



HOOK JUNIOR
SCHOOL

Headteacher's Newsletter

December 2018

'A dream becomes a goal when action is taken towards its achievement,' Bo Bennett

Dear Parents and Carers,

A long Autumn term is at an end and a lot has been achieved. It has been wonderful to see how much the children are enjoying the curriculum, learning from rich experiences and putting their skills, knowledge and understanding to purposeful use across a range of subjects. This you will hopefully have seen in their books during learning consultations, the impact of educational visits, visitors to school and workshops and at learning events; their thirst for learning, their energy and determination to do well is inspiring.

Our drive towards raising standards and achieving excellence is mapped within our school strategic plan (SSP) which the senior leadership team together with governors, monitors, challenges and supports. Our focus is underpinned by our mission to 'Inspire' curiosity and a desire to learn, to ensure that children adopt learning behaviours, the skills, knowledge and understanding to commit learning to memory and to achieve excellence in all aspects of their development regardless of ability or background. Our SSP always attends to improving achievement for all pupils in reading, writing, maths and curriculum development (including wider and social curriculum). All teachers as subject leaders hold responsibility for a subject and all are determined to champion them in the interests of the children, some developments in English, maths and the curriculum are summarised further in this newsletter.

Over the course of this term the children have engaged in many community and fundraising events and with your kind support raised an impressive £2000 so far towards charity – Macmillan Cancer, Save the Children, Children in Need. The children always show commitment and social responsibility and play their part in the life of the school and beyond.

During this festive period we have thoroughly enjoyed Y4 performing their Christmas play 'Bethlehem' and to all who performed in Carols Around the Tree, all performances were excellent and showed the very best of our children's talents in music, poetry, dance and drama. The Y4 team (Mrs Stephens, Miss Evans, Mrs Watts, Mrs Hilton, Mrs Raimbaux, Mrs Wilson), Mrs Laird and Mrs Linehan-Hill certainly brought the best out of the children and provided them with the opportunity to excel in a live performance. It is known that it takes 10,000 hours of practise to master a skill of any kind and become fully proficient, staff did their best whilst attempting to play ukuleles and sing 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town' at Carols Around the Tree; the audience were very kind and forgiving in their appreciation but it is clear we have another 9,999 hours of practise to put in!

In January we welcome Mrs Rainbow as teacher to 3CB and Mrs Boardman as teacher to 4RM. Mrs Rainbaux and Mrs Wilson have done a fantastic job teaching 4RM and I wish to

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thank them for their commitment and support which the children have benefitted from. Miss Barrett leaves us to teach in a smaller school, close to home and we wish her every success in her future career.

On behalf of the staff and governors I would like to wish every family a very Merry Christmas. It was humbling to hear from a Y3 child this morning when I asked, "What is it you are looking forward to most this Christmas?" she quickly replied "Spending time with my family". Wise words indeed, I do hope you relax and enjoy the festivities and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on 7th January 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Martin

Headteacher

Wider Curriculum – Mrs Heaslop, Curriculum Leader

At Hook Junior School, we are always seeking ways to involve and develop links with the wider community and this term has been no exception.

Each year group has had a chance to share their term's learning at their respective Learning Events. Year 3, invited parents to join them at 'Abacaxi's', their Fairtrade café; Year 4 produced a fantastic production of 'Bethlehem the Musical' to parents and other members of the Hook community; Year 5 spent an evening star gazing; and Year 6 invited parents to a VE Day celebration. All of these events were thoroughly enjoyed by all and really showcased our children at their best.

As well as celebrations of learning, this term has also seen a number of different charity events, beginning with the MacMillan Coffee Morning. This hugely successful morning of tea and cake raised £1093 and it was great to see so many family members there. Not only this, in November, Hook Junior School welcomed Matt Baker and the BBC Children in Need Rickshaw challenge to the school, which saw many members of the local community come out and show their support. The school also supported Save the Children, raising £2000 in total for charity this term.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank local businesses for their continued support of the school. Marshall BMW in Hook brought a mini along for the art club to gain inspiration for sketching and Tesco have generously donated a number of items for our school Christmas events. Year 6 have been working with David Wilson Homes on a 'Building Buddies Award' programme. This year long project allows the children to understand the process of designing and publicising a housing development through the creation of their own developments. This is a purposeful and practical experience for the children as the development affects their community.

You may be aware that this term, various member of staff have been 'Tweeting' via the school Twitter page @HookJunior with regular updates about learning, sports team success and school events. Keep your eyes peeled in the spring term for ongoing news about our curriculum.

English – Mr French, English Leader

The improvements we are making with learning in reading and writing has been clearly evident in the children's efforts over this past term; across all the year groups, there has been an audible and noticeable buzz around the writing units that have been studied and the texts that the children have been engaging with. The aim is to motivate and foster a love of books and broaden the rich experience of language children can find in books.

