



HILL WEST
Primary
FOUR OAKS

THE HILL WEST HERALD

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ISSUE 2



SUMMER TERM 2013

Message from the Head Teacher

Reflections on a Successful Year

As this year draws to a close we reflect on our many successes. Successful staff appointments last September ensured that Teaching and Learning is outstanding throughout school. Our close working relationship with our partner schools has meant that we have been able to embrace innovative methods of continued professional development for all staff and share expertise across schools. Our leadership development programmes have seen Miss Fiona Marsh promoted to Head Teacher at Marsh Lane Primary School, Derbyshire and although she will be sorely missed at Hill West we are proud of her achievements and the experiences she received here in preparation for her new role. Our children continue to inspire and amaze us. Our end of KS1 and 2 results this year see us surpassing national average expectations again and our Year 6 pupils have made outstanding progress achieving;

- Reading 33% Level 4, 65% Level 5 and 3% Level 6
- Writing 39% Level 4, 48% Level 5 and 5% Level 6
- SPAG 20% Level 4, 62.5% Level 5
- Maths 35% Level 4, 40% Level 5 and 22% Level 6

They are to be thoroughly congratulated on these achievements. We realise that their hard work is a testament to the love, nurturing and encouragement they have received at home and the excellent teaching they have received at school. Yet our school is about more than just results, it is underpinned by fostering in children a love for learning so that they become lifelong learners, eager to question, challenge, anticipate and problem solve. Our job is to ensure that all of our children love coming to school, love involving themselves in extra-curricular activities and representing us in a range of sporting and non-sporting activities. Our job is to help them make firm friendships, help them deal with conflict (as there inevitably is). Help them to make the correct choices when posed with a dilemma and to introduce them to bigger than self issues like global warming, global poverty, war and conflict, animal welfare etc. Our ultimate aim is to ensure that all of our pupils are more than ready for their transition to secondary school when they leave us at the end of Year 6 and have the skills to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live, whether this be now or when they reach adulthood. We hope that our children treasure their memories with us and will look back on their primary schooling as a very special time when they were cared for deeply and encouraged to excel.

Message from the new Chair of Governors

To the Parents, Carers and Pupils of Hill West Primary School,

On Tuesday 2nd July, I was elected as Chair of Governors at Hill West Primary school following the resignation of Mr Jonathan Brake.

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank Mr Brake for his commitment to the strategic development of the school in his role as Chair, most recently during its conversion to Academy status on 1st April 2013. Mr Brake will continue to provide his extensive experience and support as a member of the Local Governing Body at Hill West Primary.

Instead of telling you 'all about me', I would encourage you to look at the Governor element of the School website, which we are in the process of developing. There, you can see the profiles of all the Governors.

When considering taking on the role as Chair my decision was made as soon as my youngest child, a pupil at Hill West, suggested "Use your Building Learning Power, Dad!" To me, this brought home the ethos of the school. To develop and support individuals who are prepared for the future. They can use and apply their numeracy skills, enjoy reading and can flex their creative talents whether it is through singing, dancing or poetry and writing. They are also encouraged to develop resilience, perseverance and a positive attitude to work as well as exercising their imaginations and natural curiosity.

One of my first 'official' duties as Chair was to formally congratulate the staff on the outstanding, year 6 SATs results for 2013 closely followed by attending the amazing year 6 end of year production of Bugsy Malone. The 'Hill West learning ethos' summed up beautifully in one day.

The school's Governing Body and Head Teacher set the future direction for the school. The Governing Body must raise school standards by setting strategic direction, ensuring accountability and monitoring and by being a critical friend. They should also create a good relationship with the Head Teacher, staff and the local community.

As a Governing Body we have an interesting challenge. A strong management and staff team means that we have to work hard to demonstrate that we, as the LGB, are making a positive impact within school while maintaining an open and honest ethos and culture.

With the support of the other members of the LGB, the staff team and you, I look forward to developing within the role as Chair and meeting the challenges ahead.

Kind regards



Andrew Staples
Chair of Governors
governors@hillwest.bham.sch.uk

Learning Partnership News

As you know the Governors and Head Teachers at six schools in North Birmingham have come together to form a Learning Partnership. They are formed from two clusters, each one with a secondary school and two of their closest partner primary schools. They serve quite different communities and phases (primary and secondary) and are all led by able Head Teachers.

The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership is a multi academy trust. The Trust Board has appointed Local Governing Bodies at each school in the Partnership to assist them with their work thereby ensuring local accountability. The Chairs of Governors, Trustees and Head Teachers are all working with the Executive Head Teacher and National Leader in Education, Sir Christopher Stone, to provide an outstanding learning community. At the heart of their collaborative action is the goal of ensuring that each academy either is, or becomes, a centre of excellence and where each Head Teacher, Leadership Team and Local Governing Body has something unique to share with their partner academies.

Although the Trust Board is legally responsible for the academies, it is nurturing a culture of individual identity so as to ensure that each academy reflects the diversity and uniqueness of its own staff and students. All of the schools have leaders who are considered to be inspirational and their schools are full of creative and dynamic practitioners. The six schools, therefore, are not in the hands of one superhero/heroine Head Teacher but rather bear the hallmark of excellence throughout so that the same enthusiasm is to be found in classroom assistants, teachers and support staff. Everyone works together to create a personalised curriculum within each school that motivates not only the children but also the community groups, teachers, parents and the wider community.

Developing the schools' focus on leadership, learning and teaching supported by the Arthur Terry Teaching School is core to the provision of this personalised and creative curriculum. Each leadership group knows itself well and the community it serves and each school matches the learning specifically and accurately to that need. It is the ability to treat every day as something new and every child as an individual that ensures that the schools realise their commitment and provide a rich learning experience for young people.

Whilst all the schools have seen improvements in standards and achievement, including the Outstanding schools, leaders at all levels focus on ensuring exciting and motivational activities are available for all young people. Whether using another's ideas, adapting published suggestions or devising new curricula and timetables, they have ensured that their approach fits individual community's needs in order to make young people's lives better. This, of course, necessitates that you don't just focus on curriculum content but also on approaches, motivation, teaching styles and ensuring that the child is at the heart of everything.

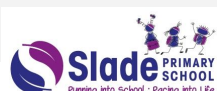
The Learning Partnership has three core objectives: the first is achieving outstanding practice and performance through partnership support and collaboration; the second one is to support, train and develop our teaching and support staff so that they can be inspirational leaders and supporters of children's learning and lastly; to create a sustainable, successful culture and ethos across all academies thereby safeguarding our young people's future.

