

We have all enjoyed having the children back these past 2 weeks. The children have shared lots about their Christmas/winter break and we believe they have enjoyed being back seeing their friends and teaching adults.

### Learning is best if active and spoken about

During our staff INSET our teaching teams revisited current research on 'how we learn' best and further invested time in applying theory to their teaching and learning. Our teaching teams will welcome your involvement in supporting how children learn by encouraging you talk about their learning and consider how to support the homework menu of opportunities, which are typically active and/or 'open ended'.



Year 2, as artists, colour mixing using powder paint



Reception children role-playing their new class story, 'Whatever next'

Year 5, as scientists, exploring forces in groups



### We want to showcase learning – can you help?

Do you have business premises or contacts who would support us in getting the children's work on display in a place they can see? This picture shows children visiting the museum where some learning from the class is displayed.



We are aiming to share work in the local hairdressers and the 'empty unit' next to the pharmacy before April. In addition, we have a few dates in the calendar – see events, to share learning outcomes with parents. However, more locations and ideas are welcome.

### Bring & label clothes

We will be making sure the children experience the various weather in our lives at playtimes and sometimes during lessons. It is often said that *there is no such thing as bad weather, but the wrong clothing*. Please ensure your child has a school jumper and coat for school every day.

When it rains, we do get puddles. If you want your child to bring wellies into school they can, and these can stay in school if necessary. Alternatively, because we have underfloor heating we cannot quickly dry socks, so there is no harm in packing a spare pair of socks in book bags, should they be needed. Please remember to label all clothes.

### "I'd like to bring in..." Reminder

Every now and then again, we expect children to follow a trend and begin to bring things into school. Sometimes we can support these interests and sometimes we have to make decisions that mean we may 'ban' the items as it is causing too much distraction or disruption in a number of ways. Please can you ensure your child **does not** bring any of the following into school:

- Pokémon cards (except at Pokémon club on Wednesday's break/lunch in Mr Fraser's room)
- Match attack cards (football cards)
- Miniature skateboards (fingerboard)
- Permanent marker pens

If they are brought in, teaching adults may confiscate and return at the end of the school day.

#### **Y4-6 Parents: Mobile Phones / watches**

Some children bring a mobile to school so they can communicate to their parents that they have arrived at school or that they are leaving or have arrived home. If your child now has a mobile phone and they bring this into school, this needs to be handed to the Class Teacher for storage.

If children have digital watches that link to their phone, notifications for messages need to be switched off, otherwise they can distract and disrupt learning in the classroom.

#### **Reading challenges**

We are continuing with the reading challenges in school. With parental support to read daily, alongside other opportunities in school, children in our school are excellent readers.

If you would like to watch a couple of videos to consider ideas on how to best support reading with your child at home, you can find these on the HVA youtube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7ZrnG7y8iBxBCLJVQBt-Lw>



Reminder: All parents are welcome to come in at the end of day to listen to your child read in your child's class. 5-10 minutes and then it is done!

Year 5 & 6 children can now sign for their own reading, but we strongly encourage parents to encourage listening as much as you are able. They are only young once!

#### **Congratulations to the football team**

On Friday last week, our football team got to the semi-finals in the Somerset county finals. Despite getting knocked out, they came an overall 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Our team consisted of Year 5 and Year 6 children and Mr Sharp and Mrs Storer were extremely proud of their attitude and efforts.



#### **Class bubbles or not?**

Please be aware that we may well 'bubble' a class for a period of time, should we be concerned with a rise in positive COVID cases. Occasionally we may make this decision and inform children for immediate action before informing parents via the usual text/emails/letters.

Bubbling a class may include:

- Isolated group playtimes
- Not joining assemblies in person
- Eating lunch within their own classrooms
- Not attending after school clubs

#### **January and the blues...**

We are all thinking of a number of ideas to lift our spirits in winter. For some of us, the prospect of reigniting passions and interests can help. For others, organising and planning socials with friends and family will work, even if in the distant future. For others, finding joy in the everyday nature and moments of life is easier than others.

Have a look at the 'jar of jolly' activity attached to this newsletter as an activity to explore either with your child and/or as a parent.

#### **Are you checking the new School Calendar?**

Our website page  
<https://haywoodvillageacademy.clf.uk/events/>  
details events for the year. This has been updated and the CLF IT team, would like feedback on whether the subscribe button works on all devices to sync to your calendars.

#### **Cleaners wanted**

Churchill Cleaning are hiring cleaners for Haywood Village Academy. 3 hours per day/15 hours per week. See attached flyer.

#### **Golden Mentions**

**M** Well done Dexter in Year 4. Last term Dexter wrote to the government to challenge them on the work they are doing to tackle climate change and how this links to education. He received a letter back praising him for his points made, acknowledging his expectations and responding to some of his questions. As part of the Eco-Schools Award and the work that is taking place across school, it was inspiring to read Dexter's letter and the response he received.

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