



# THE HILL WEST HERALD

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ISSUE 14



# Schools Out!

SUMMER TERM 2017



## Message from the Head Teacher

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The end of the summer term for staff in school is always a time of reflection. It is when we look back across the year and celebrate the many successes; successes of individual children, successes of groups of children and successes of classes and year groups. For me, as Headteacher, it is a time to marvel at the amazing work of the entire staff team and to sit back and feel proud of what we have achieved as a school community. I think about the selfless acts in which the children always come first. Mr Carroll who gives of his time freely to DJ at our Summer Fayre or Year 6 Leavers' Prom. The many staff (Miss Stone, Miss Crupton, Mrs Scandrett, Mrs Thomas, Mr Scrivens, Mrs Yates, Miss Bolton, Miss Donegan, Mrs Bowkett, Dr Warrack, Miss Patter, Miss Terry, Miss Ranger, Mr Britton) who have happily attended or accompanied children on residential visits or slept in tents on our school field. Miss Jones and Miss Crupton who have worked hard with our school choir and organised our wonderful Spring Musical Evening. Miss Donegan who joined us in September and single-handedly organised sports day, whilst describing this year as the best year of her career to date. Our ladies in the school office (Mrs Balla, Mrs Waldron, Ms Clinton, Mrs Yates and Mrs Bailey) who keep the wheels of our organisation well-oiled and make the day to day running of the school a seamless task. Mrs Scandrett and Mrs Thomas for working with our Play Leaders this year and taking them to Little Aston Park for their end of year celebration. To Miss Bracher and all of the PTFA for their dedication and commitment throughout the year, showcased in our Christmas and Summer Fayres as well as our Fun Run in Sutton Park. All of our staff in year 6 who gave up a number of their evenings at the end of this term to mark the very special passing of our students onto bigger and better things. All of our senior leaders (Mrs Leeson, Mrs Cook, Miss Pardo, Mrs George, Miss Bolton and Mr Lackenby) who have had a relentless focus on continually improving the quality of teaching and learning and ensuring the breadth and depth of our curriculum excites every one of our learners. Dr Warrack who joined us in September as an outstanding teacher and leader who has most recently being appointed as a Specialist Leader of Education for Science by the Arthur Terry Teaching School. Mrs Lampitt who has organised our school book fairs and personally manned them after school as well as running our school library and coordinating our world book day (and Roald Dahl's 100th birthday celebrations this year). Miss Stone for leading on the Drone event for Year 6 at Mere Green and our Early Years Team who have given our Reception children an amazing first year at school. Mr Britton who has overcome his own personal challenges to follow his dreams into teaching who has loved and cared for the Kingfisher children this year. Mrs Thompson and Mrs Durkin who are never seen without a smile or positive outlook and who have looked after our children at lunchtime with the help of other dedicated staff. And there are many more I could have mentioned personally too. Together we make a fantastic team with our core purpose being to ensure that learning is fun and that all children succeed and there is much we can accomplish in the future too. We welcome Miss Arkinstall as a new teacher to school in September having said goodbye to Mr Britton and have a truly world class staff team.

We are fortunate of course as we have the privilege of teaching and shaping wonderful little minds. And that is thanks to you their parents. My reflections turn to all those parents who support us in everything we do, champion us at every opportunity *and hold us to account, if needed, with respect and integrity*. I would like to thank you all for working with us, for understanding that the job of teaching is a really tough one but one that we absolutely love and I wish you all a very long and happy summer. Enjoy this time with your children; we can't wait to welcome them back in September.



## Learning Partnership News

These fun-loving reception pupils are celebrating an extra special fifth birthday party today, as the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership (ATLP) turns five.

The children, from Hill West Primary, part of the ATLP, all turn five this July and August, enjoyed a balloon-filled afternoon as part of the partnership's birthday celebrations.



The respected multi-academy trust of seven schools in Coleshill, Erdington and Four Oaks, was formed in 2012 to: *“provide the best education for all in one community.”* Five years later, and Dr Beth Clarke, headteacher of Hill West, joined children in marking the partnership's success.

Dr Beth Clarke said:

***It's a very exciting time being five. Our reception children are coming to the end of their first year at school and, just like the ATLP, they are enjoying some significant milestones and continuing to bloom.***

***We've been part of the ATLP since the beginning. During that time, we have grown and learned together. We have benefited from the shared support and expertise that partnership working brings and we are proud to be part of such a progressive and caring partnership, with a shared moral purpose.”***

The ATLP was officially formed in July 2012 as part of its commitment to support neighbouring schools. Its school-to-school support actually began in 2009 when the outstanding Arthur Terry School in Four Oaks first collaborated with Erdington's Stockland Green School. The Arthur Terry National Teaching School (ATNTS) and the Sutton Locality Children's Centres (comprising five children's centres) soon joined the partnership – both of which are now recognised as centres of excellence.