Transcending this is the Teaching School and its focus on CPD and leadership development. Effective coaching and mentoring is embedded into everyday practice in all six academies. Everybody wants to improve and everybody has a clear understanding of what they need to do to improve.

SIR CHRISTOPHER STONE

Executive Head Teacher

The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership



School's out

by Mr Hamilton, Class Teacher - Otters Class



My love and passion for electronic music started during my time at university. After spending much of my late teens visiting nightclubs such as Bonds and The Steering Wheel and spending endless nights listening to music with friends, I decided to blow most of my student loan on a pair of record decks, a DJ mixer and a pair of headphones. The remaining cash was spent buying dance records, much to my parents annoyance! It was the mid 90s and dance music was thriving! I spent most of my time at university practising 'mixing' (in between my studies of course) and DJing at parties and in local bars. I even managed to persuade a local nightclub to allow me to host my own club night, where I arranged for DJs such as Tony De Vit, Steve Lawler and Al Mackenzie of (D Ream fame!) to play. Unfortunately professor Brian Cox didn't show up and neither did the clubbers! So that was the end of my brief career as a club promoter!

After completing my degree I decided to put all my efforts into opening my own collectible dance vinyl record shop. After trading online for the first few years I eventually opened a store in the Custard Factory, just outside of Birmingham City Centre. I started the business by sourcing and buying ex DJ record collections. The records would then be individually priced and sold to buyers around the world. I would spend most of my free time visiting dusty second hand record shops and specialist record fairs, searching for those elusive and hard to find records.

After trading for 10 years and building a stock of over 50,000 records I decided on a career change. However I still have around 20,000 records which are now stored in pretty much every room in my house! I plan on spending most of my summer holiday sorting through the records to reduce the collection to only a couple of thousand.

School's out.....

Kyle Hughes, Hares Class

Kyle starting walking at 7 months old, by 10 months he was running so, as his parents, we knew he would be something athletic. Our family is all very sporty and one day when he was just 5 Kyle's dad took him to the ice rink with family friend, Canadian Hockey player Mike Rodgers. Mike currently plays for the Solihull Barons.

From this point on, Kyle began to skate and loved it. He started off playing for Solihull, one of his early memories is being taken round the ice by Jacob Smith who was the same age that Kyle is now, Jacob is now an England hockey player who last weekend Kyle saw again, both were really pleased to see each other and he was delighted to see Kyle representing the Midlands.

When Kyle first started to play, his mum was not allowed to go as he would get too distracted and wave at her (she would also be worried every time he fell over on the ice) and now he loves anyone coming to watch him play however he pays no attention to the audience as he completely focuses on the game unless he scores.

Kyle practiced hard, sometimes up to 8 hours a week to improve his skills and he soon became too advanced for the Solihull teamhis allegiances moved to Telford where he grew from strength to strength. At just 8 he was playing for not only the under 10s but also the under 12s who wanted him to play for them too. Last year at 9, Kyle was then put forward to trial for the UK Midlands team. Still training many hours a week this meant long nights travelling to Nottingham. He endured six trials over a four month period playing on the ice at 11 pm at night and being watched... each time, less children got through. He was then finally selected in the top 15, which meant at the time he was in the top sixty Ice Hockey players under 11 in the United Kingdom which was an achievement itself. His Dad was very proud indeed as it meant all the travelling had been worth it.

Kyle then had to train this season for two teams not only for Telford but also for the Midlands team which has meant a lot of long evenings and travelling. They also had a trip to Holland where Kyle was lucky enough to play against the Belgium and Dutch National teams. They managed to hold their own fairly well considering most of the players over there were very tall some were nearly six feet.

In May Kyle attended the big annual Conference in Hull where all the best Ice Hockey players under 17 meet and play each other. There were four teams to play – South West, South East, North and Scotland. It was a tough competition. Kyle got to stay in a very nice Hotel and had time to bond with his other team mates. They played well as a team and had Scotland to play in the final.

Fortunately they played superbly, cheered on by some very loud parents, one who even bought a trumpet with them, winning 2 -0 and a gold medal! Kyle is now one of the top 15 players in the UK for the next year until the trials and conference start again. Once players reach 13 they will then know from the England Coaches who has been selected to trial for the England teams... so who knows where his career will go next. Watch this space...



Year 4 trip to Kingsbury Water Park

by Mrs Langhorn, Class Teacher - Moles Class

On Friday 3rd May, year 4 took the short journey to Kingsbury Water Park to support our learning about animals and their habitats. With the majority of the day spent outside, we were fortunate to have sunshine and enjoyed exploring outside.

Activities began for Squirrels in the learning centre finding out more about food chains, whilst Moles started their adventure pond-dipping! We then swapped over in the afternoon.

Rob, our instructor, took us to an enormous pond and explained to us how to use the equipment. He also gave us a checklist of pond critters to try and catch and identify. There were squeals of excitement as we found pond skaters and water spiders. Although some of the children were quite hopeful, there were no sharks in there! (Thankfully).

Later we were sent off on a hunt for woodland creatures using clues about their habitat to find them. We also had to find evidence of any animals such as a nibbled leaf or the shell of an acorn.

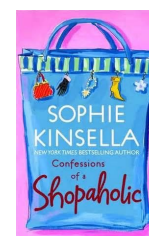
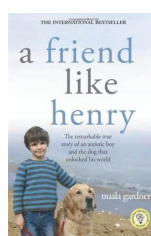
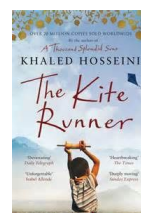
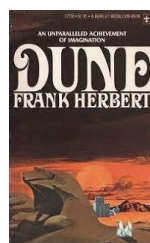
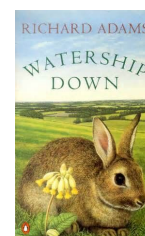
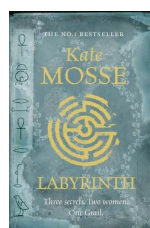
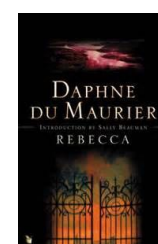
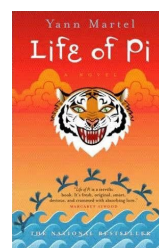
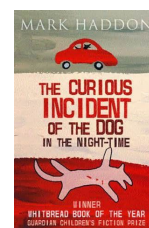
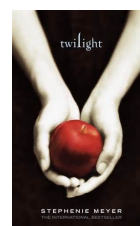
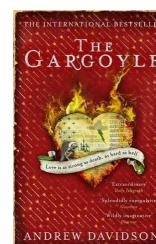
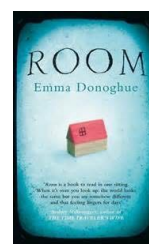
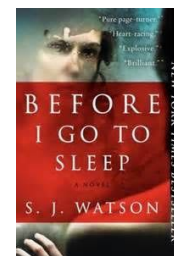
To finish the day we took advantage of the superb play area where the children were given the chance to use the zip wire, helter-skelter and play on the see-saw.