We strive for all children to reach their personal targets and the reading and writing units have been designed with the children's engagement in mind: from potential crashed meteorites in Year 5, being immersed in World War 2 related concepts such as evacuation in Year 6,

experiencing what it would have been like to have been involved in a Viking raid in Year 4 and reflecting on the wonderful sights and sounds of the rainforest in Year 3, the children have certainly enjoyed and been inspired by the reading and writing units taught.

With the aim of developing composition and variety in technical use of language in children's writing, the beginning of the year saw a whole school acknowledgement of 'Roald Dahl Day', celebrating the famous author's birthday - using it as an opportunity to study the work of this unique and brilliant literary figure and allowing the children the opportunity to write in a similar style, with a comedic intent. An enjoyable day was had by all with a number of children mentioning how they would be visiting the library to find more examples of his work. This event was followed by our, now annual, Poetry Slam competition. Vocabulary exploration and development is our focus this year and across the school, topic related poetry was used to enable children to experiment with vocabulary and poetic phrasing and develop the skill of performance poetry, culminating in a grand final where the winning performers from each group competed for the title of Hook Junior School Poetry Slam Champion. Not only was this an important event for the finalists, but across the whole school who saw a purpose to their writing.

To continue to drive standards and inspire creative and proficient writing, events such as these are important fixtures in the curriculum and will continue to feature with 'Storytelling Week' coming up in January, recognising the importance of, and practising the art of oral storytelling. This will be followed by opportunities for the children to write their own stories, inspired by the examples they hear.

Promoting the enjoyment of reading and strengthening our culture for reading for life has also been a key focus this term - guided reading units cover a range of text types, with a range of reading skills embedded - and teachers regularly share their own love of reading at the end of each day, reading a class novel to the children, demonstrating their enthusiasm for the subject whilst modelling good reading skills. Current class novels and 'What the class teacher is currently reading' displays are also prominent outside each classroom, reinforcing the message that reading is not only an important activity, but a pleasurable one. This message was also reinforced by this year's reading buddies who presented an assembly to the whole school regarding their role and enthusiasm for it, in addition to describing their own love of reading and sharing examples of their favourite books. Reading is not only a life skill, but one of the best ways to relax and be immersed in worlds that allow your imagination to run wild - this is certainly the message promoted by our wonderful reading buddies and reinforced by teachers; walking past our central area display that shows 'Where teachers have been caught reading' certainly highlights this!

Research shows that there is a clear correlation between the amount of reading a child does, the amount of vocabulary a child has and their competence as a writer is linked to future life success. Looking ahead to the spring term, this message will continue to be promoted with the introduction of a new reading challenge and the annual celebration of World Book Day - a popular date in the school calendar and another opportunity to strengthen our reading culture.

Celebrating Reading - Golden Book Award – parents, we need your help!

Each week in Celebration Assembly we acknowledge class reading achievements with classes competing to win the Golden Book Award. This is awarded to the class which has the highest reading percentage from reading daily linked to reading homework requirements. This percentage is taken from all children's daily reading logs to have been signed by parents. We aim for 90% or more of the children having read and had their reading logs signed for a minimum of four days in that week. In order to increase the number of classes achieving this we need your help to ensure that as you read with your child you sign their logs so that this valuable time is recognised, recorded and contributes to the class total. Thank you for your support.

Celebrating Reading - Reading Raffle

Children also receive raffle tickets for their reading and for keeping their reading records up to date. The raffle tickets are collected and the winning ticket is drawn in Celebration Assembly every Friday; the winner selects a new and exciting book as a prize. This is very popular with the children.

Maths – Mrs Bailey, Deputy Headteacher and Maths Leader

We were proud to continue to achieve higher Key Stage Two maths results in 2018 than across the local authority, county and nationally, with 89% of children achieving national standards and 42% of children achieving the higher standard at the end of Key Stage Two. This is testament to our developments in teaching and learning within maths.

Fluency facts and support at home

As a school, we continue to set high expectations for all pupils. This term, children have been deepening their understanding of number and place value. There has been a focus on developing children's fluency through rapid recall of their number facts and times tables. Whilst practising these regularly in school, we value the support at home in continuing to learn and rehearse these facts. This was a focus in our Autumn term Parent Curriculum Evening. Resources shared during the evening for use at home can be found on the school website, under the *Parent* tab page. In addition to these, videos of methods used in school for the four operations are available to support with home learning under the *Curriculum* tab.