The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership expanded to three secondary schools and four primary schools, along with a network of alliance schools through the ATNTS. Last year, it was appointed as the school improvement partner to two other Birmingham secondary schools.



With a diverse learning community of four thousand children and 800 staff and governors, the partnership continues to support an ever-growing number of young people.



CEO Richard Gill, said:

***It's been an incredible five years in the development of the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership and I want to thank everybody who has helped to make this possible. This is such a positive time – all our schools are oversubscribed and enjoying fantastic results. Here at Hill West, the school has achieved 100 per cent in this year's phonics screening and (insert stat) in the recent end of KS2 testing (SATs). This is a real cause for celebration!***



***The next five years will be equally important. We will grow further to help more schools, while strengthening the support across our current family of academies. We will underpin all of this by training and retaining even more teachers and leaders to provide even stronger teaching and learning to students."***

Mr Gill added:

***This is indeed one happy birthday. The smiles on these children's faces and their love of learning is at the heart of all that we do."***





## Year 3 Residential at Woodlands By Miss Ellyn Cruxton—Year 3 class teacher

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**WOODLANDS**  
ADVENTURE 

On the 27-28 April, 60 Year 3 students travelled to Woodlands (an Outdoor Education Centre), in Streetly. For a good many of these pupils, it was their first time spending a night away from home, without their parents.

Whilst at Woodlands, the children partook in a variety of activities ranging from, archery to zip-lining and from camp-fires to canoeing.

So on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> April, 60, very excited, pupils arrived at school with their bag in hand (although a few looked like they were ready to spend a week away, rather than one evening). Once they were all assembled, they began their journey up the driveway to the awaiting coach. They climbed aboard the coach, waved farewell to their parents and were soon discussing what it would be like there and what they were looking forward to. This conversation, however, didn't have much chance to get going as they had soon arrived at Woodlands.

Once the coach had parked, the children had disembarked and the coach was unloaded, the children decided which bunk they wanted. However, they didn't have much time to get settled as it was activity time.

They children spend their activity time at Woodlands in 3 groups, so rotated the activities, 2 in the morning, 2 in the afternoon and 3 the next day.

The assault course was a great introduction to Woodlands. Once the children had been given their safety instructions, they began their first challenge of scaling the large wooden step and mastering the technique of how to get over the top. Soon, the "ninjas" an extremely agile of the group began to show their true talent, taking each obstacle in their stride, including Freddie, who conquered the under and over bars, impressively, at lightning speed, which earned him the nickname Spiderman. Some obstacles proved trickier than others and the early challenge of the water-slide gave the children an early indication of what was to come, water wise, although at that point getting slightly damp seemed excessive.





A 10m high, zipwire, along the 150m lake, was the activity which the children were most looking forward to. All 60 children went on the zipwire, despite some being very scared, and all staff were extremely proud of their determination. Firstly, though the children had to be fitted into their safety equipment (harness and helmet) whilst being given full safety instruction and waited in line for their turn. One by one they climbed the tower, got attached to the wire and stepped off the platform in order to begin their descent. Some of those more cautious held onto the rope all the way down, whereas those who were more confident “dabbed” on the way down. All were very keen to have another go, but unfortunately it was time for lunch.



After lunch it was time for the 3<sup>rd</sup> activity of the day, for one group that was archery. The children were put into teams, whilst being explained the safety instructions (how to hold the bow and arrows etc). Firstly, the children had a chance to practise their aiming techniques, by firing arrows at the target board. Some children didn't fair too well, by not being able to hit the target, whereas some looked like regular Robin Hoods, however all persevered. Next it was onto the competitions, the children had to fire at the target and received points depending on where they hit the target (closer to the bullseye the more points they received), each team aiming to have the most points. The session ended with a great game of giant archery, connect four (1 child from each team fired at the target and whoever got the closest to the target got to put the counter in the game) and much hilarity ensued when it was a tie break and children had to have a crab walking race (crawling sideward across the floor). Now it was onto the final activity of the day.

To end the day's activities, the group took to the water to canoe, in boat which could seat up to 6 children at a time. Once again, the children were fitted with a life jacket, given an oar and given clear safety instructions, about what to do if a member of the crew was to fall into the water. Now, it was time to enter the boat and practice their steering skills, some children were formidable opponents in the races, whereas others weren't so perfectly coordinated and managed to steer themselves in the bank, on multiple occasions. Then the experienced leaders, from Woodlands, lead the group in a series of games including, head, shoulders, knees and jump, the okie kokie, races up and down the boat and pirate wars, much to the hilarity of the group, who were now considerably more wet. To carry on the pirate theme, the children now had to walk the plank, which involved jumping off a wooden plank into the reasonably shallow water, many chose to take up this challenge, however some decided that they would rather stay dry and watched on as their peers got soaking wet.





