

## Dear Families

As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the many highlights and thank our families for your continued support. It has been a term full of learning, creativity, performance and community spirit.

The school has been full of festive cheer in recent weeks. Our Christmas performances have been a real highlight, with the Key Stage 2 Carol Concerts and the EYFS and Key Stage 1 Nativities delighting audiences and making parents proud. The children worked incredibly hard and it was wonderful to see their confidence, teamwork and joy shine through on stage. With Christmas lunch, parties and our end-of-term assembly, the school has truly felt festive.

Early reading continues to be a major focus at Hayes. Our phonics and reading work is going from strength to strength, ensuring children are given the best possible start on their reading journey. We are particularly proud of the consistency and confidence children show when reading and applying their phonics knowledge.

Class assemblies have returned this term and have been a lovely showcase of children's learning and oracy skills. Our Awards for Excellence assemblies have also been a real highlight, celebrating effort, progress and positive attitudes to learning. It has been a pleasure to see parents joining us to share in these moments and to hear such positive feedback.

Our choir have represented the school brilliantly at several community events, including local Christmas celebrations and performances in Bromley. Their commitment and confidence have been wonderful to see.

In sport, our Year 5 and 6 netball team achieved a fantastic result at a recent tournament, finishing in the top four and qualifying for the finals. We also hosted a football tournament on our school grounds, giving many children the opportunity to compete, collaborate and celebrate sport together. These experiences play an important role in building confidence, teamwork and a sense of belonging.

Throughout the term, behaviour across the school has been a real strength. Children have responded well to clear routines and high expectations, helping to create a calm, purposeful environment where everyone can learn and thrive. We are also proud of the way positive behaviour is recognised and celebrated, whether through praise, awards or a phone call home.

I would also like to extend a huge thank you to our fantastic PTA for their continued hard work and support. This term, they organised both the Christmas Fair and the spectacular fireworks and drone light show, which were thoroughly enjoyed by our school community and raised valuable funds to support the children at Hayes. We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy and commitment the PTA give so generously, often behind the scenes, to make these events such a success. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and supportive PTA, and we truly appreciate everything they do for our school.

Thank you, as always, to all our parents, for your ongoing support and partnership. It makes a huge difference and helps us provide the very best for your children. We wish all our families a happy, restful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back next term.

Mrs Howell  
Headteacher

## EYFS

In EYFS, each class has really enjoyed having their first adventure in forest school! When we got over there, we all sat around the fire pit on logs and learnt the forest school rules. These are - no pick, no lick, stay inside the boundary, do not walk inside the fire circle and no sticks longer than your arm. The children then had lots of free time to go explore! They loved walking, jumping and running through the massive puddle, playing in the wooden car and cooking mud pies in the kitchen. The children's favourite part of the afternoon was getting a biscuit at the end! We all can't wait to go back to forest school in the new year.



This half term, our stories have all been about space. We have been looking at lots of pictures and videos to see what it looks like and made a list of questions we would like to find out about. The children had fun catching their own star like the boy in our story and got to decorate them after! They have also enjoyed acting out the story of 'Whatever Next', using a cardboard box to pretend to be Baby Bear in his rocket to the moon!

Lastly, we have been having so much fun learning all our songs for our Christmas Nativity and are working super hard to perfect our performance. The children are so excited to show you all soon!

## Year 1

Year 1 has had a great Autumn term! They have transitioned so well into year 1 and have been showing great focus and enthusiasm.

In DT, they have been preparing to make a carrot and sultana salad. They first started learning about healthy and unhealthy food. They identified and understood basic hygiene and practiced different cooking techniques. This week, Year 1 did an amazing job making their salads by using different techniques such as peeling, grating, juicing and mixing. They were able to taste test their salad and were able to share those delicious salads at home!



This half term, in maths we have been looking at addition and subtraction within 10. They have been using lots of different resources such as counters, cubes, tens frames and a part-whole model to help support their understanding. In english, they have been looking at the Gruffalo and have produced some great Wanted posters whilst using adjectives to help create descriptive sentences. We have also been focusing on handwriting, finger spaces, full stops and capital letters.

Children have really enjoyed their music lessons with Miss Elena and have already been reading notes and using instruments. In science they have continued to learn about animals including humans and learned about animal groups. They have also sorted animals into herbivores, omnivores and carnivores.