Maths Club

There was a very high demand for the prefect's maths club this term, so it was decided that Year 3 and 4 would be this half term and Year 5 and 6 would take part in the Spring term. I have been very impressed with the children's enthusiasm and effort during these sessions and would like to thank Prathyush Patel and Charlie Mackenzie for leading this club. The children have enjoyed a range of different maths games, whilst applying their learning.

Pastoral Support – Miss Carne, SENDCO and Inclusion Leader

Most children at some point in their school career require some additional support with social, emotional and behavioural aspects of their lives. Indeed, each year we are seeing an increasing number of children referred for pastoral provision we have available at our school. Lunch club, ELSA, Lego groups and PSHE sessions are just some of the ways we address children's social and emotional needs across the school.

Parents often ask us about ELSA and we are lucky to have two trained ELSAs in our school, Mrs Croft and Mrs Rode.

What are ELSAs?

ELSAs are emotional literacy support assistants. They are teaching assistants who have had special training from educational psychologists to support the emotional development of children and young people in school. ELSAs have regular professional supervision from educational psychologists to help them in their work.

ELSAs help children and young people learn to understand their emotions and respect the feelings of those around them. They provide the time and space for pupils to think about their personal circumstances and how they manage them.

Accessing pastoral support

Every member of our school staff has a responsibility towards the pastoral support and care of every child in the school. Our specific pastoral support is provided upon referral with parental agreement and provision is allocated by priority need. Your child's teacher is the first point of contact should you have any concerns about your child. I too am available to discuss support and provision with you.

Parenting Support

Below are some links to national websites containing information, and advice on a number of parenting topics.

- **Family Lives** is a charity specialising in families. You can call their confidential helpline on 0808 800 2222 (9am-9pm Monday to Friday, 10am-3pm Saturday to Sunday). You can also visit their forums. <https://www.familylives.org.uk>
- **Young Minds** have produced a parent survival guide. They also offer a national helpline. <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-survival-guide>
- **Gingerbread** provides advice, practical support and campaign for single parents. <https://www.gingerbread.org.uk>
- **NHS Choices** have produced a large number of short videos for their YouTube channel on a wide range of aspects of parenting, family relationships, child development and health and wellbeing. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well>

PE and Sport - Mr Colebrooke & Miss Richardson (PE Leaders), Mr Quilter, Sports Activity Coordinator

With Christmas nearly upon us, it's time to look back upon the PE learning and sporting achievements that the children have shown during this term!

Curriculum PE and sport

The children's enthusiasm within their PE lessons has been clear to see as they've developed their skills, techniques and control within football, netball, basketball and netball while demonstrating good teamwork and determination. It has been wonderful to see just how many Olympic Values Awards each class' Legacy Leaders have recommended be given for determination and inspiration during PE lessons.

One of the sporting highlights this term was being able to welcome Emily Harris, a former pupil and Team GB ice hockey and England field hockey player, to join us for an assembly and run a hockey workshop with every class. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn from someone who plays sport at such a high level and is sure to have inspired a few to dream big.

Alongside the children's outdoor PE lessons, teachers have again been delivering exciting gym and dance days – these have been particularly enjoyable for the children and have mostly linked closely with the term's topic learning (I know that Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed teaching their swing dance to parents and carers at their VE Day learning event!). Key techniques such as balance, agility and strength are developed in each unit and it has been fantastic for the teachers to witness the children applying these to the sports in outdoor PE lessons.

Our extra-curricular sporting clubs have proved to be very popular and competition for the school's teams has been especially tough this year, such is the level of sporting talent and interest across the school. Looking towards 2019, there will be further opportunities for children to represent their school in sport. Spring clubs have also now been released so now is the time to sign up for a place at any that appeal next term. Please browse the clubs on offer with your children and sign them up for a place! If you didn't receive (or have subsequently misplaced) the spring clubs letter, you can find a copy on the school website.

Sports events and competitions - Mr Quilter, Sports Activity Coordinator

Boys' Football League

The boys' football team have had a tough start to the season this year after being put in a very strong league. The boys started their year with a 2-2 draw with Elvetham Heath (B) in extremely wet conditions. They showed great resilience after being 1-0 and 2-1 down, but

came back each time to draw the game. The goals were scored by Tyler Martin and Tomas Vilhena, with Charlie Fleming as our 'Player of the Match' (picked by the opposing schools' teacher).

The boys then faced All Saints in a re-match of last year's final in very wet conditions. All Saints were extremely strong and took the chances they had well. Hook created many scoring opportunities but unfortunately, the All Saints goalkeeper pulled off many outstanding saves. The boys lost this game 4-1 with our goal being scored by Tyler Martin and our 'Player of the Match' was given to both Thomas Knapman and Ollie Anderson. After Christmas, they will be looking to bounce back with a win in their next game.