On the evening, before bedtime, the children had a super surprise awaiting them, they were going to toast marshmallows around a campfire. All 60 children gathered around the fire, with their toasting sticks, and were given a talk, about the rules the children had to follow and what an appropriate length toasting stick was. The children soon realised that their sticks were not to the campfire standards and some spent the next 30 minutes hunting for an appropriate one, in order to toast their marshmallow. Despite this, children had a terrific time and spend the final part of the campfire singing campfire songs (something that staff would hear the whole of the following week).



The next the day, the children had a very busy morning planned, full of activities. But before that could begin, they had to have breakfast and pack up their sleeping bags and suitcases. So at 7.30am the children awoke and begin the dorm room tidy, followed by breakfast. Although they were leaving at 11.30am, they still had 3 more activities to complete



On the second day, the children joined the circus, learning an array of new skills such as, the plate spinning, the diablo, the flower sticks and juggling. They started with the plate spinning, some took to this naturally, managing to spin the plate and pass it onto another child. Next onto the diablo, some (including staff) mastered the spinning action, whereas others, who were more confident, were attempting to throw it in the air, with some advice being given by the instructor. Then it was the flower sticks (a stick which is thrown between 2 sticks, which have sticky ends), some children achieved a rocking action but others were attempting to throw and catch the stick. Finally, they attempted the skill of juggling, firstly being taught the correct arching technique (makes an arch shape) of juggling rather than the common passing method, some children were successfully juggling 3 balls by the end.

The next activity was frisbee golf (where you aim to get a Frisbee into a target basket and like golf the winner is the one to do it in the least shots). But before the children could begin the competition, they first had to perfect the skill of throwing a frisbee. They learn both, how to make it travel far and how to make it curve in a certain direction. Then it was time for a mini Frisbee golf tournament, in pairs the children aimed for the basket and counted up how many shots each team took.

The final activity at Woodlands, before loading and boarding the coach, was the scavenger hunt. Within certain parameters of the Woodlands site, children, in groups of 5, were given a set of clues in which they had to find the answers to. They had about 20 minutes to solve as many clues as possible, before being called back for one final check of the buildings

Finally, with the coach all packed, Woodland checked and the children on board, they set off back to school. All sixty children however, were returning changed children, if not very tired. They all realised that they can do anything that they put their minds to and may even enjoy it. They all proved that they were willing to have a go, at some point they proved that they could persevere and finally that they were all slightly more independent (or at least were capable of being so), whether that is getting their own breakfast or getting ready for an activity. Finally, the children would like to thank the amazing staff at Woodlands for an amazing 2 days.



## Moles Class Assembly

By Mrs Leanne Bowket—Teaching Assistant, Year 4

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On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April, it was the turn of Moles class to perform their class assembly for parents and KS2 children. It was an opportunity for the children to share everything they had learned about their recent topic of the Second World War. It was quite a challenge to condense all their learning into one short assembly as they had enjoyed a fantastic range of experiences throughout the topic, including an evacuation drill to inspire letter writing home, baking cakes using rationed ingredients in cookery, learning a 1940's dance in PE, designing propaganda posters and creating a blitz skyline in art and an exciting VE Day party in the hall, complete with music, food, drink and bunting!

The assembly began with two 'reporters' announcing the declaration of war over the wireless and the sound of Neville Chamberlain's address to the nation.

Next, was a scene featuring a group of evacuees arriving in the countryside and being taken to a homeowner to be inspected. The homeowner, played by Louisa, was extremely picky, looking at their clothes, under their nails, and at how shiny their shoes were, before deciding whether to look after them or not. She eventually chose Rosie, who was deemed to be the smartest!

This was followed by a re-enactment of an Air Raid, information about conscription, and then a chance for the children to show off their artwork in the form of propaganda posters they had created. The audience were also treated to a beautiful rendition of 'We'll Meet Again', led by Vera Lynn (AKA Mia!).

Finally, Emma and Sebastiano announced the end of the war over the 'wireless' to cheers from the class. The assembly finished with images of the VE Day celebrations. Well done to all the children on their superb and knowledgeable performances!





## Hill West Fun Run 2017

By Mr Sam Dawson—PTFA

Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup> saw runners young and old and of all levels turn out for the 2017 HILL WEST RUNS held in Sutton Park, one of the PTFA's biggest events of the year. Now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year the event has been successfully organised and run by the volunteers of Hill West Primary School PTFA. This year we received fantastic help and support again from Sutton Coldfield Adventure Unit (S.C.A.U) with the crucial job of marshalling. We also managed to secure sponsorship from local estate agents Century21 Mere Green who kindly provided brilliant t-shirts to all 10k



finishers. This meant that money was saved on the cost of the event which in turn increased the profits!

After a night of heavy rain the sun kindly shone and the organising team arrived bright and early to get everything in place and set up for what turned out to be a great day.