We are looking forward to our local geography walk and consolidating our map work skills. Year 1 have spent a lot of time working on their performance of Stable by Starlight Nativity. They have worked hard at learning their lines and practicing the songs with a lot of eagerness. We hope you all enjoyed the final performance!

Thank you for all your support this term!

## Year 2

This term, the children have worked incredibly hard and we are so proud of everything they have achieved. Much of our focus the last few weeks has been on preparing for our Nativity performance, and the children have shown real enthusiasm as they learn their songs and lines. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow, and we are very excited to share the final performance with you.

In maths, they have been learning new methods for solving 2-digit by 2-digit addition and subtraction and are becoming more confident when applying these strategies independently. In English, they have produced some brilliant writing inspired by *The Lonely Beast* and *The Emperor's Egg*, using rich vocabulary and beautiful handwriting.

Across the rest of the curriculum, the children have continued to shine. In science, the children have really enjoyed exploring our topic on animals including humans. One of the highlights has been our investigation into how germs cause mould to grow. We rubbed bread on different surfaces to see which pieces grew the most mould. Their teamwork and careful observations throughout the experiment have been fantastic. It has been a busy and rewarding term, and the children should be very proud of themselves.



## Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant term!

All classes have taken part in Forest School leading up to Christmas and although it has been very cold, we have enjoyed making God's eyes and commemorating Remembrance Day and Children in Need through creating poppies and Pudseys on the Forest School floor. We loved making shelters, especially when the teachers poured water on as a test to see if they were waterproof. Luckily, we all worked hard with our reef knots, and the tarpaulins held up against the teachers. In our final two sessions we were lucky enough to use a flint and make smores around the fire.

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the Horniman Museum: the children loved learning about prehistoric Britain through the workshop and exploring the other areas of the museum. The aquarium was a highlight - especially the seahorses! We really do love trips and cannot wait to see what else we get up to in Year 3.

In history, we began our learning around the Stone Age, leading into the Bronze Age where we learnt about how the early humans survived and communicated with each other. We had great fun creating our own cave drawings, using natural colours and symbols just like early humans would have done. We also designed and made our own model weapons, helping us understand how tools developed over time. During our trip we explored how real artefacts are discovered and what clues they give us about life thousands of years ago.

In science, we enjoyed learning about our bodies in terms of our skeletons, muscles and joints. We know that our skeleton gives us our frame and we use our muscles for movement, protection and warmth. We also compared ourselves to animals in terms of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We have also learnt about forces including friction where we experimented with different surfaces.

In DT, we have been exploring what makes a strong and stable bridge. We discovered that triangles are one of the strongest shapes in construction and tested this by experimenting with different structures and materials. We looked at famous bridges from around the world for inspiration, discussing how engineers use shapes and supports to keep them sturdy. Working as a team, we trialled a range of designs before creating our own strong, reliable bridges. In music, we have been learning to play the ukulele with Mr Mannoukas, which has been lots of fun. We have also started learning French with Madame Townsend. We have been working on greetings and introducing ourselves. Our French accents are definitely improving!

## Year 4

What a fantastic and busy autumn term it has been in Year 4! The children have shown great enthusiasm and creativity across all areas of learning, and we are so proud of everything they have achieved.

One of the highlights of the term was our DT Day, where the children designed and made their own felt pockets. This was a huge success! The children absolutely loved the experience and demonstrated excellent sewing skills, creativity and perseverance. The finished pockets were truly wonderful, with each child producing a unique and imaginative creation.

In English, the children produced some fantastic writing outcomes inspired by our class text, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. The book prompted thoughtful discussions and allowed the children to write with empathy, maturity and depth. We were incredibly impressed by their ideas and the quality of their written work.

Our science learning has been equally exciting. The children explored the water cycle through hands-on experiments and deepened their understanding of the three states of matter. They asked thoughtful questions, made predictions and thoroughly enjoyed seeing science come to life.

We ended the term on a real high with our beautiful Christingle Concert on Thursday. The children performed wonderfully, and it was a truly special way to finish the term and celebrate the season together.

Thank you to all our Year 4 families for your continued support throughout the term. We really appreciate everything you do to support your children's learning.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.



## Year 5

This half term in Year 5, we have been reading *Running on the Roof of the World* by Jess Butterworth. The story follows Tash, a young Tibetan girl, who is forced to flee her home and make a dangerous journey across the Himalayas in search of safety. The children were fully engaged with the text and used it as a stimulus for their writing, creating their own imaginative five-part stories as well as reflective diary entries written from different characters' perspectives.