HILL WEST STAFF 100 FAVOURITE BOOKS

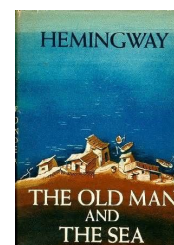
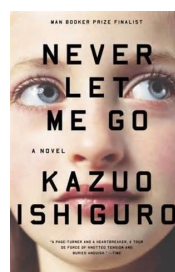
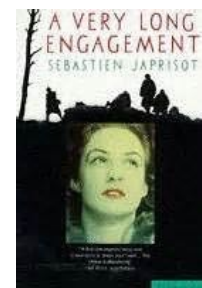
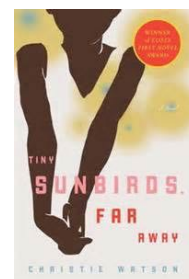
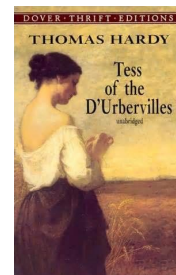
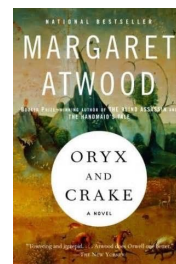
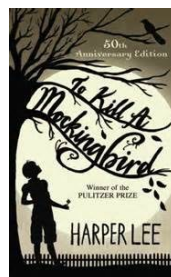
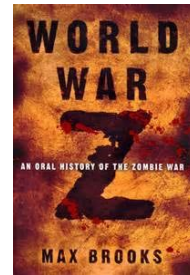
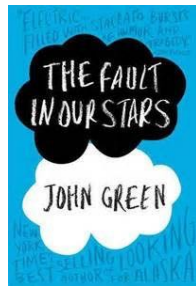
We asked everyone to name their favourite books, whether they be great literature or pulp fiction. We hope you find some old favourites listed here and maybe some inspiration for a summer read.

Before I go to Sleep by S J Watson
 The Hunger Games Series by Suzanne Collins
 The Host by Stephenie Meyer
 Room by Emma Donoghue
 The Gargoyle by Andrew Davidson
 His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman
 Digital Fortress by Dan Brown
 Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold
 A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
 Twilight Series by Stephenie Meyer
 P.S. I Love You by Celia Ahern
 The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
 The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Steig Larsson
 Deception Point by Dan Brown
 The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night by Mark Haddon
 Sookie Stackhouse series by Charlaine Harris
 Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
 Harry Potter Series by JK Rowling
 The Time Travellers Wife by Audrey Niffenegger
 Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier
 The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne
 The Hobbit by J R R Tolkien
 A Passage to India by E M Forster
 The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
 A Child Called It by Dave Pelzer
 A Friend Like Henry by Nuala Gardner
 Life of Pi by Yann Martel
 44 Series by Jools Sinclair
 Dear Silvia by Dawn French
 Confessions of a Shopaholic by Sophie Kinsella
 Single Girl's to Do List by Lindsey Kelk
 Love Lies by Adele Parks
 Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman
 Labyrinth by Kate Mosse
 Watership Down by Richard Adams
 The Other Hand by Chris Cleave
 Battlefield Earth by Ron L Hubbard
 The Thing of Darkness by Harry Thompson
 Dissolution by C J Sansom
 Raise the Titanic by Clive Cussler
 Dune by Frank Herbert
 Animal Farm by George Orwell
 1984 by George Orwell



Tess of the Durbervilles by Thomas Hardy
 World War Z by Max Brooks
 The Last Ten Seconds by Simon Kernick
 Salem Falls by Jodi Piccoult
 The Wilderness by Samantha Harvey
 Angel by L A Weatherley
 Breaking the Silence by Diana Chamberlain
 The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy
 Othello by William Shakespeare
 Emma by Jane Austin
 Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austin
 Pompeii by Robert Harris
 The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory
 The Silence of the Lambs by Thomas Harris
 The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
 Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood
 Much ado about Nothing - Shakespeare
 Never Let Me Go - Kazuo Ishiguro
 The Lost Daughter - Diane Chamberlain
 Remember Me? - Sophie Kinsella
 Afterwards by Rosamund Upton
 The Guilty One by Lisa Ballantyne
 The Magpies by Mark Edwards
 The Vow by Kim and Krickitt Carpenter
 The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks
 I ♥ NY by Daniel Humm
 Chocolate Girls by Anne Murray
 Dear Fatty by Dawn French
 Jack Reacher Series by Lee Child
 Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
 My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell
 My Son My Son by Howard Spring
 To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
 The Old Man of the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
 The Island by Victoria Hislop
 Virals by Kathy Reichs
 Ladies Number One Detective Agency by Alastair
 McCall Smith
 Tiny Sunbirds Far Away by Christie Watson
 The Garbage King by Elizabeth Laird
 The Moneylenders of Shahpur by Helen
 Forrester
 Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks
 A Very Long Engagement by Sebastien Japrisot
 Edith's Book by Edith Velmans
 A Christmas carol by Charles Dickens
 No Time for Goodbye by Linwood Barclay
 East of the Sun by Julia Gregson
 A Place of Execution by Val McDermid

The Little Village School by Gervase Phinn
 Mother of Pearl by Maureen Lee
 One Child by Tory Hayen
 Conversations with the Fat Girl by Liza Palmer
 The Wire in the Blood by Val McDermid
 The Bronze Horseman Trilogy by Paulina Simons
 The Fault in our Stars by John Green
 Passion Play by Beth Bernobich
 War Prize by Elizabeth Vaughn
 The Scorpio Races by Maggie Steifvater



Hares Assembly

by Miss Rowe, Class Teacher - Hares Class

When I asked the children what they would like to do for their class assembly they started talking about the many... many good times they had enjoyed over the course of the year. We decided to present some of these as a small play, reminiscing about the year in Hares...

Four children took the lead roles, keeping the sketches together and narrating the assembly. These were the “wet play children:” Jocelyn, Matthew, Cian and Sophie. They learnt their lines at home and remembered all of their cues. As well as this they took on other roles in the assembly, for example Jocelyn joined a group of children to perform a dance.

