both types of trip, and both trips are in line with relative costings of other residential trips schools offer.

We would welcome your feedback on these prospective residential trips, and if favourable will set up a meeting in January to discuss them further and to give you more information. We would plan to set up monthly payment options to support all families, as we know that this cost is not insignificant, especially the Year 6 trip, however we believe that both are value for money and offer unique experiences. The web address for the Year 4 residential is <http://hill-end.org/> and for Year 6 <http://www.crsadventures.com>.

Watches:

A few of our older children have watches that can send texts or take photos. Lovely as these are, they are not allowed in school: this follows the secondary school policy of "see it, hear it, lose it" for phones. Thank you for your understanding.

Healthy Eating:

As a school we have many responsibilities, and one is to encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle for our children. From this perspective, please:

- When you send in water bottles, please make sure that there is only water in the bottle, and no juice or squash. Partly this is to ensure that children's teeth stay as healthy as possible and we cut down on sugar, and partly this is just in case the drink gets spilt. Note that Reception children don't need to bring a water bottle.
- Do not send nuts in your child's packed lunch: we have a couple of children with nut allergies so ask that no nuts are brought to school.

Staffing Update:

We are sorry to say that Mrs Sutcliffe has left us this week. She has been working in both Reception and Nursery since September and has settled in so well that it seems as though she has been with us much longer! She is looking forward to spending more time with her family, although we are all hopeful that we might tempt her back one day!

The good news is that our team is being joined from today by Mrs Sarah Morgan-Harris (Mrs Harris to the children) who will be working in Reception in the mornings. Welcome to our team.

Vacancy:

We have one vacancy in Nursery, for an afternoon member of staff with a level 3 qualification relevant to Early Years. The hours are 11.30am to 5pm. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact me directly on rhughes@heyfordparkfreeschool.org and I will be able to give more details.

Reception notices: messages from the Reception team:

Some children have been asked to provide a base layer for their performance costumes i.e. leggings with a particular colour top (black trousers/ leggings with yellow top for chickens, grey tops for donkeys, white tops for sheep and brown tops goats). Angels need a white top and leggings/tights. All costumes need to be in a named bag. Some children have not been asked for costumes as school will provide.

Please encourage children to leave parents and carers outside the reception gate each morning and go in to the class line independently, carrying their own bags.

This term 2Simple evidence will be shared with families again over the Christmas period. Please make sure that you add written descriptions to photographic evidence submitted as we can't use photographs without detailed information attached. This is because every piece of evidence needs to be linked to specific statements and we can't do this if we don't have information explaining the context and conversations taking place at the time. Thank you.

Parent Drop-In:

Thank you to those who came to our Drop-In sessions on Wednesday this week. We had some good discussions about lunchtime arrangements amongst other things: these sessions are always a good way of sharing ideas and moving forward for the good of our children.

Year 1 and 2 sporting event:

On Wednesday, Years 1 and 2 (Tigers, Zebras and Penguins) went to Bicester Leisure Centre to take part in a multi-skills event alongside cluster schools.

I have heard that it was very loud in the hall, but the children competed well and I have heard some really positive things from the children about their time there. A very big thank you to the parents who helped out: we couldn't have managed without you.

Dates for your diary: (whole school)

Wednesday 6th December Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 6th December 2.00pm Key Stage 1 Christmas performance (no tickets needed)

Thursday 7th December 2pm EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Christmas Performance at the Specialisms Campus (no tickets needed: see information in this week's newsletter)

7th December 2017– Secondary STEM, Enterprise and PSCE day

Thursday 7th December 6.30pm Key Stage 1 Christmas performance (no tickets needed)

Wednesday 13th December 2017 – Carol Concert (more details to follow)

Friday 15th December – Christmas Jumper Day (whole school) and Christmas Activity and Party Day (Primary)

Monday 18th December 2017 – Rewards Day (secondary only)

Monday 18th December 2.00pm – KS2 Carol Concert for parents and carers (Years 3-5)

Tuesday 19th December – last day of term: **note that school finishes at 2pm on this day.**

20th December 2017 – 3rd January 2018 – Closed for Holidays

4th and 5th January 2018 – INSET Days

Monday 8th January 2018 – students return to school for Spring term