



Hatherop Church of England Primary School

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'Caring, Believing, Achieving'

Newsletter: March 2021

I am sure you were all as delighted as I was to hear the announcement last Monday that confirmed we would be able to welcome back all pupils on the 8th March. It seems such a long time since we were all together!

The news means that we are adjusting our risk assessments to ensure that we can welcome everyone back as safely as possible. We are keen to get on with teaching and learning, so minimal disruption to the school day means we can do just that. In the main, procedures will remain as they were in the Autumn term. Further details will be sent out later in the week. Breakfast club, afterschool club and Monday afterschool sports club will also resume, and bookings can be made through the office.

For this week, remote learning will continue to be set on google classroom and google meets will continue as normal, however all google meets will be cancelled on Friday with all staff in school preparing for opening.

Finally, I would just like to say a huge congratulations to everyone for their amazing running, walking and cycling efforts over half term. You succeeded to reach Itzehoe and beyond as well as raise an astonishing amount of money! Thank you to the PTA for organising, you can read their more detailed account of the event below.

Staffing Update

Sadly, Mrs Reed has resigned from her post in Skylark class. She has been a dedicated member of staff for the last 8 years and will be missed by the children and staff alike. We wish her all the best with her future endeavours.

Mrs Ward will be increasing her days in Skylark class, We are delighted that she was able to take on the full time role of TA.

Welcome

On the 8th March we welcome two new pupils to Year 1. Orla Abbott, who started with us after Christmas, has attended all the class google meets so her classmates will know her well already. We hope that she has a brilliant first day on the actual school site next week.

Wilfred Oliver will spend his first day with us on Monday. We will all do our best to make them both feel welcome.

In school

The children have been very creative during their afternoons. They have explored and produced some aboriginal artwork, which they then transferred onto handmade boomerangs. We carried on with the theme of flight and experimented with different paper flying machines - gliders, eagles, rollercoasters, helicopters and hoop planes all took to the skies over Hatherop Primary School.

We had a great time making cars from cardboard tubes, using old CDs or wooden discs for wheels, and racing them. Chinese New Year was celebrated by making paper dragons and finger fortune tellers decorated as dragons.

We have been doing lots of different activities including an assault course in the hall using the big apparatus, den building and a treasure hunt. We are all so excited that the whole school will be back together soon!



Red Kite

Red Kite have been working really well over the last few weeks. They wrote some imaginative diary entries linked to a thoughtful short animation and have more recently begun to look at ways to persuade people using a formal letter. I have been really impressed with their enthusiastic attendance at our daily google meets, which have become a great way to discuss our maths each morning. The children have also been very creative in our weekly online art lessons which included the creation of Viking-style dragons this week. I am really looking forward to having everyone back in the classroom again very soon.

Skylark Class

Since returning to our remote learning after half-term Skylark Class have been enthusiastically learning about dinosaurs. In our Google Meets we have shared what we already know about dinosaurs, helped Terence the T-rex with some number problems and enjoyed the action song: 'you're a dinosaur and you know it'. The children have also researched the great fossil hunter Mary Anning, taken part in Dinosaur Yoga and written lots of fantastic sentences about dinosaurs that featured amazing adjectives. What a busy week!

Kingfisher Class

It has been lovely to hear what everyone has been up to over half term, particularly all the walking and cycling to get us to our target 700 miles! Everyone is excited about the prospect of being back in school soon but in the meantime the children continue to work hard and impress me with their efforts. We have started new Maths topics this term and in English we are working on expanding our vocabulary. The children also have a geography project to complete over the next couple of weeks, comparing countries in Europe, and I am looking forward to seeing their finished work. Keep it up Kingfishers!

Year 4

I have been really impressed with the effort the children have continued to put into their work. We have been looking at fractions in maths, which is a pretty tricky subject to master when we are together, so to do it remotely has been a real challenge and I have been very pleased by how the children have risen to it. The children did some fantastic biography work just before half term, researching a person they found inspiring and then writing about them. I found them really interesting to read – I found out lots about some people I'd not even heard of! Well done Year 4.

RE Art Competition

If you would like your entry to be considered for the Diocese art competition, please remember to submit a picture and text explaining what it is about to Mrs Dugdale by 15th March at the latest. adugdale@hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk

Loaned Chromebooks

If you borrowed any equipment from school during lockdown, such as a chromebook, please could these be returned as soon as possible as they are needed in class when we return.

Thank You

During lockdown we have had some volunteers in to make sure that the school is in good shape for our return. Thank you to Ed Wilson, Mike Frances and Penny Ibbotson who worked in the garden and to Mr Scaysbrook and his work *Ecclesiastical* who funded all the materials needed to enable Mr Hancock to redecorate the staff room.

Dates for the Diary:

8 th March 2021	School re-opening to all pupils
1 st April 2021	Last Day of Term – 2pm finish
19 th April 2021	Return to School
27 th May 2021	Last day of term
28 th May 2021	INSET day
7 th June 2021	Return to school
1 st July 2021	Year 5/6 Schoolbeat Officer Visit
21 July 2021	Last day of term



A huge congratulations to all those children who took part in the half term challenge. The challenge was to collectively reach 700 miles by walking, running or cycling. The great news is that by all joining together the children managed to clock up 1060 miles between them. The distance of 700 miles was chosen to reflect the distance between Hatherop and Itzehoe just outside of Hamburg in Germany. Itzehoe has been twinned with Cirencester for over 35 years and the excitement of our half term challenge has reached Itzehoe via the Cirencester Twinning Office! Each of the children who took part will receive a bespoke medal and a certificate to commemorate their achievement. The idea behind the challenge was to raise funds for the school and from generous donations of family, friends and the local community an amazing amount of over £2,200 has been raised, so thank you to all of those who have donated. There is still time to donate towards the challenge if you would like to, the link is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/hatherop-primary-schools-virtual-challenge>

