



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2015

HAPPY
EASTER

It hardly seems possible that the Spring term is almost over. We seem to have had visitors or events going on each and every week. This continues as we move towards the end of term. On Tuesday the Early Years classes walked to the church to celebrate Easter with Deacon Linda.

As part of our working together with other local schools as part of the North Birmingham Schools Company Model, we have recently had senior leaders from Boldmere Junior and The Deanery Schools to conduct a review day, linked to our school improvement target of raising standards in reading. The report highlighted many positive features of New Hall including superb questioning by the staff, a fantastic learning environment and highly motivated children. We are delighted with the feedback.

Red Nose Day

School Council would like to give a massive thank you to the hilarious efforts of pupils and staff to make their faces funny for money on Friday 13th March! Our red noses and biscuits were in high demand and as a result we made a staggering £475.94. We are proud to donate this money to Comic Relief and make positive changes to those people who are less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you New Hall!



Sponsored Silence

A huge congratulations to Elise from Y6 who donated £20 to Red Nose Day through a sponsored silence. Well done!

Tee Bello visits New Hall

Primary!

On Friday 13 March we were treated to a free mini-concert by rising star Tee Bello.

Tee sang a mixture of his own songs and those of other artists and had everyone on their feet dancing along to the music!

During a question and answer session, Tee commented that working in the music industry is difficult, but with good focus and hard work it really is possible. When Mrs Talliss interviewed Tee before the show he said "Nowadays young people often forget to dream and to aim for things. Don't be afraid to dream. Dreams can become a reality - with lots of hard work!"

Tee's favourite phrase was "super-fun!" which is how he described his time at New Hall, commenting that the energy and enthusiasm shown by the children during the performance was amazing. Well done everyone



World Book Day

Children and staff enjoyed all the celebrations of World Book Day.

Everyone was encouraged to dress up as a hero or villain book character, to celebrate reading. We had plenty of witches, super heroes, princesses, burglars and many more. Throughout the day children took part in a range of book activities, working alongside their peers to research countries throughout the world through stories, information texts and use of atlases. Finishing off with a display to share all of our wonderful research and art work. Thank you to everyone for taking part.



Yoga

Key stage 1 experienced an afternoon of yoga to support the learning of our theme 'Indian Spice'. We found out about the culture of India, the names of gods and how they are worshipped and a selection of basic yoga positions. Together we created a short story with them and ended with a relaxation moment. It was a calming and relaxing way to spend the afternoon and gave us a real insight into the art of yoga.

Bhangra Workshop

At the end of Spring 1 the children in Nursery, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 enjoyed Bhangra Workshops. Vijay Mehay from a local Bhangra group came with his Indian drum and each class learnt a simple routine. The children and adults thoroughly enjoyed this experience.



Trip to Studio Theatre at Birmingham Library

On Wednesday 4th March, Key Stage One visited the Studio Theatre at Birmingham library to see an interactive performance of *The Giant's Footsteps*. We were launched into the problematic world of a young boy called Tom, who was in desperate need of our help in order to find enough food to feed his family. By working with the actors and becoming 'storymakers,' we shaped the story and some of us were brave enough to onto the stage to talk to Tom directly! It was a fantastic experience and we even were able to write our own ending to help Tom solve his moral dilemma!

School Dinners

Reminder -Price of School dinners are £2.05 per child per day, £10.25 per week. All lunch money needs to be handed into class in a sealed envelope. If you have any queries please contact the School office.

Cooking Club

Over the last 5 weeks a group of Year 5 and 6 children have enjoyed attending cooking club every Tuesday. They have enjoyed cooking several savoury and sweet foods such as pizza and pancakes! The children have also learnt different skills such as chopping, cutting and grating. Look out for another cooking club starting in the summer term.



Free The Children

Team Qayyum had an exciting morning learning about active citizenship with a guest visitor from the charity Free The Children. We first worked on team building exercises and then sharpened our debating skills. Having now identified our talents and the issues we want to change, we will be hosting a series of events to make our community and world a better place!

STARBURST—Thursday 5 March

Nursery - Elsie
Team Barham - Alycia May
Team Carpenter - Shakira
Team Wood - Isobelle
Team Davis - Alicia
Team Talliss - Malihah
Team Qayyum - Mehaq
Team Toomer - Mahder
Team Huxley - Shavoy
Team Palmer - Faith
Team Hall - Jamie

2014-15 Multi-Faith Educational Visits

As you may have recently seen, we have been organising visits to a range of places of worship for our pupils. The table below shows how the visits link to our Religious Education curriculum:

	Religion	Place of worship	Notes	Links to the R.E. Curriculum
Year 1/2	Islam	Mosque	spring term	Unit 6 Wk3
Year 3/4	Bud-dhism	Vihara	autumn term	Unit 2 Wk3
Year 5/6	Hinduism	Mandir	summer term	Unit 12 Wk3

Why do New Hall pupils visit places of worship?

At New Hall, we strongly believe that education is about extending pupils' knowledge, understanding and experience of the world and a visit to a place of worship helps do this. The experience of visiting a place of worship can help children to learn about religions but is NEVER about indoctrination or persuading children to agree with the beliefs of the religion being studied. Visits are part of a planned curriculum and are integral to the learning that will take place. The government is supporting Learning outside the Classroom. The non-statutory National Framework for RE supports visits to places of worship and the Birmingham agreed syllabus for Religious Education encourages all pupils to visit places of worship as part of their RE curriculum. Visits can also contribute to community cohesion.

Should you have any further questions or would like to volunteer as a helper on a trip, please contact the school and ask to speak to Mrs. Stevenson.

Diary Dates:

Easter Holiday school closed - Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April

School open Monday 13 April