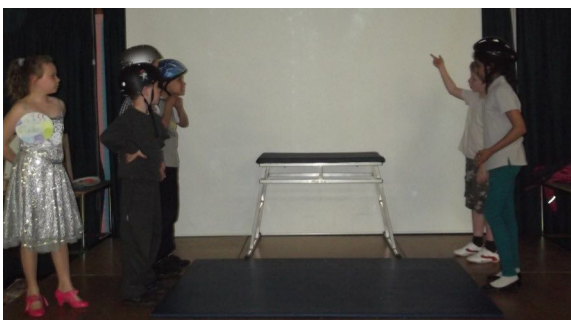
The children recounted tales from the classroom and performed a dance to a song from Hairspray. The dance was similar to one some of the children learned this year on a visit to Arthur Terry. The children danced and smiled and the routine was high energy and had the audience clapping along!

Some of the children re-enacted a few activities they enjoyed whilst away at Bockleton. Bradley relived jumping off the 10 metre Powerfan and wailing, “I want my mummy!” and the girls retold the story of waking Miss Rowe and Mrs Anderson up at 5am in the morning!

The children also celebrated the immense talent in the class, including Oliver’s achievements in rugby, Kyle’s amazing year playing hockey for Great Britain and musical talent from Zion, Alex, Matthew (guitar) and Rebecca (flute). The assembly finished with a tear jerking performance by Rebecca (AKA Mini Miss Rowe), of “Can you feel the love tonight” on her flute.

Miss Clarke showed her appreciation and was impressed by the independence, self regulation and acting skills shown by the whole class. (She also liked the water gun scene... but somehow stayed dry????)

Wonderful Hares! Just Wonderful!



BUGSY MALONE PERFORMANCE AT TOP PRIMARY SCHOOL STUNS AUDIENCE

Parents and invited guests were said to be shocked and stunned as several members of the cast of the children's hit musical Buggy Malone turned their splurge guns on the unsuspecting audience.

This latest splurge attack perpetrated by gangsters affiliated with mob boss Dandy Dan follows a summer of incidents between the mobster and Fat Sam Staccetto, owner of Fat Sam's Grand Slam Speakeasy.

Sources close to the bitter rivals have disclosed that the feud began after Dandy Dan made a play for Fat Sam's business empire using a new fangled splurge gun which the mobster himself invented. The source was quoted as saying "Dem knuckle heads had it comin'. Aint nobody messes with Dandy Dan and gets away wid it."

Boxing promoter Buggy Malone, aspiring performer Blousey Brown and speakeasy chanteuse Tallulah were key witnesses at the splurging which has led to the arrest of numerous gang members.

Police are said to be baffled by this turn of events but are being helped in their enquiries by patrons and employees at the speakeasy.

NYPD have released the names of people of interest in the attacks.

Fat Sam Staccetto - Charlie Youster Dickson and Mustafa Bin Amar

Dandy Dan - Jamie Thomas and Sophie Elsoueidi

Buggy Malone - Jonah Sercombe and Kaviel Thomas

Blousey Brown - Amelia Longhorne and Madeline Richards

Tallulah - Lydia Cole and Jodie Lock



Dandy Dan and Fat Sam arrested



Year 1 Trip to West Midlands Safari Park

by Miss Head and Miss Shirley, Class Teachers - Swallows and Swifts

What an exciting school trip we have had this summer term!

It was a beautiful day and we had lots of fun exploring. We began our day with a bang as we came across three enormous rhinoceros! They had strong, grey skin with pointy horns and tiny, back eyes. We were shocked at how big they were! Over the hill we saw a family of tall, spotty giraffe. They had long necks that reached down into peoples cars. They must have been very hungry because they kept sticking their long, blue tongues out and licking the windows! Yuck!

Then we went through huge, grey, electric gates and into another section. There were small, fluffy red wolves hiding in the long grass. They were watching us closely as we drove past. We all made the wolf howl together. I think they liked it because they got up and started to follow us in the coach! We were so lucky to see such a lot of beautiful creatures on our adventure. We also saw:

Elephants, camels, deer, antelope, buffalo, cheetahs, tigers, lions, goats, springboks and zebra. There were so many animals we tried to make a list but it was so long that it went completely off the page!

After a long coach ride around the animals we stopped for lunch. The weather was beautiful so we stopped on a huge field and had a summer picnic! Then we played some games in the sunshine.

After lunch we set off on a walking adventure. We looked at lots more animals and had lots of fun. We saw sea lions, penguins, hippos and ducks. There were even tiny ducklings following their mummy closely! We had to make a path so they didn't get split up! Then we explored the African village, looking closely at ancient artefacts and a hut just like the ones African people live in. After that we wandered through monkey forest. The lemurs were leaping from tree to tree and they even walked down the handrail to get very close to us. I think they were being curious! On the way back to the coach we were lucky enough to pet some very friendly goats and watch the tiny meerkats with their even tinier babies!

On the coach we felt very sleepy after our adventure! Lots of sleepy children fell asleep so the coach journey back to school seemed to go very fast! It was such a wonderful day out and we had lots of fun!

Thank you to everyone who made our day so wonderful! Can't wait to visit the safari park again soon.





The Comenius Project - Visit to Poland

by Mrs Balla, Office Manager

On 7th May Mrs Wilks and I set off to Poznan in Poland for the third meeting with our partner schools from Poland and Sweden, unfortunately the teachers from the Italian school were unable to come. We were taken to a typical Polish restaurant in Poznan for dinner on our first night and ate food which is made and eaten in that particular part of Poland.

After a good night's sleep at our hotel we walked to School to meet the children and teachers. Their school has the same number of children as Hill West but they are aged between 7 and 16 . It is in the middle of a residential area and has no playing fields like Hill West does. But Primary School Number 69 in Poznan is special as it is a Sports School with special emphasis on trampolining. Children travel from miles outside Poznan in order to attend the school because of its facilities. The building with the domed roof in the picture below is where all the sports activities take place and it was a hive of activity on the morning we visited. All the children either do trampolining or drama and they spend 2 hours each day working on their skills in one of these areas. We were very lucky and the children put on a trampolining display for us - they were amazing - future Olympians in the making!

We had lunch at the school which was soup followed by Spaghetti Bolognese. The children all have soup before their main course but I don't think they get as much choice at lunch time as our children do. We had the afternoon to ourselves so Mrs Wilks and I went for a walk and found an ice cream shop ! The weather was so hot - the display outside our hotel said it was 32 degrees!

