



# THE HILL WEST HERALD

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ISSUE 3



**AUTUMN TERM 2013**

## Message from the Head Teacher

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With the passing of Nelson Mandela it seems pertinent, in this issue, to reflect on his immense contribution to democracy world-wide. Nelson Mandela was, and will continue to be a real inspirational for many not only because he was a great leader in the struggle for racial equality in South Africa but because of his personal qualities that enabled him to forgive and engender trust.

Chief among African leaders, Nelson Mandela was one of few statesmen to have achieved almost universal respect around the world and across the political spectrum. His role in fighting apartheid, his imprisonment on Robben Island – where he came to symbolise the struggle of oppressed people around the world – and his ability to steer South Africa through crisis earned him the international reputation of benevolent negotiator and quintessential peacemaker. Imprisoned for 27 years for his opposition to apartheid, Mandela came out of prison in 1990 expressing no bitterness towards his tormentors. Instead, he championed reconciliation among South Africa's polarised races, espousing the principles of nation-building and co-operative governance.

As we know, Mandela was South Africa's first democratically elected President in 1994. His aim then was to tackle the challenge of uniting both the country's racial groupings and a fragmented public service whose delivery mandate was skewed in favour of the white population. Mandela was President for 5 years and after his departure from Presidency he continued to campaign globally for peace. Mandela focused his prodigious energies increasingly on empowering disadvantaged children and fighting against HIV/Aids. In June 2004, Mandela officially retired from public life. His parting gift – a R1-billion endowment to South Africa, to be raised by the three charitable organisations that bear his name: the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and the Nelson Mandela Rhodes Foundation.

As individuals, as school leaders, as teachers and as children there are important life lessons that we can learn from Mandela's example. We should never give up, especially when something is worth fighting for; we should see failure as an opportunity to learn and grow; we should believe that we don't all have to have the same opinions, and having friends and colleagues with independent minds helps us see other viewpoints; we should appreciate that knowledge is power and can be used as a force for good; we should believe that anything is possible and that we can achieve anything we set our minds to - things always seems impossible until they are done. Mandela taught us that intelligence and kindness make you strong, not weak and perhaps most fundamentally he taught us that discrimination, in whatever form, is wrong. We know that as an ever present House Leader at Hill West Mandela's example will be long remembered and guide us to strive to be the best we can be.

## Learning Partnership News



As you know Hill West and other learning partnership schools are part of the Arthur Terry Teaching Schools Alliance. The Alliance has a leading role in the training and professional development of teachers, support staff and Head Teachers, as well as contributing to the raising of standards through school-to-school support. Teaching schools play a fundamental role in developing a self-sustaining system where: trainee teachers learn from the best teachers, supported by a culture of coaching and mentoring; professional development is school-based and classroom focused – teachers, support staff and leaders improve through exposure to excellent practice within and beyond their immediate school, through observation, mentoring, coaching, practice, reflection and sharing with peers; talent development and distributed leadership are the norm – staff demonstrating potential are encouraged to lead and are given structured and stretching opportunities to grow and develop.

Just recently, Mrs Willmore has been appointed as a Specialist Leader of Education (SLE). SLEs act as system leaders, supporting individual leaders and teams in other schools by using a high level coaching or facilitation approach that draws on their knowledge and expertise in their specialist area. Teaching schools are responsible for brokering support from the SLEs within their alliance or area – i.e. each teaching school has an SLE 'pool'. Working with the schools and other partners in their alliance, they identify where SLE support is needed, which could be in any school in the alliance but is likely to be in those schools that are facing particular challenges (and are prioritised accordingly).

This term Mrs Leeson has been delivering an improving teacher programme (ITP) for colleagues in other schools in Birmingham. This programme has been designed by teachers, for teachers, and focuses on developing pedagogical understanding and classroom practice to impact on pupil progress. The ITP is aimed at reflective teachers who have the potential to be consistently good. The programme has a practical focus, with participants reflecting on key aspects of learning and teaching and how these elements can be applied in practice.

