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Hothfield News

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New Year; New Themes; New Determination for All to Succeed

There was an enormously positive feeling in each class yesterday as the children returned for the new year – Hothfielders enjoy learning and feel a determination to master new skills and rise to challenges. To engage and motivate the children, we have a great curriculum planned for this half term. In Year 3, children will be developing their writing skills through studying Peter and the Wolf. In history, they will be looking at the Ancient Egyptians. Year 4s are studying the Vikings and Electricity. In Year 5 children will continue to learn about the solar system and write stories based on The Journey before moving to a new theme – Zooming in and zooming out! (All will be revealed...). Year 6 will be inspired by Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic adventures.

We will be building on the recommendations from our inspection to ensure we have high expectations of all our children with a focus on children taking a pride in their presentation and handwriting... More news on this later in the term.

Hothfield Spelling Bee

There were some wonderful performances in the Spelling Bee in December. Some children went from knowing very few of the term's words in September to knowing all of them now!

Our expectation and belief is that every child can learn the spellings that they need to write well – and so in the Spelling Bee competition every child's correct spelling earns a point for their class.

The winning classes were:
Year 3: Rowan; Year 4: Tigers; Year 5: Mars; Year 6: Ingleborough
How did your child do in the Spelling Bee? Can you support them to increase this score for the next Spelling Bee in March?

The words that all children need to be able to spell, by year group, are available on the Curriculum Page of the website.

What can Hothfield learn from Finland? In comparisons of school systems around the world, children in Finland are regularly judged to being the most successfully educated. I would like to see what it is about Finnish schools that means their children reach such a high standard so I am traveling to Finland for three days on 18th January to visit schools in Lapland and hear about their school system. I will share with you and the children what I have learnt on my return!

How much sleep does my child need?

"Sleep requirements differ from individual to individual, but in general... between the ages of five and 11, your child will need 10-12 hours of sleep a night." NHS Choices Website

In this period after Christmas, we know that many of our children are enjoying engaging with their new tablets, phones and computer games. What we also know is that playing on screens near to bedtime has a big effect on children's sleep. And we also know that if children don't sleep well, they struggle to learn and succeed in their schooling. We have noticed a number of tired children at school who then are not able to learn.

Doctors recommend that children avoid screen time in the hour before sleep – much better to be enjoying a book...

Why not try one of the Hothfield Reading Challenge books? Is your child reading one of these this half term?

If bedtimes are not working for your child, do talk to Learning Mentor Mrs Burgoyne for advice and support (at the coffee morning on Thursday morning – 9 to 10? Or phone at any time....).

Pupil Premium

A fifth of Hothfielders are entitled to Pupil Premium funding as they have been claimants of free school meals at some point in the last 6 years. The school receives a significant amount of money to try and narrow the achievement gap between these children and others.

Much of this funding is used to ensure smaller classes and additional attention for Pupil Premium children. Mrs Cloke works with small groups in the afternoons to boost reading and writing skills.

We also use this funding for one to one reading support for those children who are struggling to read. We have a Pupil Premium Special Fund which provides musical instrument tuition and support for school trips, residentials and after school clubs.

We are determined that all children at Hothfield can succeed in their learning and we want to use the Pupil Premium funding to ensure that deprivation is no barrier to achieving at school. More details of how we spend our Pupil Premium funding can be found on the website.

If you believe your child may be entitled to free school meals and so may be entitled to Pupil Premium funding, please contact the office as soon as possible – we need to know by 16th January.

Open School for Reading...

On these winter mornings, many children would rather be in school enjoying a good book than standing out in the cold waiting for the whistle to blow... - so we open the school from 8.30 each morning for those children who want to come in and read or change their reading book.

Our Junior Administrators run our School Shop – open every day at 12.15 in the Entrance Hall. The shop sells pens, pencils, rubbers, sharpeners and other stationery items – for prices ranging from 10p to £1.

Dates for Your Diary This Term...

18th January – Mr Procter to Finland
31st January – Young Shakespeare Company to work with Y6
7th February – Safer Internet Day
17th February – break for Half Term holiday. Valentines Buns and Biscuits.
27th February – Children return
2nd March – World Book Day/ Book Fair
w/c 27th March Year 4 Production
3rd/4th April – Parent Consultation Evenings
Friday 7th April – School closes for Easter holidays