After breakfast the next day we walked to school again and had a guided tour with some of the teachers. We met lots of children and they were all very keen to try out their English on us - which was much better than our Polish! I specially enjoyed the visit to the class who were having an English lesson, who had all prepared questions to ask us, and talking to the oldest children in the school (the 16 year olds) was really interesting too. But the best part was when we were taken into the Kindergarten and shown two classes of 4 year olds where the children were all lying on little camp beds having a sleep.



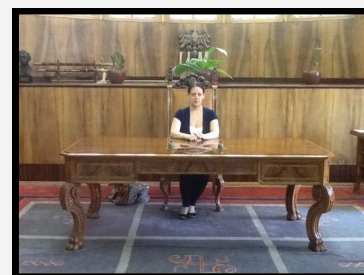
The main reason for visiting Poland was to continue the work on our project "Save the Blue Sky" which is aimed at helping our children to learn more about our world and how we can be more eco-friendly and look after the world better. The children had prepared an Eco Show for us which showcased their talents but also demonstrated their understanding of the Project.



It had been agreed when the schools came to visit us in England that the children in each school would make board games for children in one of the other schools and Miss Wilks took with her the games that our children had made.



On our last two days we visited the zoo to see the biggest elephant enclosure in Europe and went to see the University in Poznan, where Miss Wilks was allowed to sit in the Director's chair. We went shopping and watched a clock with two goats that come out of a door when the clock strikes 12.00 noon.



We had hoped to make Hill West proud of us when we went 10-pin bowling but unfortunately, the Swedish teachers won, Miss Wilks did really well but I think I probably came last - never have been much good at bowling.



Poznan is a beautiful city and it was a pleasure to be guests of such a warm and friendly school. We look forward to seeing our Polish and Swedish friends again soon and hope that the Italians will be able to join us next time too.

Bockleton Residential Trip

by Miss Rowe, Class Teacher - Hares Class



So my first residential at Hill West... what could I expect?

Firstly, so much luggage that I had to check that we were only going for one week!

After six or seven hundred "are we there yet's" we arrived and the children began to explore the great house. The children were clearly excited and wanted to unpack, but this was cut short by a fire drill. Once the children had mastered safety in the house they began their activities.

The children were enthusiastic about the activities and encouraged each other. Some of the challenges required the children to be very brave. For example, the Powerfan involved climbing up a 10 metre telegraph pole and jumping off wearing a harness! Many children challenged themselves to climb higher on the Powerfan and Climbing Wall second time around.

Later on in the week the children went canoeing. I was in the girls team for this and we quickly (faster than the boys I might say!) mastered going forwards, backwards and turning around. The instructor then set us a challenge to retrieve things from the water. Ella, who was initially unsure about canoeing, tried the activity and absolutely loved it. This was a real highlight!

In another activity, the children worked in teams to use the latest GPS tracking software in an electronic orienteering/Geo-caching task. They had to follow the arrow on the device and locate a tree with a box of "coins" inside (these were actually small counters!)

We (the staff) tried to tire the children out one night, taking them on a long country walk. We partly succeeded as the children slept well... unfortunately only until 5am on the girl's corridor though!

For many of the children this was their first trip away. They were positive, respectful and responsible. Some of the boys even said how much they'd enjoyed the responsibilities like making their own beds and setting the tables (did you hear that parents???)

Overall, a really fantastic, action packed (but exhausting) week!



SMSC - Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

SMSC at Hill West

by Fiona Marsh, Deputy Head Teacher

At Hill West Primary we aim to ensure that our curriculum provides rich opportunities which aim to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Explicit opportunities to develop pupils' development in these areas are provided in religious education and within Personal, Social and Health education (PSHE) and Citizenship. A significant contribution is also made by our whole school ethos, promotion of our core values, collective worship, and through a variety of cross-curricular activities. SMSC is delivered through all our areas of learning within the curriculum both explicitly and discreetly. We also have assemblies on a daily basis which have a weekly theme. These assemblies may be adult-led, class-led or pupil-led.

Spiritual development

Spiritual development involves the growth of their sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and their will to achieve. As their curiosity about themselves and their place in the world increases, they try to answer for themselves some of life's fundamental questions. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to foster their own inner-lives and non-material wellbeing.

Social development

Social development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of the responsibilities and rights of being members of families and communities (local, national and global), and an ability to relate to others and to work with others for the common good. They display a sense of belonging and an increasing willingness to participate. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they will need in order to make an active contribution in each of their communities in the future.

Moral development

Moral development involves children acquiring an understanding of the difference between right and wrong and of moral conflict, a concern for others and the will to do what is right. At Hill West children are encouraged to reflect on the consequences of their actions and learn how to forgive themselves and others. They develop the knowledge, skills and understanding, qualities and attitudes they need in order to make responsible moral decisions and act on them.

Cultural development

Pupils' cultural development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of cultural traditions and the ability to appreciate and respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences. They acquire a respect for their own culture and that of others, an interest in others' ways of doing things and curiosity about differences. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture.

At Hill West Primary School we are dedicated to the whole child and as such we endeavour to:

- Develop and foster strong home-school partnerships
- Provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that shows progress and continuity from Foundation Stage to the end of Key Stage Two so that each child meets their full learning potential
- Develop challenging experiences and activities to foster individual self-esteem and confidence
- Develop stimulating and inclusive learning environments
- Promote the awareness that each child is unique celebrating our similarities and differences
- Develop in each child a real love of learning

We work hard to enable all of our pupils to become responsible citizens so that they can make a positive contribution to the society in which we live. We do this through explicitly promoting a core set of values which we all share and celebrate. These values, principles and beliefs, which may or may not be religious, aim to inform our children's perspective on life and their patterns of behaviour

Our Core Values

Determination

Motivation

Confidence

Sense of Fun

Commitment

Pride

Humility

Awe and Wonderment

Cooperation

Trust

Thoughtfulness

Success

Ambition

Honesty

Our primary purpose however is to inspire our children through exciting learning opportunities so that they enjoy school and make accelerated progress. We appreciate that when they enter the world of work they will face global competition that to date has been unprecedented. We need to prepare them for this challenge by ensuring they have the skills to be creative, independent, innovative and adaptable.

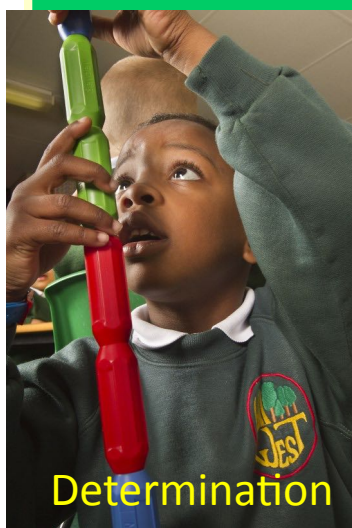


Awe and Wonder



Commitment

What do our Core Values look like in the classroom?