We have also, this year, been involved in School Direct. Working with a teacher training provider of our choice, BCU, we get to select and recruit the trainees that our partnership of schools wants to employ as teachers once they qualify. It enables us to shape their training to suit our school(s) and pupils. We have one School Direct trainee in school at present and she is based in Year 5. In the Spring term we will host another trainee. Mrs Hannah Cook is the school lead, shaping the theoretical delivery and daily practice. We are currently in the process of recruiting School Direct Trainees for 2014-2015.

Why not have a look at The Arthur Terry Times on line at:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/30506714/ATT%20Winter%202013.pdf>



## School's out .....

by , Mr Brain, Assistant Learning Mentor and Woodpeckers Playworker

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Sport has always been my number one passion in life, and I have played football and been into most sports since the age of 9 when I joined my first football team. I played for the same team until the age of 16 when I had a severe injury to my left knee which required surgery and this led to me being out from football for two years. I slowly began playing again a bit at a time and then finally got back into playing fully when I went off to university. I currently play for Cadbury Athletic 1<sup>st</sup> team in the Midland Combination Division One. We are at present top of the league and unbeaten in 12 league games and pushing for promotion into the Premier Division.

Playing football at this level requires a lot of commitment and time, we train twice a week, one session being a fitness based session for an hour and a half and the other session being a more football, technical based session for an hour and a half with us then playing matches every Saturday. I play in the centre of midfield and this requires a high level of fitness and physical strength. In order to be of this standard I attend the gym four times a week. Before I got into teaching I worked as a personal trainer in a gym for over 12 months, this has given me a good knowledge and understanding of how best to keep myself in shape and the best training to undertake in order to meet these physical needs while also helping others to change themselves and help them to reach their goals. I still do home training with some of the clients I had whilst I was working within the gym.

With the training and matches on a Saturday it becomes physically demanding and with playing in central midfield I see a lot of the ball and the game is dictated by myself and other central midfield partners, so we have to set the right tempo for the game. All the time and effort that is put into the training and preparation for a Saturday match pays off while we are currently top of the league and playing well as a team. The most valuable asset about football and any team sport is the players and people around you that make it worthwhile and enjoyable.



# Hill West School Council

SCHOOL COUNCIL



by Mrs Cook, Assistant Head Teacher

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my new role has to be hosting School Council and, since our first meeting back in September, we have been working hard to make positive changes to our school...

## Our achievements...

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Monday 7th October 2013 we organised a coffee morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. Pupils and parents had been baking furiously over the weekend and we were overwhelmed by how much cake we sold! In total we raised £230. Thanks go out to those who donated cake and those who were able to attend the coffee morning itself! We are already looking forward to it next year!



### Shoebox Appeal

Our most recent project has been organising the Shoebox Appeal on behalf of Samaritan's Purse. In total nearly 40 shoeboxes were donated! We know they are going to make lots of children

so happy this Christmas!



### OUR NEW CHICKENS!

In September our pupils told their School Council representative that they wanted some new chickens as friends for Ping and Pong. We worked hard to make this a reality! On Friday 18th October we set off in the minibus to the (very muddy) poultry farm and chose 3 beautiful new birds! Then we launched a competition to name them and School Council voted for the best names. Our chickens are named **Midnight**, **Misty** and **Snowy**, thought up by Ciara Lock in Year 5. They are already part of the Hill West family!

Ethan (Y3) Imogen (Y6) Khalid (Y6) Jamie (Y5) Lois (Y5)



TREASURER



CHAIR



VICE-CHAIR



PUBLICITY OFFICER



SECRETARY

Mia (Y4) Jacob (Y4) Erin (Y3) Joshua (Y6) Regan (Y2) Ayla (Y2) Izzy (Y1) Jed (Y1)



## Foxes Captured on Camera

by Mrs Langhorn and Eco Club



During the summer holidays a motion-sensor camera was set up in the Forest Area and in the Eco Vegetable Garden.

Evidence of foxes had been apparent in the Eco Garden for a long time as we found the planters had been dug up— often spoiling our crops! Eco club had visited the garden many times to find a series of tunnels dug underneath the planters and the surrounding area.

Therefore, we were very excited to review the footage captured by the camera and were delighted by what we found! A family of foxes has chosen to make it's home at Hill West. There is a mother fox and at least three cubs. This is great for the biodiversity of the school, but not so good when we're trying to grow carrots! Still, it is always lovely to witness such fantastic British wildlife in our very own school. Here is what some members of Eco Club had to say about seeing the fox:

Peri: It was amazing because we have never seen real foxes at our school before.

