



HUNTLEY NEWS May 2023

Our School Vision

Nurtured individuals, learning together with God's love, living life to the full.

Curriculum:

Bristol Aquarium visit

Class River visited the Bristol Aquarium. When I went in to see the recounts they had written the children had so many facts to tell me. So here is a year two fact file:

George: I saw a lobster which was blue and it was hiding in the corner of the tank. Sting rays were swimming around and they kept bobbing their heads out of the water.

Ted G: Lobsters have very powerful claws

Henry: If a lobster loses a claw, it grows back!

Brody: I saw honeycomb eels and they can grow up to 3 metres long.

Olivia and Norah: Dory, the fish from Finding Nemo, is a poisonous blue tang fish. They shoot poison out from a horn under their tail fin if they are frightened. The starfish stomach comes out to eat its food. If they are attacked, they empty the food out of their stomach!

Willow: Lobsters actually poo and wee out of their eyes!

Mateo: We saw a bullhead shark. The biggest shark is the Whale shark.

Willoughby: Shelia is the biggest fish in the aquarium and she will grow up to 8 metres long. She is 6 ft 7 at the moment.

Ralph: Someone called Captain Ben showed us around the aquarium and I liked seeing the massive fish. Starfish arms grow back if they lose one and they have eyes on the bottom of each one.



Weaving session

As mentioned in the last newsletter - we were lucky enough to have a visit from a local textile designer – Rhian Wyman. All the classes had a session with Rhian over the day and in the afternoon Class Estuary carried out a project with her to produce their own mini blanket. Our weaving work was on display in the hall during parent evenings. There are further photos on the website.

Year six SATS

Congratulations to our amazing year sixes for getting through this week of SATs with a smile on their faces. I think the SATs breakfast and numerous cakes helped! Many thanks to all those who contributed, Miss Etheridge for being calm and supportive and to the PTFA for funding the SATs breakfast!

Year two SATS also took place the following week and the children all did their best!

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Local Forest of Dean author Andy Seed

The children in KS2 were lucky enough to have a visit from local Forest of Dean author Andy Seed. The children found out about the wildlife in the Forest of Dean. Matilda told me that there are two types of deer in the Forest of Dean – Roe and Muntjac. There are glow worms in the Forest which produce light at night. We also found out about different types of bats and the sounds they make. There was a wildlife quiz at the end and Class Estuary were the winners!



Wildlife Quiz

Congratulations to our fantastic nature quiz team who got through to the area semi-final. Harriet, Erin B, Hamish and Lydia represented the school and did a great job! Thank you and well done!

Chance to Shine cricket programme

Over the term we have had a Gloucestershire cricket coach in school on Fridays working with all the children across the school. It has been great to see so many children taking part in local cricket – Dynamos, All Stars and Under 11 teams. It's a great sport to be involved in (not that Mrs Curtis is at all biased!)

Behaviour/ Attendance

Just a reminder that holidays should not be booked in term time. Term dates are available on the website for the coming year to help with the planning of this.

Section from our attendance policy – also on the website

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

At Huntley C of E Primary School we believe that annual family holidays **should not** be taken in term time. If this is not possible and parents/carers still wish to apply for permission from the Head teacher a holiday form should be completed by the parent/carer, well in advance of the proposed dates. The Head teacher will consider the request carefully and consider letters from employers stating whether parents/carers are restricted in terms of leave from their employment before notifying parents/carers whether they are able to authorise the absence or not. **However, permission can only be given in exceptional circumstances.**

From September 2019 a fixed penalty notice will be issued from the Local Authority to both parents if a child is absent for a period of ten sessions (5 days) within a ten week period due to holidays taken in term time.

As with this year, we have allocated two INSET days 3rd/4th June to help with the planning around the June half term, which seems to be a popular time to go away.

Personal Development:



Certificates: Well done to the following children who all received awards in the last couple of merit collective workshops

Head teacher award- Ted G for an excellent attitude and explanation about his science work. Showing our value of perseverance.

Class Stream- Martha, Tilly, Amelia

Class River- Coralie, Mateo, Ted G, Brody, Violet, Samuel. All of Class River for excellent attitude/behaviour on school trip.

Class Estuary- Lily M, Harriet, Eddie, Lydia Seren, Esmae G

Class Ocean – Kelsa, Stan and Grace

Writers of the week- Hope, Georgia, Hamish, Oscar, Charlie

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99 Club- Eryn, Freddie

TT Rockstar of the week- Mateo, Ethan and Jessie

Handwriter of the week- Daisy and Ted T.

Numbots- Teo, Tilly, Eli and Angus.

Amelie also received a certificate from Miss Dawson for teaching the children in Class River how to look after Stig the Snail.

