



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2015

It hardly seems time for half term to be upon us, but there it is! Hopefully the lighter mornings will encourage the persistent 'late' offenders to try to bring children to school on time. Can I impress upon all parents the need to ensure that the children arrive on time, as this is a life skill and is very disrupting for those pupils who have made the effort. On average we have **15** pupils **EACH DAY** who arrive late, which really is unacceptable.

Thank you to all of the parents who have supported their child's learning by attending the Y2 SATs meetings held this week in school. Staff work hard to pass on the knowledge and support that the children will require to reach their full potential at this important stage in their school life. This can only happen if parents show that, they too are interested in what the pupils need to do. The turnout of parents was disappointingly low for such an important event.

At New Hall we know that education can make a real difference to the lives of our pupils. We would urge all parents to appreciate that learning can be further enhanced when support is received at home, and parents show an interest.

AUTHOR DAY

On Monday 9th February the author Ian Billings worked alongside pupils in school to support their reading and writing.



During assemblies for key stage 1 and 2 he shared some of his stories and poems, shared his experiences of being an author and used role play and drama to inspire their imagination.

Pupils in years 3 and 4 had further opportunities to work alongside Ian during the day when he inspired them to create settings through drawings and role play.

Everyone enjoyed the experience, *'I liked it when we had to stretch our imagination!'* - Prab (year 2)

'I liked it because the man was funny and he read his books!' - Konor (year 2)

We will look forward to further authors coming into school in the future.

DOG SAFETY

Kelly from Birmingham City Council delivered a dog safety assembly to KS1 and KS2 on Wednesday 4th February. Children learned how to respond to unfriendly dogs they might encounter at the park or in the neighbourhood. Children learned to protect their body and face and to remain silent whilst looking away from the dog. Children in Y3 and Y4 have also read more about looking after dogs in a helpful leaflet, 'Respect your pet'.



SAFER INTERNET DAY

The message for this year's Safer Internet Day is 'creating a better internet together' and on Tuesday 10th February, each class held a one hour lesson on internet safety. A workshop for parents of Y5/6 pupils was also held at the end of the day where parents learned about how to keep their children safe online.

Ask children in KS1 about the choice wheel they made, speak to Y3/4 about their drama lesson and find out from Y5/6 about their recipes for a better internet. EYFS and KS1 also read the story of Digiduck. Have a look at <http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/teachers/ks1/digiduck.aspx>

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are looking for parents who would like to be volunteer readers. If interested please come and speak to us in the school office.

MEET THE CREATURES SCIENCE DAY at MERE GREEN SCHOOL

On Wednesday 21st January 2015 Mrs Lucas took a group of five Year 6 pupils from New Hall to a Science Day at Mere Green School. We looked at some worksheets and had to decide what creature it was describing by the, description, habitat, colouring and foods. This got the pupils interacting and discussing all sorts of possibilities. Then the organiser, placed a range of creatures on the tables, in boxes so the pupils could see them and check if they had chosen the correct creature to the description they had been talking about.

The children were amazed and bewildered!

The creatures they were looking at, later to be held if they

wanted to were a range of animals they had not seen face to face before. These included: giant snails, a bearded dragon, leopard gecko, a variety of snakes and a tarantula. The pupils had a great time looking, touching and drawing these creatures.



After lunch, the children learned about the creatures eating habits and where they lived, their special features and how they moved. They had great fun mimicking the creatures movements.

At the end of the session all the children had the chance to have their photograph taken with their favourite creature there. It was a great end to a wonderful experience that I believe will stay with the pupils for a long, long time.

WHITEMOOR LAKES

Last week, Year 6 visited Whitemoor Lakes Activity Centre in Lichfield. It was a fantastic week as children were given the opportunity to try: abseiling, rock climbing, a high ropes course, archery, fencing and a zip wire. The children returned as heroes - all claiming to have challenged themselves to try something new. The staff were very proud of our Year 6 children who represented New Hall during this trip.



LOST JUMPER

Parents - can you please check if you have a Clive Mark school jumper with someone else's name on in your home. The jumper belongs to a Year 2 pupil.

If you find a jumper that does not belong to you please return to the school office and we will return it to its owner, thank you.

VANDALISM

On the afternoon of Tuesday 10th February one of our regular volunteers at our school had the entire side of their car scratched while parked in the visitors car park. If you witnessed any suspicious activity please can you contact the School.

LUNCH TIME SUPERVISOR

We are currently looking for a permanent full time lunchtime supervisor to fill a vacancy. If you would like to join our friendly hard working team, please pop into school and have a chat with the School Business Manager, Mrs Page. This job is suitable for someone who would like a term time only contract.

STARBURST

Thursday 29 January

Nursery - Jessica
Team Barham - Evie
Team Carpenter - Holly
Team Wood - Millie - Mae
Team Davis - Kieran
Team Talliss - George
Team Qayyum - Rhys
Team Toomer - Courtnie
Team Huxley - Sophie
Team Palmer - Gary
Team Hall - Mollie

Thursday 5 February

Team Wood - Skye
Team Davis - Sarah
Team Talliss - Elle
Team Qayyum - Imani
Team Toomer - Ryan
Team Huxley - Demi - Leigh
Team Palmer - Kash
Team Hall - Chloe

DATES FOR THE DIARY

16 - 20 February - Half term

23 February - Inset day

24 February - School re-open

4 March - Team Palmer Parent lunch

11 March - Team Hall Parent lunch

12 March - Team Davis class Assembly

17 March - St Patricks Day lunch