



THE HILL WEST HERALD

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ISSUE 8



SUMMER TERM 2015



Message from the Head Teacher

Ofsted - An update on our Progress



As you will know 6 months has now passed since our Ofsted Inspection in January 2015. At the time we were judged to be a good school with outstanding practice in safeguarding and the teaching of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education. We were pleased that the Ofsted team recognised that our children love learning and the exciting lessons that are planned for them. We were also pleased that they acknowledged that a high proportion of pupils exceed nationally expected levels for their age, with high proportions achieving the higher levels in a range of subjects.

We were given, however, some clear targets for improvement and these were:

- ◆ To strengthen teaching in reading still further so that pupils make consistently rapid progress and more children reach the higher levels.
- ◆ To embed our new system for assessment within school.

So what have we been doing about these targets? The parent council, following a recent meeting in which our inspection was discussed, thought you may like to know. We have:

- ◆ Introduced new whole school data reports that summarise the attainment and progress of individuals and all groups of learners
- ◆ Changed our end of year report format for parents.

- ◆ Made sure that all children have a reading target.
- ◆ Purchased resources to support the teaching of reading.
- ◆ Carried out a number of learning walks with external partners to identify excellent examples of stretch and challenge in lessons.
- ◆ Reviewed our reward system. A new system will be introduced in September.



“pupils say that they love the school, especially for the imaginative lessons teachers prepare for them...”

- ◆ Delivered staff training on more able and reading.
- ◆ Delivered governor training on interrogating pupil assessment data.
- ◆ **Increased the percentage of Level 5 readers from 44% in 2014 to 71% in 2015**
- ◆ Appointed three excellent teachers for the next academic year.

In September our Key Priorities are to:

- ◆ Develop middle and senior leadership roles through a new staffing structure.
- ◆ Observe the quality of teaching and learning across school with a focus on more able.
- ◆ Introduce pupil conferencing half termly so pupils know their next steps.

Celebrating Our End Of Key Stage Results (Provisional)

Our results this year have been extremely strong across school and indicate outstanding achievement for our pupils. The percentage of children achieving the Early Learning Goals in EYFS is well above the national average and has been for the last 3 years. The percentage of children achieving a pass rate for the Year 1 phonic screening check is well above the national average too and this has also been the case for the last 3 years. This demonstrates our effective and robust procedure for the teaching of early reading. Attainment at the end of Key Stage One is also strong with the percentage of children achieving Level 2b being above the national average in all three subjects. Also the percentage of children achieving Level 3 is above the national average in all three areas. The percentage of children achieving Level 4 or above at the end of KS2 is very high in all subjects and is well above the national average. This is also the case for children achievement Level 5 in reading and writing where attainment is well above the national average. The percentage of children achieving Level 6 in writing and maths is also well above the national average particularly in maths. Our progress data is extremely strong too with nearly 100% of children making expected progress and a significant proportion (above national) making three levels of progress.



At the end of KS2 our results for Summer 2015 (although provisional) were

Reading

Level 3	3%
Level 4	26%
Level 5	71%
Total % of pupils scoring level 4 or more	97%

Maths

Level 3	3%
Level 4	40%
Level 5	34%
Level 6	23%
Total % scoring level 4 or more	97%

Writing

Level 3	0%
Level 4	38%
Level 5	52%
Level 6	10%
Total % of pupils scoring level 4 or more	100%

SPAG

Level 3	3%
Level 4	30%
Level 5	55%
Level 6	12%
Total % of pupils scoring level 4 or more	97%



Of course many of you will know Mrs Marie George as she has two beautiful boys in our current Year 4. She also happens to be the Head Teacher of Stockland Green School, one of the secondary schools in our Multi-Academy Trust. Not content with completing the Birmingham Half Marathon earlier this year she has now set her sights on climbing Mount Kilimanjaro as part of a £10,000 fundraising campaign in the memory of her late mother.