Harry: At first I thought it was some kind of scary predator with shining eyes, then I realised what it was.

Eve: I'm glad that we have been able to attract exciting wildlife to our school grounds.

Keira and Rhea: It was exciting and amazing!



## A day in the life of a Teaching Assistant

By Mr Fennell, Teaching Assistant - Wrens Class

# The Play Facilitator



A caricature drawn by Mr Fennell from first hand experience

## Cool Cooking at Arthur Terry

By Mrs Anderson, Teaching Assistant - Year 6

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Over the last half term, a group of lucky year 6 children have been cooking up a storm at Arthur Terry!

They have benefitted from the experience and gained in confidence, while having fun and learning new skills. The children have cooked a variety of dishes including; smoothies, pizza, bread and butter pudding, pasta with a vegetable sauce and Mrs Hemmings, one of Arthur Terry's' Food Technology Teacher (with the assistance of Mrs Frazer) has been teaching the children about hygiene in the kitchen, the different food groups: where their food comes from and techniques such as how to hold a knife correctly, as well as how to cut properly.



All the children have learnt vital skills for life which we hope they will continue to develop and expand on. Here is one of the recipes if you fancy having a go at home with your family.

### Ingredients

White/wholemeal muffins

Fresh vegetables of your choice (e.g., peppers, courgette, sweet corn, cherry tomatoes, mushrooms and aubergine)

Mozzarella and passata

Salt and pepper to taste

### Method

Cut the muffins in half and place on a baking tray.

Roast vegetables that need a little more cooking such as Aubergine.

Spread the passata onto the muffin bases.

Add vegetables, then place mozzarella in small chunks in-between.

Bake for about 20 minutes on gas mark 5. Enjoy!



## Author visits at Hill West

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Two authors visited School to talk about their books and explain how they started on the road to creative writing and illustrating.

Local author, Kate Pointon from Tamworth, introduced Key Stage 1 children to her series of books that launched the Peapod Family to the world. Kate told how she had based one of the characters in the Peapod family on her own Grandfather. As well as writing the series, Kate also illustrated the books. One pupil asked which she preferred, to which she replied, "I find illustrating is my favourite part but I just love writing too".

Debi Evans, who co-wrote *The Secret Society of Dragon Protectors*, gave Key Stage 2 children a fabulous insight into her series of fantasy adventure books. "Dragons are everywhere" she told the children, "you just have to look hard to see them". She gave the children a fabulous presentation and explained where to look in order to find traces of dragons and how dragons need protecting. The children were totally mesmerised and some were even given special Dragonore.

Pupils from all year groups were able to ask Kate and Debi questions, which helped them to understand what makes a good story, how to go about writing a book and gain some advice on improving their own creative writing.

We were very lucky to have had these two authors visit us at Hill West and talk to the children about writing stories and illustrating books. They both really captured the imaginations of so many of children across the whole school from Reception to Year 6. The children were all keen to get back to their classrooms to let their creativity come to life in their own writing.

## Our Tanzanian Friends

By Miss Stone, Class Teacher - Robins

The whole school was excited to receive our visitors from James Ole Millya. Monica and Ediness arrived at school to receive a warm welcome. It was difficult for us to imagine how they must be feeling, seeing a culture so very different from their own. They were keen to have a look around our school and more importantly keen to meet our fantastic children. All week the classrooms and corridors echoed with phrases familiar to them "Mambo... Jambo!" as children passed them by with huge smiles.



They had a jam packed timetable for the week enabling them to visit all the year groups to help enhance their experience. They got stuck in with children's learning and spent a lot of time making notes to help improve their own teaching upon their return home. Tanzanian school life is much more quiet, Monica commented on how engaged and full of life our children are when they are learning. They were also taken back by how positive our relationships are with our children. Our school not only fosters a love for learning, but a love for each other too. When talking to Monica before her departure she promised that changes would be made at her school. The school would now become James Ole Millya founded on love. This brought a tear to my eye, having seen the contrast of the two schools I felt this was the most poignant change that could be made to make a difference to the education of so many children.