In maths, we have been focusing on fractions, developing the children's understanding of improper fractions and mixed numbers, and building confidence in converting between the two.

In science, we explored forces, with a particular focus on gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction, investigating how these forces affect movement.

Our geography learning centred on natural resources in the UK, where the children learnt about renewable and non-renewable resources and the importance of trade.

In RE, we focused on Christianity and explored the Christmas story and its meaning.

DT provided the children with the opportunity to design and make healthy sandwiches – a practical and enjoyable day that the children absolutely loved.

In PE, the children took part in dance lessons, focusing on the skills of shapes (solo), circles (solo) and artistry through abstraction. In computing, we developed our digital design skills by creating posters using a range of features within Google programmes.

We would like to wish everyone a lovely, restful Christmas and look forward to welcoming the children back in January.



## Year 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic term!

Last half term we went on our residential trip to Bawdsey Manor. The children took part in activities such as abseiling, a giant swing, rifle shooting and zip lining. It was fantastic to see all the children push themselves out of their comfort zone and having a great time with their friends.

This half term we have been extremely busy with our wider curriculum subjects. We went on a local area walk around Hayes to support our geography learning on sustainability. We also had great fun on our DT Day where we put all the skills we had learnt together to make an automata toy. The children had some very impressive outcomes.

We were also lucky enough to have a Macbeth workshop to inspire our writing on Macbeth in English.





## *FRENCH NEWS!*

### **Year 3:**

It has been a pleasure to meet the Year 3 children this term as they embarked on their language learning journey!

Here is a summary of what they have been up to this term written by **Tallulah and Rosie in 3B:**

“We have been learning how to count to 10 in French and how to spell the numbers. We have been singing lots of songs! We have been learning how to say people’s names too. We have so much fun learning French, when it ends we will be so upset and we want to learn more! We have been playing lots of fun games!”

### **Language Leaders:**

3B: Minnie

3M: Summer

3S: Ned

### **French Stars of the term:**

3B: Bowie

3M: Josie

3S: Adam

### **Year 4:**

The children started a new topic learning school stationery and items they have in their school bags. They have been introduced to some grammar work, how to say, “I have” and the different ways of saying “my” in French. The children have worked hard, and I am impressed with their grasp of French grammar.

### **Language Leaders:**

4G: Charlotte

4A: Pixie

4C: Olivia

### **French Stars of the term:**

4G: Adah

4A: Thomas

4C: Rose

### **Year 5:**

The children have been learning how to describe different family members. They have worked hard learning how to extend their grammatical knowledge of the language.

#### **Language Leaders:**

5C: Tristan

5K: Percy

5G: Marco

#### **French Stars of the term:**

5C: Elize

5K: Oliver

5G: Neil

### **Year 6:**

The children have been learning school subjects, how to say the time on the hour, likes and dislikes and how to justify their opinions. They are learning some new skills which will be very useful as they continue learning languages in secondary school next year.

#### **Language Leaders:**

6VW: Jaik

6S: Ava

6I: Logan

#### **French Stars of the term:**

6VW: Alex

6S: Christian

6I: Maisie



I wish a “Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année 26” to all the children and families and I look forward to seeing the children again in the New Year!

Madame Townsend



# PTA Update

September - December  
2025



## Upcoming Events

- EYES Family Fun - Jan  
TBC
- Discos - Feb 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>
- Quiz Night - March 13th



## Expenditure

- Friendship benches
- Play leader
- Cheese & Pickle vet visit
- Playground equipment
- Choir sashes
- Netball dresses & bibs
- And much more!



## Fundraising

Our Fireworks Display was the most profitable event ever – a huge success!

The Christmas Fair brought festive fun and fantastic funds!

Other fundraising included the Halloween Trail, The Hayes Light Switch On, Panto tickets & our wonderful Uniform Hut to name a few.



## Thank You

**A MASSIVE THANK YOU** to everyone who made this term so successful! Whether you attended, volunteered, or donated – we couldn't have done it without your incredible support!

A special thanks to our new PTA members & Events Team members. If you'd like to get involved please get in touch via your class rep or pop into the Uniform Hut.

The PTA wish you all enjoyable breaks and a Happy New Year!