The 10K event attracted serious 10k club runners from across the West Midlands and as far afield as Oxfordshire to take on the 'challenging' 10k Run. This year's men's race was won by Barry Lloyd with a very fast time of 38:17 and the women's race was won by Linda Howell with another very fast time of 43:30. Excellent feedback was received from all the runners who commented on how well it was organised compared to much larger events and how well and enthusiastically it was marshalled and supported.



The 4k Family Fun Run attracted over 260 Hill West Pupils together with their friends and family who turned up to don a runner number and make their way round the park on a sunny Sunday morning. This year saw entrants from as young as 3 to over 70(!!!) with some making their way round on four legs with a lead and some enjoying a pushchair ride!. Everyone however enjoyed the fantastic atmosphere, being cheered around the course by the marshals and then being cheered down the finishing straight and across the line by a large and noisy supportive crowd. One across the finishing line runners were rewarded with a medal memento for the efforts and fresh fruit and bottled water, kindly provided by Sainsbury's Mere Green.



Trophies were also later awarded at school to the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Hill West boys and girls from Key Stage 1, Years 3&4 and years 5 & 6. The winners were as follows ...well done and congratulations everyone!



**KS1 GIRLS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Till-Mae Hull
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sophie Fisher
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grace Sandbrook

**KS1 BOYS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rohan Walker
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel Cross
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ben Codd

**YEARS 3 & 4 GIRLS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Maddie Sutton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Eva Morris
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tamsin Garbutt

**YEARS 3&4 BOYS**

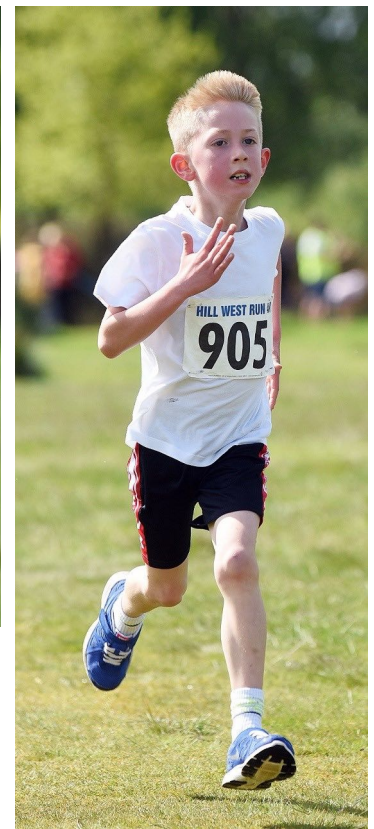
- 1<sup>st</sup> Daniel Smith
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jed Carroll
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Alex Hume

**YEARS 5&6 GIRLS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mante Nauseaite
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Symes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Maisie Sutton

**YEARS 5&6 BOYS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Thomas Smith
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Freddie Sale
- 3<sup>rd</sup> William Hume





The Hill West PTFA and Runs organisers would like to say a very big THANK YOU to everyone who came and took part and supported the event. We would also like to especially thank those who volunteered their time to help organise and run the event on the day. Without their help it simply would not be possible to put on such a wonderful event.

The event raised approximately £1,000.00 which will be spent on the school but more importantly was a brilliant occasion that was enjoyed by the pupils and their wider Hill West Primary School Community.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year!





## Team Time

By Mrs Hannah Cook—Deputy Head Teacher

Every Friday at 2.30pm, the same thought crosses my mind... 'I am wearing totally inappropriate footwear AGAIN!' Fast forward an hour or so and there I am, on our vast school field for Team Time with all of the children from one of our four houses, usually with soaking wet feet! It's worth it though – nothing beats watching children enjoy the large space we are lucky to have – swinging from the Trim Trail, running up and down the hill, or playing football. What's even more special is seeing pupils from across the school mix with each other, regardless of Key Stage or year group.

Team Time has been a longstanding tradition here at Hill West. Each child is a member of a house, each named after an inspirational person: Barnardo, Gandhi, Mandela or Pankhurst. Throughout each week pupils collect House Points – this might be for excellent behaviour, great manners or being kind and helpful. On a Thursday these are counted up by some of our Senior Students, and the winning house get to take part in Team Time – extra play on a Friday afternoon. It's great to see children from across school celebrating when their house is announced as Team Time winner – it really encourages children to be part of a team which is bigger than their own class.

Points are accumulated throughout the year, including during Sports Day (just visit our website to see which house is in the lead each week), and in only a few weeks' time, one house will be presented with the coveted House Trophy...I can't wait to find out whose colours will adorn it this year!





## Awards Ceremony

By Emily Bolton—Assistant Head Teacher

At Hill West we promote the awareness that each child is unique and we celebrate our similarities and differences. We are an inclusive school and work hard to ensure our pupils feel valued and respect others, regardless of background or beliefs. Our Annual Awards Ceremony is where children receive awards for their progress over the year. The awards are issued for seven different aspects of the curriculum; Achievement in Literacy, Achievement in Numeracy, Sporting Ability, Musical Ability, 100% Effort, Kindness and Creativity.