We wanted to enable Monica and Ediness to not only see how our school works but to also see our city and culture as they were very keen to learn and go home to tell all their children about it. They loved their trips out and couldn't stop telling me how spectacular our city is. They had many first time experiences too, which I am sure they will be talking about all year. A funny moment was the first time Monica tackled an escalator, I never stopped for a moment to think how daunting it might be for someone who has never even heard of them before. We sometimes take for granted how fortunate we are and this was evident when they visited a WHSmith book shop. They had never seen anything like it and couldn't believe so many books were so readily available to buy. We had to prise them away from the educational books and study guides as they flicked through all the pages with awe.

At James Ole Millya children usually work with one outdated and tattered text book with one between 10 children. They were extremely grateful when they had the opportunity to buy some before their departure using the money raised with harvest donations. They got to visit the Birmingham Library and Museums, Sea Life Centre, cinema and Twycross Zoo. Some of our staff and parents also opened their homes to host an evening meal. Luckily I got to tag along to a few to enjoy their company (and cooking). During these meals they were able to ask us questions about our families and how we live and were yet again in awe of our homes.

They were sad to leave , but were also excited to go home and share all their experiences with the families, colleagues and pupils. They took home with them lots of resources to use and introduce to the other teachers in their school. At the end of the week we were all left feeling positive about our continued partnership and eager to see change and pupils thriving at James Ole Millya.



## Tan·za·ni·a

[tan-zuh-nee-uh; Swahili. tahn-zah-nee-ah ]

A republic in E Africa, on the Indian Ocean: formed by the union of the independent states of Tanganyika and Zanzibar in 1964; a member of the Commonwealth. Exports include coffee, tea, sisal, and cotton. Official languages: Swahili and English. Religions: Christian, Muslim, and animist. Currency: Tanzanian shilling. Capital: officially Dodoma (though some functions remain in Dar es Salaam). Pop: 37 671 000 (2004 est). Area: 945 203 sq km (364 943 sq miles)

## Cross Country

By Miss Rowe, P.E. and Class Teacher- Hares

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This term I have been amazed by the enthusiasm and talent shown by so many of you in Cross Country. Each Wednesday, 40 children have come to the after school club, with even more children taking part in the three race events.

Our first (and best track!) race event was hosted by us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October. 57 children took part – an incredible number! Everyone completed the course, with Charlie winning the Year Two race and Jacob T winning the Year Three and Four race. The Year Six boys managed to secure three of the top five places and helped Hill West to achieve second place in the event overall.

The second race, a week later, was at Mere Green Primary School. It was cold... and wet! Year Two had to run through the rain... children from other schools stopped running, but all of our children battled on! This event was attended by 52 children and was made possible by the flexibility and support of parents who transported children to and from the event. Again, it was a great success for Hill West, particularly notable are the achievements of the Year Six boys, some of their results were: 2<sup>nd</sup>-Harry C, 3<sup>rd</sup>-Michael 6<sup>th</sup>-Jack, 7<sup>th</sup>-Jamie, 8<sup>th</sup>-Owen, 9<sup>th</sup>-Jude, 10<sup>th</sup>-Cian and 12<sup>th</sup>-Bill.

The final race of 2013 took place at Sutton Rugby Club. Thank you again to the parents who transported children to the event, especially Mrs Hull and Mrs Thompson. 48 children raced in this event and incredibly Charlie (Year Two) and Jacob T (Year Four) made it three out of three, claiming the 1<sup>st</sup> place spot in each race! Charlie's finish was amazing! Sprinting the final straight and diving into the arms of one very proud Dad! It was evident that the girls had been putting in some secret training for this race too. Jocelyn was the second girl to complete the Year Five and Six race, finishing in 10<sup>th</sup> position and collecting some well earned evidence for her Rotary file! Lucy, Aaliyah and Raphaella also finished in significantly higher positions than in previous races, meaning that Hill West won the Year Five and Six event overall. Other brilliant results include: Adam T, who despite only being in Year Three finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the Year Three and Four race and Sarita who finished in an impressive 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the Year Two race Emily finished 8<sup>th</sup>, Kesh 12<sup>th</sup>, Louie 13<sup>th</sup> and Ayla 14<sup>th</sup>.

