

Dear Parents and Carers,

*Hello*

Well that's September complete! How quickly time flies when you are having fun! Another good week in both schools with children engaged in their learning and understanding the new routines of their classes. So many new skills to be mastered, from preschool putting on their coats independently to Year 5s learning how to use relative pronouns. This week, I have had the pleasure of seeing some marvellous teaching across both schools and am proud of the staff who work hard to include all children in fun and purposeful learning.

Next week, we will be celebrating **Black History Month**, we have been looking at our books to ensure that children see themselves reflected back in the texts we offer. We will be celebrating the books that **Dapo Adelo** has written and illustrated as our **Author of the Month**.

Best wishes, Rae Lee [Headteacher]

*Photographs*

Don't forget photographs on **Monday 10th October**.

*Emails*

Please note school **emails addresses** for contacting staff at the infant and the junior school [see below], these emails accounts are monitored daily in term time. We **no longer** have access to any email with the addresses with a **.sch** domain.

**Please use:** [office@hartfordinfantschool.org](mailto:office@hartfordinfantschool.org) or [office@hartfordjuniorschool.org](mailto:office@hartfordjuniorschool.org)

*Reading and Forest School Support*

We desperately need **adults to read** in the infant school and to **help out at Forest School**. I promise you that these are such rewarding activities. The children adore the attention when sharing a book and the chance to try out new skills in Forest School. **PLEASE** can you spare an hour with us each week? Please find me on the playground for more information.

*PTA [PATHS]*

Remember when we used to organise discos and fetes? We desperately want to resurrect our **PATHS** [Parents and Teachers of the Hartford Schools] team. We have staff chomping at the bit with ideas but we need parent support to organise the events. If you want to get on board and have your own ideas, come and find me and we can share information.

*PreSchool*

This week preschool children have been busy exploring and retelling the book, 'Dear Zoo' and have been changing the ending e.g.'...they sent me a hippo!'. The children found ways to move their bodies like different animals and listened carefully to 'stop' and 'freeze' instructions which has supported their listening skills in phonics. They enjoyed exploring the changing of the season and have been learning how to put on their coats independently. They also loved exploring the acorns and conkers with the playdough and some amazing creations were made. We would love it if our families collected conkers, acorns or autumnal leaves and brought them into preschool next week. We will also be continuing our phonics by playing 'traffic lights' listening and responding to instructions!

PTO

### Year 1

This week, we used the new rekenreks to help us find ways to make 5 in maths gym. In English, we applied the phonemes we have been learning and then created a simple picture map in enquiry. Next week, the children will write sentences about George 'The Smartest Giant in Town'.

### Year 3

In English this week, we have been thinking about the rules of direct speech and the children have started to use inverted commas and reporting clauses correctly. In maths, we have been ensuring that our place value knowledge is secure using lots of representations such as dienes, straw bundles and jottings. In computing we are considering the benefits of devices compared to a non-electronic alternative. In our outdoor time this week and in our PSHCE, we have been working on our teamwork skills and thinking about what we can learn from each other.

### Year 5

We've had another busy week in Ash and Oak classes! Our English lessons have focussed on identifying and writing sentences containing relative pronouns and relative clauses. The children are building towards using this knowledge to write a character description of one of the main characters in the Nowhere Emporium next week. In maths we concluded our unit on negative numbers and have enjoyed applying this knowledge to interpreting coordinates on four quadrant grids. Next week, we'll be building on our existing knowledge of place value. In science, we drew life cycle diagrams of placentals, marsupials and monotremes, which we will use next week to compare to bird life cycles. In computing, we continue our important discussions around internet safety and will conclude the unit next week by finishing our posters to inform others of how they can be safe online. In History we acted out parts of the second Punic war and are currently left on a cliff-hanger as to how the battle concludes! The children will have to tune in next week to find out! Overall, it's been a positive week and the children have earned a phenomenal amount of marbles in their jar towards their end of term treat.

### Reception

This week, the children loved experimenting with the Bee-Bots and learning how to program them to move! We enjoyed using toys and props from our story shelves to retell 'Peace At Last' and played games to support us to learn our new phonemes /i/, /p/ and /n/. In maths we have been using Numicon and five frames to support our understanding of numbers. Next week, we will be planting some cress seeds and watching them grow!

### Year 2

This week, in English we have been learning to coordinate clauses by adding the conjunctions 'and' and 'but' to our sentences. In maths we solved missing number problems by using numbers that are in the 5 count. In geography we learnt that a compass rose helps us with North, East, South and West directions. Next week in maths we will relate number bonds to ten to help us with number bonds to 20. In English we will think about how stories are written in parts such as, Who, Where, Where next and What goes wrong. In Science we are understanding what a plant needs to survive.

### Year 4

This week, in maths we have been revising our place value skills including estimating where a number is on a number line with different scales. In art lessons we have been investigating light and dark by making a collage using different black and white pictures. Next week, we will be continuing practising our teamwork and football skills in PE.

### Year 6

This week the children have developed their descriptive writing skills and have investigated the factors affecting the size of a shadow. Next week we will find out more detail on Hannibal's attack on Rome and how the Rhine changes along its course.