All the children who were selected to receive an award this year have impressed their teacher by making exceptional progress across the year. Of course, we also celebrate the children who have 100% attendance which is an achievement to attend school every day since September. Children celebrated their achievements with their parents, who were invited by letter to attend the ceremony.

It was wonderful to see all our amazing children collect their awards and certificates for the different aspects of the curriculum, everyone is very proud of them. All of our children have worked extremely hard this year and have shown a range of skills, effort and determination. It was clear to see that some children have a special talent in an area of the non-core curriculum such as music and sports

also.





# Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM)

## By Dr Rhian Warrack—Badgers Class Teacher

Hill West Primary School officially began the Primary Science Quality Mark programme in April 2017. Section menu

PSQM is an award scheme to enable primary schools across the UK to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate their science provision. Schools can achieve a bronze, silver or gold award.



The Primary Science Quality Mark vision is to provide a sustainable award programme that meets this goal. It was felt this was needed because:

High stakes assessment have had a detrimental effect on the quality of science teaching and learning in primary schools

There has been a lowering of the profile of science in primary schools following removal of science SAT

By embarking on the PSQM at Hill West, we aim to:

- raise the profile of science in school
- evaluate and develop all aspects of science teaching and learning at Hill West
- use the PSQM framework and professional support intrinsically provided by being part of a PSQM Hub, to develop science leadership, teaching and learning within school
- celebrate excellence in science at Hill West Primary School
- work with existing Science networks and facilitate new Science networks in order to provide us with support for science teaching and learning
  - access a rich data base of current good practice in science, within school

The PSQM programme is recommended by subject leaders, Head teachers, Ofsted, the Royal Society, the CBI and other member of the primary science community, because: *'PSQM is an effective support tool for developing science in any school. It's framework ensures realistic self-evaluation and measured progress towards achievable targets. It necessitates whole school impact so development and success cannot remain with the Subject Leader and as such improves scientific experiences and out-comes for all children - and teachers. Due to it having a significant monetary and time investment and a nationally respected accreditation at the end, value is placed on it within the school agenda so the Subject Leader should be able to prioritise activities against other demands. Whilst the model requires that basic systems and processes are in place to ensure credibility and parity with others, it facilitates individual need and aspirations. As such, it is always going to be relevant to any school who wants to work hard to improve their science provision - but in a way that is meaningful for it's unique situation.'*

Ofsted's previous Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw, commented in May 2016: "Compulsory subjects like **science** and modern languages have become the '**poor relations**' of the primary school curriculum. However, these subjects, when taught well, can boost literacy and numeracy skills and raise standards in English and mathematics. Evidence from recent Ofsted inspections and feedback from teachers, parents and pupils have highlighted a number of common concerns surrounding the provision of both science and foreign languages at key stage 2. **Sir Michael said,"A sharper focus needs to be placed on these subjects to make sure that children leaving primary school are better prepared to meet the more rigorous academic challenges they will face at secondary school."**

The PSQM process requires a rigorous process of self –evaluation, which lead to the award of the PSQM at Bronze, Silver or Gold level. Hill West is being supported by compulsory CPD and expert mentoring from the PSQM Hub leader. As the science subject leader, I will work with colleagues across the school to:

- audit existing provision in science
- create and implement an action plan to develop all aspects of science teaching and learning
  - complete a reflective submission with key pieces of evidence to demonstrate the impact of my leadership

Our submission will be made in March 2018, and will then be considered for the PSQM award.



## New Reception Familiarisation Sessions

By Mrs Lisa Pardo—Assistant Head Teacher

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We have changed the format of our familiarisation sessions this year. We welcomed 10 families each week during June and July.

The children entered their new classrooms feeling mixed emotions; some happy, shy, excited and nervous. Every single one of them settled well into the exciting activities and had time to meet their new teachers and teaching assistants. Our current Reception children did a wonderful job of welcoming and supporting the new children- thank you. Lots of activities were completed, including amazing painted self-portraits. Each child chose which group they would like to be in (Bee, Butterfly, Caterpillar, Dragonfly or Ladybird) they then carefully decorated bag labels ready for September.

Whilst the children were busy in their classrooms, the parents had an opportunity to have a hot drink (and a biscuit), meet other new parents and find out lots of useful information about starting at Hill West. This provided us with an excellent opportunity to talk to all parents individually in order for us to retrieve really useful information about every child, in order to support smooth and happy transitions to our lovely school.

The parents had some hard work to complete too.... they were tasked with producing a picture/message for their child to receive on their first day at school- some super work parents!

After a busy morning for all, the children and parents met up again to enjoy a delicious lunch together- thank you to Anita and the team.

We are very much looking forward to working with our new starters and their families next year!