Other awards:

Football success - Esme scored a goal for her football team – Highnam.

And.....she was player of the match.

Well done Esmae- you are getting

more confident all the time! Great football!

Congratulations to Sybil for a wide range of successes in a recent gymnastic event. Lots of medals for different aspects - well done!



Writing Competition Information

Please find below information about a writing competition that is coming up:

How would you like to win £100 and have your story published?

The Forest of Dean Rotary Club has teamed up with Dean Scribblers to launch a new writing competition for ages 7-18 years.

Choose one of three extraordinary picture prompts and base your story around the theme 'turning point'. Each picture also comes with an optional first sentence you can use to get your story started!

The judges are looking for stories that are unique, exciting, and full of character. Think you have what it takes? Submit your story online or by dropping off a hard copy at any of the Forest of Dean libraries before the closing date of Sunday 10th September.

Every longlisted entry will be featured in an anthology, with some fantastic prizes for the winners.

To enter, you must either go to school or live within the Forest of Dean District Council area. There are different word counts for each age category, so be sure to read through the competition rules carefully. Writing workshops will be held during the summer, so check the Dean Scribblers' website (deanscribblers.com) for details. Find the full terms and conditions and links at www.rotary-rfod.org.uk/scribblecomp.php

Get writing!

Please find below some information around anxiety which you may find useful. In particular for those transitioning to new schools or classes.

Managing children's anxiety

Claire at **Bridgemaker Mindfulness** shares her top tips.

Be fully present



Phone alerts and notifications are constantly distracting and family members often have to compete. Being fully present with the activity or conversation we're having with our children - without distraction - demonstrates that we value 'real' time together and are fully available.

Limit screen time



Research shows that too much screen time can lead to mental health issues in children, whilst lost time interacting with family/peers can impact their social development. Monitor screen time, ensure content is age-appropriate, communicate about inappropriate images and model healthy device habits.

Avoid fuelling anxiety



Children absorb emotions like sponges and overhearing the news or emotionally-charged adult conversation can fuel their anxiety. If your child is worrying about the future, use mindfulness to bring them back to the present moment—'right here, right now, with you, all is well.' Tell them that you love them no matter what.

Spend time in nature



Nature-deficit disorder (NDD) can contribute to higher rates of physical and emotional illnesses. But the good news is, it can easily be reversed. Spending time in nature is easier than we think: village greens, parks, commons and nature reserves abound in the UK and they provide the perfect setting for free family activities.

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Encouraging reading



Reading is relaxing, distracting and a good alternative to screen time. A 2009 University of Sussex study found that reading can reduce stress by up to sixty eight percent. Just six minutes of relaxing into a good book can lower blood pressure and muscle tension.

Sharing feelings



Children are more likely to express their feelings when they sense we are fully available. Sitting somewhere that they have to pass by when they return from being elsewhere and gently inviting them to join us can be a good start. Listen intently without moving into 'fix-it mode.'

Can't fall asleep?



Creating a comforting, wind down routine can help (reading a book together, listening to soothing music). Try placing hands on the belly, breathing easily and focusing on the breath, following the gentle movement of the belly that rises and falls. For the busy mind, try counting the breath to ten (in - 1, out - 2 etc) over and over.

Enrol on a course



Mindfulness apps/recorded meditations can help adults and children to relax and unwind but nothing compares with attending a course with a qualified mindfulness teacher which teaches key mindfulness skills. However, if, despite your best intentions and care, your child's behaviour or anxiety level becomes worrying, do seek medical advice from a GP.

Leadership and Management:

Teacher visits

We have welcomed visiting teachers from other schools this term to observe our teaching and talk to our teachers in the areas of EYFS curriculum (Reception) planning and teaching and learning in science. We work closely with a range of local schools and are able to share best practice between us all.

Governor visits

Governor visits have taken place with a focus on computing and phonics and they were involved in the administration of SATs. They oversaw that everything was administered correctly. Rev Lara also came in every morning to start the SATS with some deep breathing, positive thoughts and a prayer. A big thank-you for all your support!

Staff training

Other staff training has been going on. Miss Dawson has taken part in the local SENCo (Special educational needs) cluster meeting and has also been completing a National mental health qualification. Mrs Harvey has completed her two-day paediatric first aid course and Miss Dawson and Mrs Curtis completed some 'trusted adult' training looking at supporting low level mental health and wellbeing concerns.

RE award

Mrs Goulding also attended the county RE conference on the last day of term and was awarded with our RE in action award! We are proud to have achieved this award.

Work experience

It was lovely to be able to host three former students on their Y10 work experience week. They got to experience all the classes over the week and it was great to hear how well they are all doing! They got to experience school from a different perspective!