Wow! What a lot of achievements! Well done to all the children who took part, we are very proud of you. Thank you to everyone who has helped make these events possible, especially Mrs Scandrett and Miss Robinson who got very cold at Sutton Rugby club!

The next race will be held in the Spring Term... at Arthur Terry! Keep up the training!



## Aston Villa Football Tournament

by Miss Rowe - P.E. and Class Teacher - Hares

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As part of our sports provision within curriculum time we continue to engage with specialist coaches from our local area. This term Year One have been working with the coaches from Aston Villa Football Club each Thursday morning.

One of the coaches, Jon Bayliss, invited our school football team to play in a tournament that Aston Villa were running for local schools. The tournament was held at Bishop Vesey School, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Sixteen local primary schools were split into four groups. We played against Four Oaks Primary School, Blackwood and Lindens. Bobby and Josh C got the team off to an amazing start, both scoring against Lindens to give us a 2-0 victory in our first game.

Although we continued to play well, we didn't make it to the knock out stages of the competition, conceding some last minute goals in the slippy, slippy mud against Lindens and Four Oaks.

The team (and Miss Rowe) really enjoyed the day, and having a chance to play against schools that we don't usually meet in our league. While we were having our lunch, we were surprised by a rather famous visitor.... (see photograph!)

Kozak was then interviewed for AVTV and if you look closely in the background, you may see some very familiar green kitted boys and the back of a blonde teacher...

Watch the video: [AVTV Video](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7f21Go51MAk&feature=c4-overview&list=UUIcNP0mvtr0prFwGUQIABfQ>

Well done to the team: Cian J, Bobby, McKenzie, Andreas, Michael, Kheeva, Josh C and Josh W.



## Quiz Club

by Mrs Morgan, Class Teacher - Badgers class



Once again this year, Hill West will be entering the National Quiz Championships where those selected for the team will be able to showcase their amazing talents in general knowledge (Go Hill West!).

The Quiz Club National Inter-School Quiz Championships are unique and exciting competitions, offering primary school aged pupils the opportunity to shine at a high profile event. More than 300,000 children take part in the Championships annually, making them the largest inter-school competitions in the UK.

The Championships are an exciting and educational event that reinforce team work, boost confidence, encourage strategic thinking and light the fire for knowledge.

The children selected; Zion, Rebecca, Hal, Leah, Edward, Mikail, Anouska and Alex will make up two quiz teams. They all bring their own unique skills to the table. Currently, they are training hard at Quiz club during Wednesday lunchtimes to further improve their knowledge. I have been extremely impressed with their enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge. Collaboratively they already possess a broad range of knowledge (I've learnt a few things from them!). We have been practising a vast array of questions ranging from who won X-factor in 2011 to the name of a female donkey.

Try out this question for yourself:

Which planet is nearest the sun? A) Venus B) Earth C) Mercury D) Mars

We look forward to them rising to the challenge when they compete against a number of schools in the first rounds on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014.

We have two teams of four children. Unfortunately two of them were absent on the day of the photograph but we will include them in our next issue when we will hopefully report on their successes!



# Lunchtimes at Hill West Primary School

By Mrs Leeson, Assistant Head Teacher

We have reallocated our lunchtime supervisors so that we now have 2 lunchtime supervisors across every year group; one for the sandwich children and the other for the children that have school dinners.

We are currently continuing to work on a two sitting arrangement with the first sitting between 12noon and 12.25, and the second from 12.30-12.55. However, we are at full capacity within our school hall and the government have indicated that they intend to provide all KSI children with a free school meal from September 2014. This will have a considerable impact on our current lunchtime arrangements and, in the future, it is likely that we will have to adapt our provision to meet the potential increase in numbers of school dinners.

Our Lunchtime Supervisors have recently continued their professional development by taking part in some training led by our Educational Psychologist, Anita Soni. Following this training, they have introduced some new initiatives to support outstanding behaviour at lunchtime. Excellent behaviour certificates are being awarded together with a half termly special treat by invitation only!!