Determination



Motivation



Pride

Year 5 trip to The National Space Centre

by Miss Wilks, Class Teacher - Badgers Class



5, 4, 3, 2, 1.....BLAST OFF! Year 5 became astronauts for the day on Friday 21st June and what an out of this world day it was!

Upon arrival at the Space Centre, our rookie astronauts were briefed about their mission and then split off into their teams. Most teams felt that a mission to the gift shop was the most important task and set off in search of such exotic things as moon rock and astronaut food for their dinner! Then there was time to explore the exhibits and find out more about our universe; the planets, our moon and phenomena such as the seasons and why our weather patterns exist in the way they do.

One of the most exciting parts of the centre was Tranquillity Base, which is where the children became trainee astronauts on a lunar base in the year 2025. There was the opportunity to learn to moon walk and control a spaceship before undertaking a mission to Europa; Jupiter's largest and very icy moon...a very realistic and rather bumpy experience! J

The show in the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium was a particular highlight and gave the children a humorous yet honest look at the life of an astronaut. What an interesting and exciting job it is but also full of hazards and hidden dangers!

After lunch the children began to explore the upstairs exhibits in the rocket tower; three floors of discovery! They started by encountering real rockets, sitting back in the Edwardian cinema to see the first sci-fi movie ever made and blasting off into space with the ultimate water rocket challenge. On the next floor there was the opportunity to take a seat around the leaders table to discuss the Russian advances in Space travel and also see a dog spacesuit! On the top floor the children joined Neil and Buzz as Apollo 11 landed on the moon. There was the opportunity to see the a piece of genuine moon rock and to challenge themselves to pilot the "Eagle" onto the lunar surface.

All in all, a great day was had by all and the children were super representatives of our school. Thank you Year 5 for a fantastic day! I hope to hear of some astronauts in our midst one day in the future!

Active Lunchtimes at Hill West!

At Hill West the children's recreation time is as important as our learning time spent within the classroom! A happy, healthy and active lunchtime plays as crucial part in our pupils' daily life at Hill West. It is important that our pupils have fun with their friends during the lunch hour, whilst also having the opportunity to be as active as they wish.

Lunchtime Games

Our committed team of Lunchtime Supervisors are allocated their own class to supervise throughout the course of the year. This enables our children to familiarise themselves and build a firm relationship with the adult who will be looking after them through the course of the lunch hour. The lunch hour can seem a long time to some children, so all of our supervisors are fully trained to play active lunchtime games which involve and engage pupils as fully as possible. We have recently been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to train and share expertise with Lunchtime Supervisors within our Learning Partnership from Slade Primary and Mere Green.



Singing Playgrounds

Singing Playgrounds was introduced this year to our lunchtimes by Mrs Wendy Pick. Singing playgrounds aims to engage and include *everyone* in a school community so that singing becomes a normal, everyday affair. The project puts children at the heart of school singing activity by enabling a chosen group of 'song leaders' to lead the playground singing games.



The children have been trained to become 'Song Leaders' and have been taught a repertoire of singing games and ways in which to manage them in the playground. The play aspect of the games is the key focus because children love playing together. Singing is only used in the games where the singing actually motivates the game - where it is so integral that without it, the game ceases. A broad spectrum of games has been taught, so that there is something for everyone: circle games, games to laugh with, games to run and catch with, games to be silly in, games with a competitive element, games with a ball, games with a partner, games that are active and games for sitting.



The children are actively encouraged to change, develop, share and invent games. This adds to their pride in their song-play and supports what is and should be a child-led world of singing games.

Peer Mediators

During the lunch hour a team of pupil 'Peer Mediators' can be found on both KS1 and KS2 playgrounds. Our Peer Mediators are selected from Yr5 and Yr 6 and they wear bright yellow sweatshirts so that they are highly visible to the children on the playground. Our mediators have been trained by Mrs Sonia Scandrett and they play a highly important role in supporting our younger children in conflict resolution. These children have been trained to help children to find a solution to their playground problem and to support them with making the right decisions. They will also gain adult intervention when necessary. Feedback from our pupils is that Peer Mediators are helpful and that they support them to have a happy and fun lunch time.



Playground Leaders

Similarly to our team of Peer Mediators, our Playground Leaders are made up of children from both Yr5 and Yr6. Our Play Leaders wear bright green sweatshirts to make them highly visible to our KS1 pupils. This team of pupils are trained to initiate and play games with our pupils on KS1. They encourage them to play variety of games using equipment or simply initiate games which allow children to join in. The pupils in Yr1 establish a good relationship with the older pupils and the role also allows our older pupils to act as role models for our younger children. Our Playground Leaders and Peer Mediators also support our younger pupils in the dining hall where necessary, particularly our reception pupils at the beginning of the academic year.



Badgers Class Assembly

by Miss Wilks, Class Teacher

It was curtain up for Badgers' Class Assembly on the 12th and 13th June and what a show they put on! There was really only one possible theme for their assembly this year... this was of course 'Brilliant Bockleton!'

The children discussed the different ways in which they could make it interesting for their audience and finally settled on performing a Big Brother spoof – 'The Big Bockleton House'. The starting point for the assembly was the children working in groups to recap the funny events which happened each day and of course thinking about appropriate songs to include. After much deliberation and discussion the final script was devised using the children's ideas and the songs were decided by a class vote. Then it was onto the tough task of learning lines and song words!!!

The morning of the performance came and our 'Davinias' were suitably excitable, our 'teachers' were practising their best sleep deprived act and our narrators were ready to keep the story going. The children really did themselves proud and gave the audience plenty to laugh about as well as giving the younger children a taste of what's to come in Year 5. No stone was left unturned; from sleepwalking boys, to overcoming fears on the exhilarating activities and even some of the amusing things the teachers got up to!

What was the most striking though was how the class pulled together, supported each other and performed with enthusiasm and a real pride in what they were doing. This was never more evident than when no less than 9 children performed duets; what amazing talent and confidence they showed!

Badgers, I know that you will all shine in your own way in your leavers' production next year and I have to say that your assembly was one of the proudest moments of my year with you this year. You are all stars!



Hill West Primary School PTFA Fun Run

The Hill West Fun Run is in its 19th year. It has been an historical event organised by the dedicated parents, teachers and friends of the school. It is held in Sutton Park and is open to everyone. This year it was held on Sunday 19th March.