## Drayton Manor—Year 6

By Mr Ian Scrivens—Teaching Assistant

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On an overcast and grey day, excited Year 6 children and thrill-seeking adults boarded the coach for the short trip up the road to Drayton Manor. The previous week had seen a gruelling set of SAT's and the children had given everything to perform to their best abilities, their reward for this was a day trip that would live long in their memories and be something they continue to talk about today. We started off slowly, yeah, right lol!! With a ride on the Apocalypse!! Which drops 54m in 4.5 seconds so I'm told!! After that we visited the Accelerator, Pirate ship and the Maelstrom before, thankfully, having a break for drinks and donuts!!

The park was eerily quiet however that meant that the children could happily go on the rides that they wanted, as many times as they wanted and could also enjoy the facilities at their leisure. The groups ranged from those of an adrenaline nature through to those who just wished to go on the more sedate rides. We couldn't have asked for a better behaved group of children and they were a fantastic representation of Hill West throughout the day.

The afternoon saw more thrill seeking at rides such as the Buffalo and further visits to Apocalypse. 54m in 4.5 seconds as Bradley kept reminding me!!

We boarded the coach for the return journey, exhausted but the children had such a fantastic experience which they will never forget. A fitting close to Year 6.





Leavers' Production—Year 6  
By Mr Steven George

Skulduggery – a word that can mean only one thing – PIRATES!

'Pirates of the Curry Bean' – a thinly veiled pun referencing the well-known Jack Sparrow extravaganzas and our production was hailed as (almost) a match for those Johnny Depp movies – a fitting end to a very successful year for our KS2 leavers.

The plot is centred around the (single-parent) Periwinkle family whose father, after having left behind a mysterious treasure map, has supposedly disappeared into the salty ether, but who, in the end, turns up as a tribal chief on a tropical island called 'Lumbago' – in the 'Sea of Sciatica' (of course).

Along the way, mother Periwinkle is abducted by Redbeard's pirate band and the King's navy, in the form of the clueless 'Admiral Hornhonker' and 'Captain Cod' manage to press-gang a crew together to rescue her, and her son and daughter, from the bloodthirsty gang.

The script is filled with hilarious gags – usually delivered by the light-hearted comedy duo of 'Scuttle' and 'Slack' who are widely tipped to become the next 'Ant and Dec'.

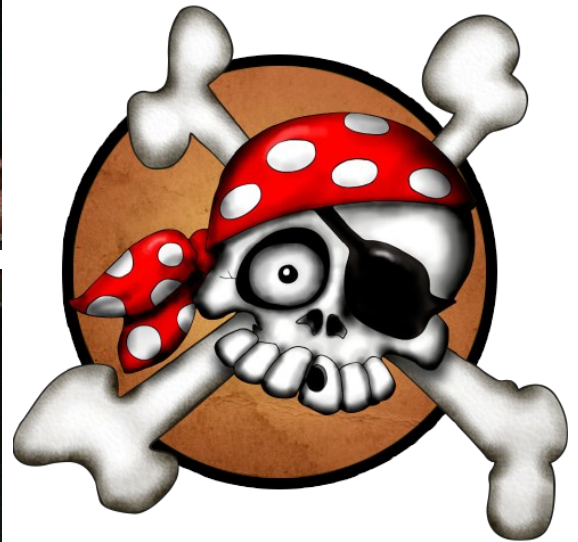
# PIRATES of the CURRY BEAN





In the end, the whole cast become turncoats and celebrate their new-found improbity with a rendition of the singalong anthem 'Piratical Style' which fittingly rounds off an all-singing, all-dancing feast for the eyes that was 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' – a magnificent swan-song from a magnificent Year 6.

Well done everyone – a sterling job – 'God bless(ed) her and all who sail(ed) in her !



*Oddly enough—this pirating lark has been something that our Year 6's have been into for some time. We discovered these photos while we were rehearsing.*





## Squirrels' Cracking Class Assembly

By Miss Chloe Ranger—Class Teacher

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As the summer term arrived this year, Squirrels class were hard at work putting together their class assembly all about World War II!

Every child in the class had important lines and stage directions to learn – their dedication to studying their scripts was highly impressive! The Squirrels children, played brilliantly by Elliott, Jed and Misha, had the crucial job of holding together the show as children who had travelled back in time at RAF Cosford by playing with a mysterious 1930s wireless.



Maddie, Teg and Natalie were super narrators, explaining some really interesting facts about World War II – I think even the adults in the room learned something new!

The show began with our time travelling children being transported to a 1930s house where the wartime family played by Nieve, Will, Charlize and Daegan were just finding out about the declaration of war from Neville Chamberlain, a fabulous performance by Konni who had learned the whole of Chamberlain's speech – wow!



Suddenly, we were on a train to the countryside! As the children were especially proud of the evacuee diary entries they had written this term, Seth, Ella W, Niya and Leah took the role of evacuees, explaining how they felt about the long and frightening journey away from their parents.



All that time travelling had left our Squirrels children starving for a bacon sandwich so our next stop was the Great British Blitz Bake Off! However we soon found out that wartime food was a little different! Barney and Millie – a hilarious Paul and Mary – taught us all about rationing by getting rid of the food our bakers, Ella P and Jonas, wanted to use.

