

Headteacher: Mr James Procter Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Su Cloke

# Hothfield News

1<sup>st</sup> November 2016

## Hothfield Friendship Week

The week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> November is National Anti-Bullying Week – and our Hothfield Friendship Week. This is an opportunity for us to ensure all Hothfield children know what bullying is and what we can all do about it. We have been trying to help the children understand the difference between a fall-out between friends or family – something that happens all the time and children need to learn how to resolve – and bullying – where someone is trying to exercise power over another through physical or emotional means.

We want Hothfield children to be strong and confident enough to not be controlled by another in this way — and to know that if they are facing a bullying situation, then adults in school are there to help. The children know that their classteacher, Mrs Burgoyne or Mr Procter are all good people to talk to if someone else in school is making them feel worried and anxious. Often these situations can be 'nipped in the bud' by swift and direct intervention by adults. On rare occasions it is not so straightforward but with school, parents and children working together, we can ensure that all our children are feeling safe and happy to learn...

## **Animal Day**

The School Council raised £275 from Animal Day – supporting the World Wildlife Fund.
The School Council have chosen to support
Children in Need on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November with a 'spotty themed' non-uniform day. As usual, simple 'non-uniform' if your child doesn't want to follow the theme... £1 contribution please...
The School Council hold a non-uniform day fundraiser once every half term – these two have come close together as the School Council wanted to support Children in Need – so this means there won't be another non-uniform day until the new year...

Thank you for completing the Parents Survey at Parents Evening. It is so good that so many of you think your children are safe and happy at school, learning well and a record number of you would recommend Hothfield to others... I hope that you found the Parents Evening informative. Do talk further with your child's classteacher or contact Mr Procter if there is anything further you would like to discuss or issues you wish to resolve. So that you can see what other parents are thinking about their child's Hothfield education, you can find the full results of the survey on the Parents Page of the school website.

## 'Hothfield School - Can I Help You?'

If you telephone the school at lunchtime, you will find the phone answered by one of our team of Year 5 and Year 6 Junior Administrators. They have been trained to manage administrative tasks at lunchtime – this is great experience for them. The Junior Administrators also run the School Shop – open each lunchtime and selling stationery supplies with prices in the range of 20p to 50p.



## Reading Time...

Hothfielders are really responding to the Hothfield Reading Challenge. On Friday we will be holding the termly Reading Challenge Prize Draw – children get a ticket in the draw for every Reading Challenge book they have read. The winners receive a Reading Challenge book of their choice...

Most of the books on the Reading Challenge list work really well to read together with a parent at home... I recently read this about the benefits of reading aloud with older children at home:

**Reading aloud builds a better foundation.** When you read aloud, you lay the foundation for a lifelong interest (even addiction!) to reading. This works on two fronts. Not only are you getting your children interested in a story, you are getting them interested in you. What makes you laugh? Or cry? Why do you like certain characters, and why do you not like others?

**Reading aloud builds a better reader.** Studies have shown that children whose parents read aloud to them become better students. They are stronger readers, which leads to a better performance in school. **Reading aloud builds a better speaker.** When you read to kids, you're not just entertaining them. You're helping them with language and speech development. You're introducing them to new words that don't come

up in everyday conversations—and increasing their vocabulary. **Reading aloud builds a better listener.** Children learn they must listen closely, or they miss a lot of "good parts" of the story—and they will miss important lessons academically if they can't learn to sit still and

**Reading aloud builds a better writer.** Reading to older children helps them understand grammar and correct sentence structure. It helps them appreciate the craft behind creating a book that captivates an audience.

**Reading aloud builds better bridges.** Reading time becomes an opportunity for bonding together as a family. Not only are you giving the kids the attention they crave, but you're providing opportunities for one-on-one communication and opening the way for discussions that would never happen otherwise.

Reading aloud builds a better imagination. Curiosity is pricked, creativity is promoted, and imagination is provoked with a story that conjures up pictures and places in a child's mind. Reading aloud builds a more confident child. Reading aloud exposes your child to new situations, cultures, and characters. When they learn how a character acted in a certain environment, and they "walk through" that experience with them, it helps them learn appropriate behaviour, and it helps them learn to recognize inappropriate behaviour. This gives them a baseline for new experiences in their own lives, making them feel more confident and prepared to navigate uncharted territory.

Reading aloud provides common ground, a place where families can gather and be, quite literally, on the same page..

**Taken from:** <a href="http://faithfulprovisions.com/2013/02/24/8-great-reasons-to-read-aloud/#Kqlr3ZtSmzGFBY3D.99">http://faithfulprovisions.com/2013/02/24/8-great-reasons-to-read-aloud/#Kqlr3ZtSmzGFBY3D.99</a>

focus.

#### Poppy Appeal

We are supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and will be marking Remembrance Day in assembly on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Poppies are on sale in school – minimum donation of 50p please...

Bonfire Night special lunch menu – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November – toad in the hole and more!