The event which consists of a 4K run which is open to children and adults and is on a tarmac surface and a 10k which is for over 17s and more serious Runners is over rough terrain. The Fun Run is used by many as a warm up for the Sutton Fun Run.



The money that the PTFA have raised by organising the Fun Run and other events benefits the children in school it has been used to provide additional facilities for the children including playground re-surfacing, equipment the school mini bus.



Cluster Choir success at The International Eisteddfod

by Mr Jeffries, Music Teacher

In case you haven't already heard...

The Four Oaks Cluster Choir made their debut at the International Eisteddfod, Llangollen, on 9th July and came **third** - beaten from second place by just 0.3 marks!

The top three results were:

Hong Kong boys choir: 91

Lindley Junior School: 86.3

Four Oaks Cluster Choir: 86.

It's such a tough competition and the judging was pretty harsh in some cases, so we are very proud of the children from all the schools who represented the Midlands as one of only 3 choirs from England. The experience is one we'll never forget - not just because of a fabulous result, but also the stunning parade through the town with literally thousands of onlookers, TV cameras etc. We got a mention on Classic FM, Smooth radio and BBC Wales TV!

There is a video of their performance here:

<http://llangollen.tv/en/clip/four-oaks-cluster-choir/>

And pictures on our website are here:

<http://fouroaksclusterchoir.weebly.com/gallery-2012-13.html>

N.B. auditions for Cluster Choir from Year 5 upwards are on 4th September at 4.00pm, Four Oaks Primary.



Summer Sports Roundup

by Miss Rowe, Class Teacher - Hares and PE Co-ordinator

The summer term has been a busy one for sport.

The term began with a Year Six rounders event hosted by ourselves. It was attended by nine teams from Hill West, Wylde Green and Four Oaks. Our Year Six children had obviously received good training from Mr George and Mr Hamilton because they played superbly. They knew the tactics of the game and worked together as a team to get as many of the opposition out as possible. They also showed they could throw both long distance and accurately, and scored many rounders across their matches. It was a tight contest, which eventually saw Four Oaks crowned the winners with Hill West a close second. Well done Year Six! A special mention also goes to the Year Five's who helped to run the event. Teachers from the other schools commented on their maturity and high level of organisation throughout.

Next was the Year Five and Six netball at Four Oaks. The tournament was second time lucky, as unfortunately we were rained off on the first attempt. For this event, the girls wore our brand new (and very smart!) netball kits. The girls liked them so much they even walked up in their "Hill West Netball" hoodies, despite the baking sunshine! We entered two teams. Team A came second in their group, losing to the eventual winners. Team B managed to secure a place in the final, narrowly losing to the Four Oaks team in a very close match. A special mention goes to Aarti, from Year Five, who scored three goals for her team. The girls not only played well but were excellent representatives of our school, shaking hands with both their opposition and the umpire after each game.

On the 25th of June we all woke up to glorious sunshine, which I had ordered especially for Sports Day! The morning session saw the KS2 children running, jumping and... squashing water balloons with their bottoms in order to become the winning house group. Each year group had designed their own novelty race, which added to the laughter and enjoyment of the day. The KS1 children took part with an equal measure of enthusiasm in the afternoon. They really impressed us with their impudence and the effort they put in to their races. Well done everybody! We would like to thank the parents and supporters who came along to cheer on the children; your support is greatly appreciated. Pankhurst were eventually victorious.

The weather was not so kind to the Year Five boys, who played in a tournament at Wyndley. They battled through torrential rain for two hours and at the end the players, teachers and supporters were totally wet through, but everyone was proud of the boys' performances.

On Friday 5th July 53 children, Mrs Anderson, Mrs Scandrett, Miss Rowe and several work experience helpers boarded the coach to Wyndley for Area Sports with high expectations... and the children did not disappoint! The children outperformed the other schools on the track, winning 5 out of the 8 relays and gaining many firsts or seconds across both long distance and sprint. The children's drive and enthusiasm was infectious, with many teachers and parents returning home a little hoarse after all the cheering! Well done all!

As we approach the summer holidays, we reflect on a successful year of sport, with many, many children having had the opportunity to share or compete with children from other schools, and a few more trophies to add to our collection.



Area Sports Day



Sports Day fun and games



Netball Team

Woodlands Adventure Residential Trip

by Miss Hyde, Class Teacher - Hedgehogs Class



On the 1st of July, Year 3 set off on their residential trip to Woodlands. All the children were very excited about their adventure and the weather was certainly on our side!

When we got there, the children had time to explore their surroundings and play football on the field. Soon it was time for our first set of activities. Patter's squirrels and Hyde's Hyenas tried their best Robin Hood impressions while Cook's Crocodiles and Mini Scandrett's Squirrel's set sail on the water! Meanwhile, Scandrett's Sharks and Pick's Penguins got a good view of the site as they took to the zip wire!

After dinner, everyone took part in a quiz before heading off to get 'lots' of sleep! However, despite Miss Hyde singing lullabies and Mrs Scandrett reading a story, it still took quite a while for everyone to get to the land of nod!

The next day, Miss Hyde, Mrs Cook and Miss Patter realised how pointless their alarms were as they were woken up at 6am on Tuesday morning! After getting packed up and having breakfast, it was time for the last activities. This time, it was Scandrett's Sharks and Pick's Penguins turn to shoot targets and row boats on the lake. The other groups went through the adventure course and took the 'gangnam' moves to the sky.

Everyone had a really fun time and enjoyed the new experiences. Year 2 have got lots to look forward to next year.

Girls Football

by Miss Hyde, Girls Football Coach

Having only started last term, the girl's football team have been busy with lots of mini tournaments! Firstly, they went to a tournament at Arthur Terry.

Next, the year 6 team took part in a tournament consisting of 16 school teams from across Birmingham. With lots of shouting from Miss Hyde, Miss Rowe and lots of parent supporters, the girls managed to win a closely fought semi-final to get through to the last two. The girls' persistence paid off and after also going into sudden death in the final, the girls ended up victorious! A fantastic achievement for the team.

Finally, all the girls got to show off their skills in a mini tournament against Mere Green. There were 3 teams from Hill West. One of the teams lost against Mere Green, one drew and the last one won. Well done to all the children who took part.

We hope that this new team will really go from strength to strength next year and look forward to lots more Hill West success!