Next came the song – everybody grouped together to sing 'The White Cliffs of Dover', the children sang truly beautifully and really put across the emotions felt by ordinary people during the war.

After this, it was time for a catwalk! Ryan and Jasmine introduced us to our wonderful models, Zack, Jess and Katie. Who would have thought make do and mend clothes could look so good!

Finally, Winston Churchill, in a word perfect speech from Bastiaan, announced the end of World War II and it was time to celebrate! Josh, James, Cara, Katie, Archie, Lacey and Rhyley made a fantastic party act, demonstrating the 1940s dance moves they had perfected during PE lessons.

As Squirrels' teacher, I was extremely proud of the super performances put on by everyone in our class assembly. They made us laugh and smile but also left us with an important message about war in our world today. Well done Squirrels – I can't wait for the next one!





## Year 6 Graduation

By Mrs Amie Bishop—Class Teacher

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Wow! I can't believe it's that time of year again, when we have to say goodbye to another year 6 cohort! Where has the time gone?

On Tuesday, the year 6 children took part in their graduation ceremony in front of proud parents, siblings and teachers. It was a time to reflect on their achievements and memories of their time at Hill West and look ahead towards the exciting adventure that awaits them.

Mr Lackenby opened the evening by sharing some wise words of wisdom with the children and highlighting some of the memories that the children had shared. This was then followed by Mrs Bishop sharing her memories of the year group before Mr George walked up onto the stage with a joke book.... Need I say more?! After a few—forced—laughs, it was time for the children to share their memories of the years gone by. It is amazing how much they remember, from reception all the way to year 6. Rhea talked about the year group being like a jigsaw puzzle, with everyone being individual but then all coming together to make a team. Erin shared her memory of doing gymnastics in the tent during her year 4 camping trip before Ethan and Will shared their thoughts on the year 6 production, building cars out of wood and visiting Drayton Manor; it was clear that they had enjoyed year 6! Matthew also highlighted how much he had enjoyed creating the end-of-year production before reflecting on how much fun he had in France.

It was then over to Eleni and Heidi to summarise their memories of Hill West and what they had to look forward to next year. Eleni reflected on specific experiences that stood out to her in different year groups including feeding the fish in year 3 and trying to make her handwriting neater in year 1. Heidi identified how she would hold her chin up high as she moved on to secondary school and that she would miss Hill West very much.

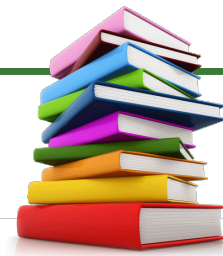
After the children had shared their thoughts, it was over to Miss Donegan to express how proud she was with everyone for surviving the year and making it to the end before Dr Clarke rounded off the evening with two sentimental poems.

Of course, the night wouldn't have been completed without year 6 singing songs from their recent production of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'. They sang them brilliantly, and it was a true testament to just how fantastic they have all been.



## Hill West Book Sale

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What a fantastic book sale we had!  
The generosity of our parents and pupils never fails to amaze us.

We had so many donations that we were able to sell books all through the day and after school.

We managed to raise a staggering £395 which will help to fund equipment and events in school.



# Thank you



## Camping on the Field—Year 4

By Mrs Sarah Terry—Class Teacher

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 61 very excited Year 4 children arrived at school armed with sleeping bags, roll mats, very large rucksacks and huge, excited grins on their faces. This could only mean one thing – the annual Year 4 camping experience!

After watching a few scenes from Bear Grylls' Survival School (and secretly hoping we wouldn't need to eat bugs and the like) to get us in the camping spirit, we marched over to the field for our first – and possibly most challenging – task of the two days. It was time to put up the tents. Luckily, we had help in the form of Sarah Batchelor, Year 4 mum and PTFA chairperson. The tents we were using belong to Hill West PTFA. Sarah, along with Damien and Daegan, demonstrated how to correctly put up the tents. With our tent-mates, we got to it. After around an hour, the children had completed their mission and we had a field full of our new homes for the next two days.

Following on from setting up camp, we decided to explore the vast grounds of our school. We spent a wonderful afternoon walking through the nature area and then decided to create our own nature art using the resources around us.

As evening fell and the rest of the children from the other year groups went home from school, the fun really began! It was time for the Year 4 talent show, which the children had been rehearsing for earlier on. The judges were: Mrs Terry, Miss Ranger, Mrs Bowkett, Miss Ward, Mr Britton and Miss Cruyton (although none of them were as harsh as Simon Cowell). This variety show consisted of gymnastic displays, dancing, singing, magic, comedy and football skills. However, there could only be one winner. After much deliberation, the judges decided that the worthy winners were Stavros and Michael, who performed a perfectly-rehearsed Kata, which was completely in sync. Well done boys!