Team members: Thomas Knapman (captain), Charlie Fleming, Tyler Martin, Zach Roff, Shay Kemp, James Thompson, Oliver Harse, Louis Kay, Ollie Anderson, Tomas Vilhena, Noah O'Neill and Alfie Galt.

Girls' Football League

The girls' football team started the year with a match against Hawley Primary. They played this game in heavy rain and sleet and showed great determination through the match. Hook won this game 2-1, with our winning goal being in the last 2 minutes. Both goals were scored by Rose Southern and she was picked as our 'Player of the Match.' The girls displayed excellent team work throughout the game and could have scored many more goals.

This week, the girls played a game against Tower Hill. They thoroughly dominated the match, creating many chances and came out 3-0 winners. The goal scorers were Natsune Stephens (2 goals) and Rose Southern. Our 'Player of the Match' was given to Natsune for her goals and passing, as well as Demi Heath for her outstanding defending and passing.

Team members: Natsune Stephens (captain), Rose Southern, Demi Heath, Amelie Evans, Phoebe Culver, Lily Hilzer, Ava Brown, Sasha Lewis, Freya Pickard, Jasmin Harvey and Clara Auge Jones.

Cross Country

The school has entered the cross country league this year, which involves the children running 1300- 1600 meters in competitive races. The children have shown great determination in these races and are very excited for the next one in February. The results from each race are shown below:

1st Race:

Girls - Ruby Whelan (4th), Gabriella Millstead (12th), Freya Pickard (18th), Amelie Player (28th), Lily Hilzer (35th), Katie Clarke (38th).

Boys – leaun Wakefield (14th), Alfie Donnelly (19th), Charlie Messenger (27th), Spencer Fish (29th), Jake Ayling (33rd), James Nassar (34th).

2nd Race:

Girls – Ruby Whelan (7th), Bethan Mason (9th), Rose Southern (10th), Gabriella Millstead (15th), Sarah Hancock (17th), Freya Pickard (19th).

Boys – Charlie Fleming (6th), Noah O'Neill (10th), Thomas Knapman (23rd), James Thompson (27th), Alfie Donnelly 37th).

Autumn Hockey League – Round 1 and 2

Our Hockey teams have made a really positive start to the year, particularly considering many of them had never played competitively before. Both our teams have now attended two tournaments at Down Grange (in all weather conditions) and are looking forward to the next. Previously, the Hook A team were in joint 3rd and consequently went on to win all their matches leaving us in high hopes to move up the rankings. Our Hook B team are currently joint 8th and we look forward to hearing the updated scores at the next match.

A special mention goes to our goal scorers so far;

Gabriella M (5SF), Charlie F (6TC), Charlie M (6VH), Thomas K (6TC) and our top scorer Eric R (6TC).

Well done to all the children who have taken part in these matches and thank you to parents and carers who have helped with transport to the events and support whilst there.

Team Members:

Year 5:

Gabriella (5SF), Emily R (5KB), Pheobe C (5KB), Emily H (5JH), Liam D (5KB). Freya P (5KB)

Year 6:

Thomas K (6TC), Charlie F (6TC), Eric R (6TC), Amelie E (6VH), Hayden P (6TC), Charlie M (6VH), Clara J (6TC), Robert C (6TC), Ade A (6TC)

Future events

Looking forward to the spring term, we have many more sporting events to look forward to. Both the boys and girls football teams will be looking to build on their start to the season with their next few fixtures. We will also be continuing to compete in the local hockey league with both our A and B teams. The girl's netball league will be starting up with the first couple of fixtures planned for the beginning of term as they look to put the skills and teamwork that they have developed in the training sessions to the test against an opposing school. Our cross country runner will also have their next league races. In addition to these league events, we have also entered to take part in a number of festival events including handball and hockey with the hockey festival being open exclusively for Year 3 and 4 pupils. You can keep up to date on the latest Hook Junior School sporting results by following the school on twitter.

Sporting Achievements

This term, there have been many notable sporting achievements outside of school with the following children requiring a special mention for excelling in their chosen sports:

Archie Partner (3ES) – Swam 10 metres front crawl and backstroke

Sami Evans-Hill (3SR) – Received a trophy for the most goals scored in a season for Hook United Lions

Daisy Miller (4KW) – Scored her first goal after joining a football team

Anwen Mossley (4LE) – Received her bronze level and Basingstoke Gymnastics Club

Ruby-Rose Wren (5SF) – Won 1st place in a recent golf tournament

Ieuan Wakefield (5KB) – Awarded man of the match 4 times by his local football team

Alex Quayle and Isabel Gardner (6TC) – Awarded their purple sash in kickboxing

Well done to all our sporting stars and we wish you all Happy Christmas!