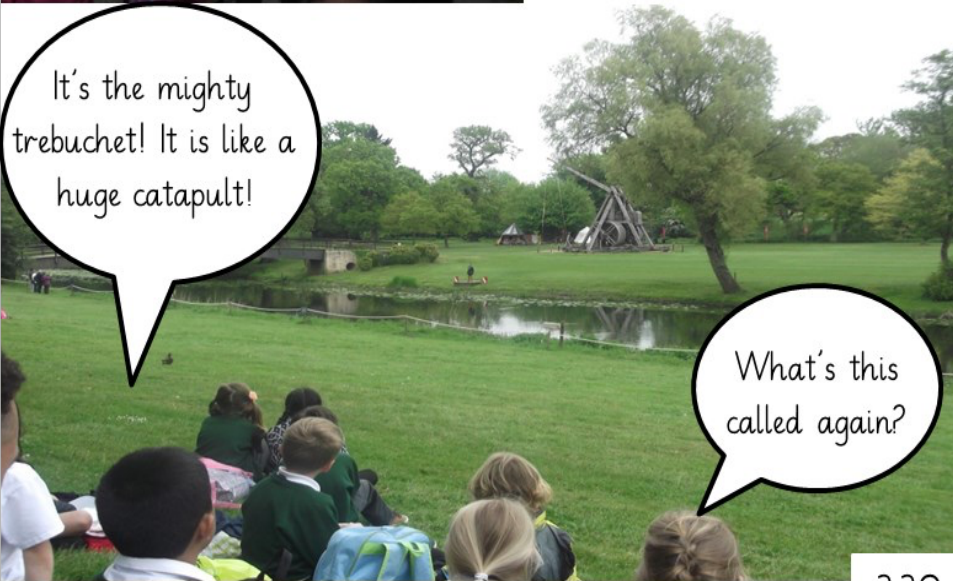
A day at Warwick Castle

By Year Two

Our first sighting of our Castle for the day.



First stop... A visit to Henry VIII and his 6 wives!



330 steps later...



Now a trek to the top of the tower!



Don't look down....



Do I really have to go down!!!

There's Kingfishers!!!

Mrs Page was EXHAUSTED! We weren't



I feel giddy!



Wow! He is just like Robin Hood!

Guarding the Tower...



Let the battle commence...



It's hard work being a Knight!

French

by Mrs Sharp, French Teacher

Fantastique!

Excellent!

Super!

Bravo!

Magnifique!

These are the words which describe the pupils' efforts this year in French. Through games, stories, role play, art and much oral repetition, the children have been persistent in their approach and gained resilience when tackling challenging tasks.

Year One particularly enjoy their stories and are able, with some panache, to retell events, listen for familiar words and join in with parts of the dialogue.

Year Two love playing games to practise their speaking and listening and have shown growing maturity when working collaboratively.

Year Three have been amazing by using their knowledge of sentence structure gained in Literacy lessons and being able to produce sentences containing nouns, verbs and prepositions. They too love playing games which has enabled them to grow in confidence when speaking.

Year Four very bravely worked in groups to present weather forecasts which they dramatized beautifully. They love anything which involves getting up and moving around and when recently dramatizing events from Sleeping Beauty, it was interesting that most of the boys chose to act out the part when Prince Charmant marries La Belle. They're not charming at all...are they?

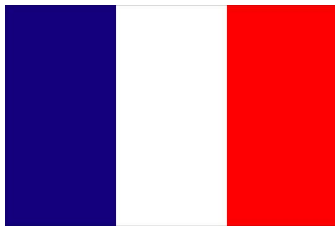
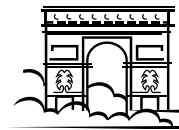
Year five, well, their piece de resistance is their ability to sing, if they can learn it through s a song they're happy (the down side being having to listen to Mrs Sharp's voice). Their work on space describing the planets and trying to master the tricky area of 'adjectival agreement' was superb and their bubbly enthusiasm is something to behold!

And then we come to Year Six...not only have they battled through the rigours of SATs, they have also tackled the difficult areas of writing in the past and present tenses, the awkwardness of performing a café scene in front of their peers (well at least they won't go hungry or thirsty if they find themselves in France one day) but they can now count up to one hundred after many sessions of ball throwing and saying the next number at speeds they're very unaccustomed to (especially when working out what comes after quatre-vingts- et- un and actually having to say it too!)

This is just a little taster of the many activities undertaken this year. It has been a joy to work with them.



Bonjour



Year 4 Cricket Festival

by Sinai E, Omar I and Alexander M, Squirrels Classmates

Our Day at Mere Green

As soon as we got to school we got changed immediately and set off on our journey to Mere Green. We knew that there was a tough challenge ahead of us but we were very confident in our abilities and knew that we had a good chance of winning.

Once there, we were given a very warm welcome by the children at Mere Green and Slade Primary. We were then split into 4 teams.

When we got onto the field we started to play the matches; although challenging, we were determined throughout and started to win every match.

Midway through the tournament we stopped for break time, it was nice to catch up with some of the children from other schools! During playtime Hill West played Mere Green in a football match which resulted in a 2-1 victory to Hill West!

Once break was over the matches resumed up till lunchtime when we were given a score update and the school in front was Hill West in 1st, Mere Green in 2nd and Slade in 3rd. At the end of the day we given the final score and as it turned out the scores were the same as they were at half time meaning we walked back to school a trophy richer.

A special thank you to Miss Marsh, Miss Patter and Mrs Anderson for taking us there and back and the cricketers from Warwickshire and also a mention to Mere Green for having and letting us use their grounds and equipment.





Reception Class trip to.....



Do you like our new friend?



Are they chasing each other Miss Stone?



They're behind you!!



Are you looking at me?



Saying Goodbye...

I remember joining Hill West and now we're leaving! Where has the time gone?

I have really enjoyed my time at Hill West especially as I've made lots of new friends!

There have been lots of happy memories over the years - for example Drayton Manor

It's been an extremely busy term for year 6 - we can't quite believe we only have a few days left at Hill West! After completing our SATs tests we worked furiously on our Leavers'

Petrifying was the time when I started this school in year 2 and I couldn't speak English. The children in my class tried to teach me English words, but to me it sounded like an alien was speaking!

Production and this week we are making the most of our last days at our school.

I REALLY ENJOYED IT WHEN IT WAS 'TEACHER TAKE OVER DAY'. I WAS MISS DURBER. WE HELPED OUT AND DID ART FOR THE CLASS ROOM

Recently we spent some time reflecting on our funniest and

fondest memories....

There have been lots of funny memories during year 6, like when Megan fell off her chair at the space centre.

I can clearly remember when at Bockleton in the middle of the night we heard some ghostly laughter and were terrified!

Joining Hill West was super scary I remember Millie and Rio showing me around.