All of the performing meant we were incredibly hungry, so it was lucky that a Domino's pizza was on its way. Well, dozens were in fact. The beautiful weather meant it was a lovely evening to sit together outside and eat our pizza, which was accompanied by squash. Most people even had seconds. All of those outside activities earlier on ensured we all worked up a huge appetite!

And what fun would camping be if we couldn't enjoy a delicious hot chocolate in our pyjamas? The hot chocolate marked the end of our evening's activities and time for sleep. However, many of us were far too excited to sleep and were chattering away for a while. Camping is exciting, after all!







The bright, early-morning sun woke us all up incredibly early the next day and many children were eager to get going with the day's activities, especially football. Unfortunately, they were sent back to bed for a couple of hours, as it was only 5am! When the day actually started, we all set off to the Key Stage Two hall for breakfast, prepared for by Anita, who leads our wonderful kitchen staff. Toast, cereal and juice (seconds at this meal, too) ensured that we were fully ready to start another day of fun-filled activities.

After tidying our tents and packing our bags (already?), our first challenge involved team-building games. This time, it was Moles Vs Squirrels. Could children find other ways of communicating than with speech to order themselves in age order? On a bench? Without falling off? Yes, they could! They showcased these skills completing a range of challenges, too. The result was a draw between the two classes.



After playtime, the next outdoor activity, whilst still enjoying the glorious sunshine was sports day. Mandela, Barnardo, Pankhurst and Gandhi were rivals once more! However, this was no ordinary sports day; it was blindfolded! The children played in pairs to conquer the course, with one team member guiding the blindfolded team member. The children had a fantastic time!

Lunchtime followed soon after, and all energy would be needed for the final, difficult task of taking down the tents. Luckily, the children in Year 4 are excellent team players and all worked together wonderfully to collaborate and ensure that all parts of the tents were together. We were incredibly lucky with the fact that we had Damien and Daegan's mum, Hannah's mum and Amelia's mum to help us pack everything away. It was incredibly challenging in the blistering heat but we managed it!

All of the staff who took part in the camping experience would like to say a huge thank you to the children for making it an incredibly enjoyable and fun camp!





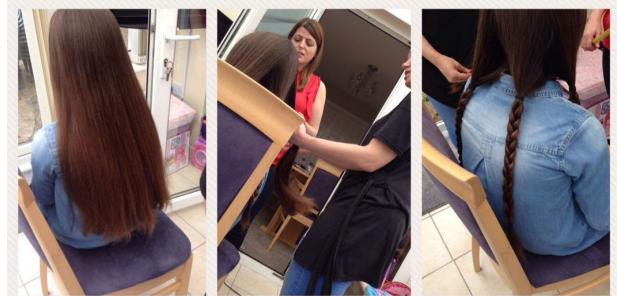
## Little Princess

By Maria Pitsillidis—Year 6 pupil



The Little Princess Trust was launched in 2006 by the parents of Hannah Tarplee, who, after a brave battle against cancer, died in 2005. During Hannah's illness she unfortunately lost her hair but at that time, finding high quality wigs for children was very difficult. Hannah's parents set up The Little Princess Trust in Hannah's memory and now work with suppliers of wigs throughout the UK and Ireland.

My cousin donated her hair to the charity and that gave me the idea. First I had to grow it and it got so long that it started to become difficult to dry and brush. On the day that I had my hair cut the hairdresser came to my house and she plaited my hair into separate plaits. She secured the plaits with bands at the top and the bottom of the plaits and then cut them all off!

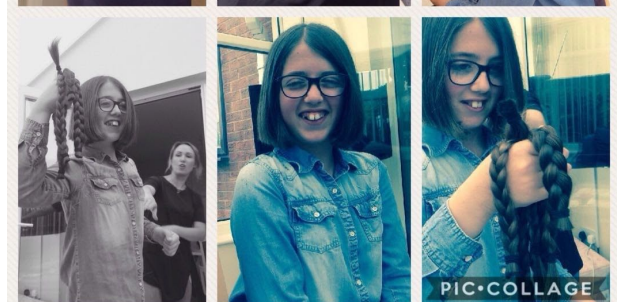


My plaits were 12" long and I have now sent them off to The Little Princess Trust for them to be made into wigs for girls and boys who have lost their hair through their treatment for cancer.



I am still raising money for the charity and will be sending them the money, once I have collected it all in.

Lots of people have told me that my new hairstyle really suits me and some ask me if I miss my hair but I tell them that I really like my new hair style and it is definitely easier to manage.



If anyone would like to find out more information about the charity you can have a look at their website:

[www.littleprincesses.org.uk](http://www.littleprincesses.org.uk)

# Little Princess Trust<sup>®</sup>

Providing real hair wigs for children suffering with hair loss

If your child has been celebrating success in a activity such as sport, music, drama, dance etc, outside of school, please speak to Rebecca Waldron in the school office and we may be able to feature you in the next edition of the Herald.