Within school we cater for children with differing needs and requirements. A small minority of our children find it difficult to cope with social situations, particularly during longer periods of time, such as lunchtimes. We have recently employed Mr Tom Brain, an Assistant Learning Mentor, who is working to support these children at lunchtime. Once per week, a lunchtime club is also put on for a small group of children, working together to develop social language skills through a range of fun activities.

Since September we have implemented many changes to our lunchtime arrangements in order to continue our strive to improve things for the children at Hill West.



## Visit to the German Christmas Market

By Miss Wilks, Global Citizenship and Enrichment

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On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of November, myself, Mrs Anderson and our intrepid German Club went on their annual visit to the Frankfurt Christmas Market in Birmingham.

We set off from school after their lunch and headed to Butlers Lane train station to travel into Birmingham. It was great to see the new-look New Street station even though it was very busy! As we headed up to the market, we enjoyed taking in the sights and sounds of the various stalls; it really does get you in the Christmas mood!

We split off into smaller groups to go around the market; with some heading straight for a delicious bratwurst, while those with a sweeter tooth headed straight for the crepe stand! Some groups wanted to take their time and enjoyed looking at the various crafts and decorations, choosing carefully before making their purchase and others wanted to take the weight off their feet and have a ride on the big carousel.

As always, the visit was a great opportunity for our children to be immersed in German culture right here in their own city. Some of the even got the opportunity to try out their German, hoping for a freebie! (It didn't work though unfortunately!)

We already can't wait to visit again next year! Frohes Weihnachten und ein glückliches neues Jahr from all at German Club! Prost!



## Comenius Project

By Miss Wilks, Global Citizenship and Enrichment

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Since September 2012 we have been working on a collaborative project called 'Save the Blue Sky' with partner schools in Italy, Sweden and Poland. The project focuses on environmental issues which affect us all, regardless of where we live, with the aim of encouraging our children to take action today for the good of tomorrow.

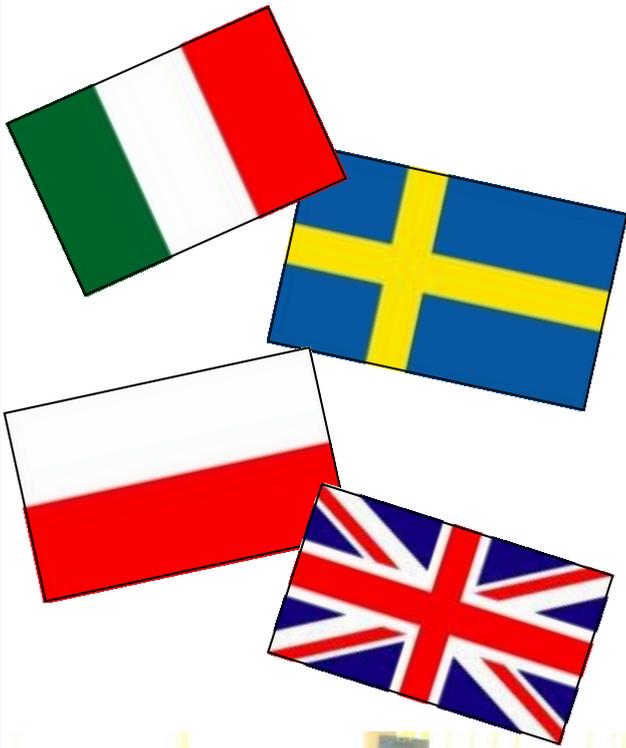
On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November we were lucky enough to welcome our colleagues (and now friends) from our partner schools for a 5-day visit to the Midlands. We hosted 3 Italian teachers, 2 Swedish teachers and 2 Polish teachers in school from Wednesday until Friday.

Their time in school began on Wednesday morning with an amazing welcome assembly, led by Year 5. Our visitors were treated to displays of gymnastic ability, singing, dancing and even a comedy sketch! Some of our Year 2, 4 and 6 pupils shared some of the environmental work they had covered in class; we certainly have some politicians of the future in Year 6! During the rest of their time in school, our visitors had the opportunity to work alongside our staff and children, taking a full and active part in school life here at Hill West. They were really impressed with what they saw and a particular highlight was visiting the forest area with Miss Roberts and her outdoor explorers!

