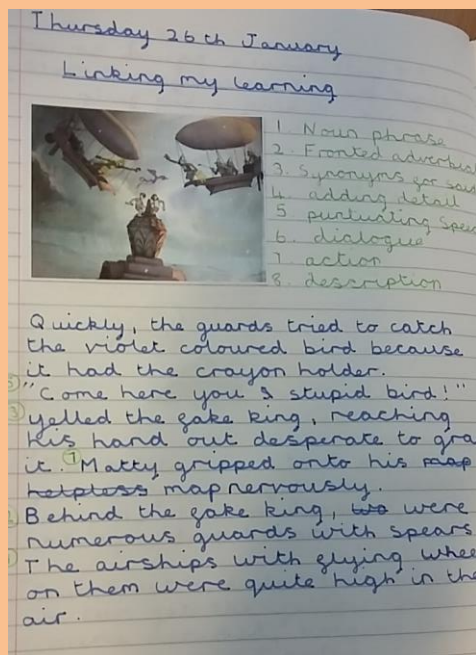


Pride in Presentation Awards

Children are rightly proud of their workbooks – they provide a strong record of their learning journey. We want to promote this sense of pride and so each term the children in each class vote for the workbook which shows the best presentation and the one that shows the greatest improvement. Certificates were presented in assembly last week. Well done Pride Award winners....



A Pride Award winner from Year 5....

As you know, leave of absence during term time is not authorised except in exceptional circumstances. Following our policy (published on the website) jointly developed with Aire View and neighbouring schools, and the advice received from the government, it is rarely the case that a holiday constitutes 'exceptional circumstances'.

Unauthorised absences could be subject to a Penalty Fine. However, if you feel there are exceptional circumstances which justify leave during term time, please outline these circumstances on your application or make an appointment to discuss with Mr Procter.

Applications which make a claim for exceptional circumstances are reviewed on a case by case basis, trying to be fair and consistent with the law and with previous cases.

Promoting Positive Language and Respecting Differences:

We are always keen to promote positive language between children and try and ensure that no one is teased or bullied for a perceived difference – our children know that they are all different and special! This was the theme of assembly this week: Different Families – Same Love - looking at all sorts of families with different combinations and arrangements but all with the same love for the children of the family...

We continue our campaign to ensure Hothfielders speak respectfully – and this includes our strong line on the misuse of the word 'gay' as an insult word. We have talked about this in assembly and in each class – and any misuse of the word is reported to an adult so that the user can be challenged...

'Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me' – is nonsense. We have talked in assembly about how finding a difference about someone and then making comments about it can crumple someone's heart. We can regret what was said later apologise and 'uncrumple' the heart, but the wrinkles will remain.

Our children know that if someone is teasing or bullying them about a perceived difference, then adults in school are there to help. The children know that their classteacher or Mrs Burgoyne are 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...

Our latest Pupil Survey – held in October – suggested that almost all our children do feel safe and happy at school.

Our approach to preventing and dealing with bullying is outlined in our Anti-Bullying Policy available on the website.