Evenings were spent sampling some of the culinary delights of the local area; including traditional fish and chips, delicious tapas and a visit to a fantastic steakhouse. It was a terrific opportunity for staff from each of the four schools to get to know each other a little better and to learn about similarities and differences between our countries in a more informal setting.

Our Comenius Project will continue to be a high focus in our Global Citizenship lessons throughout the coming year and the children will be contacting their friends in other countries on a regular basis. Our Year 5 and 6 children already have pen-pals in our partner schools and children lower down the school are busy designing a logo for a competition running across all four schools.

Further visits are planned to Italy along with six lucky Year 5 children as well as a final visit to Sweden to evaluate the success of project and plan the next one! The first year has been a fantastic, enriching experience for both children and staff and we hope that over the next year its impact will continue to grow.



## Year 3 Shelter Building

by Miss Hyde and Miss Finson, Class Teachers Year 3

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Year 3 found the gap in the weather, took the sun while they could and ventured out into the muddy, forest area. All kitted up with wellies and waterproof jackets, they were ready for their challenge!

Each team was provided with; newspaper, tarpaulin, cardboard, string, a sheet and sticks. Their challenge was to build a waterproof shelter; thinking about the materials that they used for different parts of their structure.

When they had finished, Miss Finson and Miss Hyde asked the groups to get in their shelters and tested them with buckets of water. Even though all of the shelters were waterproof and the children remained dry, Mr Minto wasn't so lucky!



## **In partnership with Arthur Terry**

By Mr Hamilton, Class Teacher - Otters

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It's been an exciting start to the year for our year 5 children, after being invited to take part in some additional Literacy, Numeracy, Science and ICT sessions at Arthur Terry.

Ali in Hares enthusiastically declared that the Numeracy sessions have been 'absolutely fantastic!'. He went on to explain that, "We have been learning all about probability and ratio and taking part in maths investigations to find out whether or not celebrities possess the golden ratio!" On further questioning Ali explained that by studying the ratio of celebrities' faces, you can actually calculate whether people are born to be famous! I must have missed that gene unfortunately!

Ali also declared that through their algebraic studies, he has discovered that the letter 'x' can equal many things and he cannot wait to put this theory into practise next week!

The Literacy sessions sound equally as exciting with the group studying the classic George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. During their first session the children took part in reading and answering questions about the book and then went on to write a newspaper report about some of the main characters.

Their next session involved the children writing their own play script, which is based around a TV show, where some of the main characters are interviewed 'live on air'. Dinah in Hares stated that she was, "Particularly looking forward to dressing up as one of the main characters for the play".

Our budding scientists have also had a great time making the most of Arthur Terry's facilities to make explosive chemical reactions. They have been studying friction and have made some real life aerodynamic rockets using clamp stands, string, balloons and straws, with a challenge being set to see who could make the most powerful rocket!

Alexander in Badgers also described how the group have been making extremely strong glue and also designing and developing their very own acid and alkaline tester which they later used to test whether certain liquids were acid or alkaline.

Finally the group have also had a chance to become forensic scientists for the day, and investigate a crime scene to catch a mysterious thief!



## What is Forest School?

*"Forest School is an inspirational process that offers children and young people opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem, through hands-on learning experiences in a local woodland environment."*

This term a group of Year 2 children experienced Forest Schools. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and grew in confidence which positively impacted on their learning in the classroom. These are some of the things they got up to:

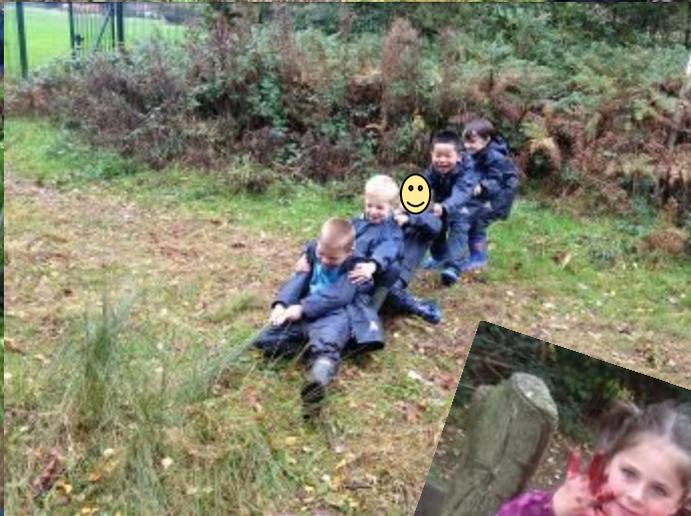
- Mini shelter building
- Making mud cocktails
- Exploring new areas of the Forest
- Building a group shelter
- Making a broomstick
- Creating a mud slide
- And lots more!

I've always dreamed of coming here!

This is the best classroom ever!

Forest School makes me feel adventurous and happy!

Learning outside is the best! I feel happy!



## The Arthur Terry School

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# Arthur Terry



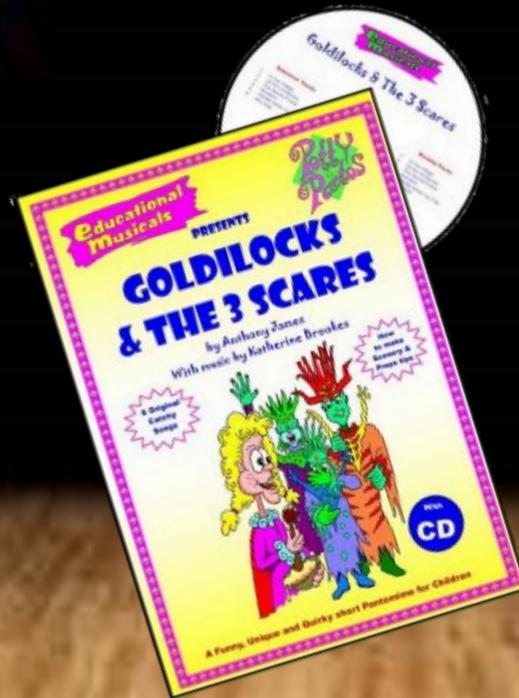
As you may be aware from the minutes of the Parent Council meetings, some parents are anxious about the admission criteria for The Arthur Terry School.

A grandparent of one of our children who has already made an enquiry with the Local Authority's Admissions and Appeals Department has forwarded the distances for admissions as he was advised.

The distance of the last child admitted into Arthur Terry for the last three years is:

<b>2012</b>	1.930km
<b>2011</b>	1.633 km
<b>2010</b>	1.808km

This is obviously calculated as the crow flies and our understanding is this is from your front door to the boundary of The Arthur Terry School.



The most anticipated event in the Hill West School calendar is now only 1 week away ! Yes. You guessed it, the staff panto – ‘Goldilocks and the three scares’ is in production and pegged to be even funnier and crazier than ever before.

The competition for parts has been hot but the cast list has been finalised, with many of the newer staff desperate for a bit of ‘he’s behind you with his truncheon’ and ‘get your hands off my turnips’ type innuendo together with bucketloads of audience participation.

The plot centres around Mr Sheard who plays the ‘bad’ girl – Goldilocks and Mr Hamilton, Goldie’s mother (the traditional panto dame) accompanied by WC Plod of the yard – the policeman (Mr Fennell).

The titular ‘three scares’ (ugly, nasty monsters) are Mrs Lampitt, Mrs Bakewell and Miss Patter and the gossip in the staffroom is that they won’t be needing costumes! (not really).

There will be guest appearances by lots of other staff and of course, selected year six children have been cast as villagers, ghosts and trees – mainly to add some decent singing voices to the chorus.

Time will tell if Goldilocks can outdo the Snow white of yesteryear!

# Christmas at Hill West





## **Christmas at Hill West**



**We would like to thank.....**

**Mr Sercombe and Ms Ledbury of  
Accessorise My Mobile .co.uk for  
providing us with a fantastic  
football team strip. The children  
will wear them with pride!**

**And also to Mr and Mrs Tice of  
RNP Associates who have given us  
a set of high visibility vests for the  
Reception children to wear when  
out and about on trips. They wore  
them to the Severn Valley  
Railway recently and people  
commented on how smart they  
looked.**

**We really appreciate your  
support.**