Marie, together with her eldest son Charlie, an ex-Arthur Terry head boy, will attempt to climb the mountain on the 6th August. The milestone year marks what would have been the 60th birthday of Marie's mother, Lorraine, who died from the autoimmune disease, Lupus. Lupus is a complex and poorly understood condition that affects many parts of the body and causes symptoms ranging from mild to life-threatening. There are some types of lupus that just affect the skin – such as discoid lupus erythematosus and subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus. However, the term "lupus" is most often used to describe a more severe form of the condition called systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), which can affect many parts of the body, including the skin, joints and internal organs. Symptoms range from mild to severe, and many people will have long periods with few or no symptoms before experiencing a sudden flare-up, where their symptoms are particularly severe. Even mild cases can be distressing and have a considerable impact on a person's quality of life. Marie's mum was affected by systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).



Freddie, Marie's son in Year 4 at Hill West, has also been actively raising awareness and money for the cause. This year he shaved his head, raising an amazing £400 in the process?

Marie says she works hard to keep her Mums memory alive and as such she has been fundraising all year in the hope of raising £10,000. Her fundraising culminated in August when she will climb Kilimanjaro. She knows that this is likely to be a huge personal challenge but one that she knows her Mum would have been exceptionally proud of. To support Marie's fundraising please visit her Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/Marie-George1/>

Year 6 Leavers

By Mrs Nichola Leeson—Assistant Head

CHILDREN ARE LIKE KITES

Children are like kites. You might have wanted one for a while or you may receive one as a special, yet unexpected gift. At first, you don't do much with it... it's in a great package and looks quite complicated. And of course, there aren't any instructions....ah, if only there were instructions!!!

Anyway, you finally make the decision that you are going to fly your kite for the first time. You get it out of its bag and scratch your head a bit...it doesn't look the same as any others kites you've seen. Your kite is unique.

You spend years trying to get your kite off the ground. You run with it along fields and beaches, up hills and mountains, until you are breathless. It crashes...it ravel...it hits the roof. And what do you do? You patch it up, comfort it and assure it that someday it will fly.

Finally your kite is airborne. It needs more string, and you keep letting it out. Your kite tugs and you continue to unwind more twine. Now you are feeling a sense of sadness to accompany your joy. You don't need to do much to keep your kite soaring anymore.

After a while, your kite becomes more distant, and you know it won't be long before that beautiful kite will snap the lifeline that binds you together and will soar as meant to soar... free and alone. Only then do you know that you have done your job.

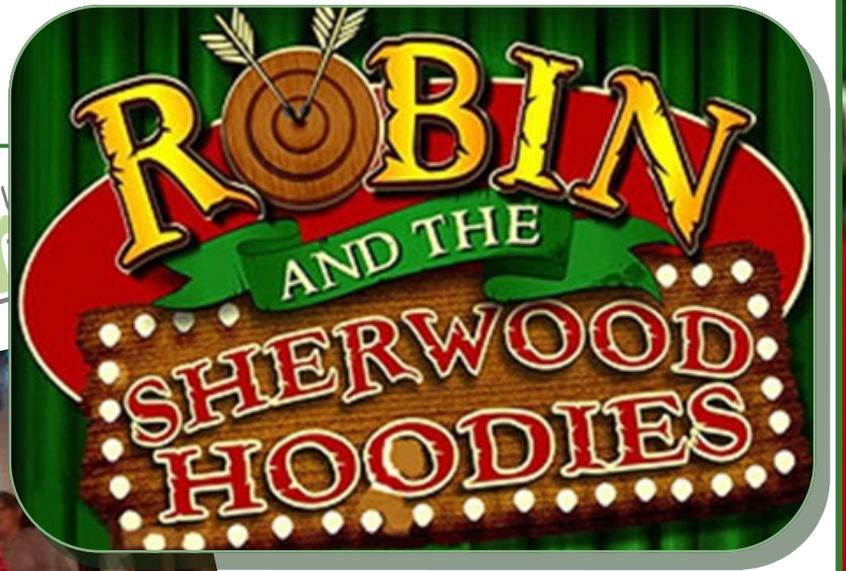
At the moment, you are still holding onto the strings of your kite. Value every opportunity you have to fly it. Value every moment that you get to comfort your kite when something has happened. Value every time you assure your kite that it will it will fly. All too soon your kite will be flying solo.



Year 6 Leavers Production

By Miss Amie Hyde—Class

Year 6 Leavers



The Year 6 children went out in style, with a fantastic production of 'Robin and

the Sherwood Hoodies! All the parents,

children and visitors who came to see it were in hysterics with the re-take of the classic Robin Hood story.'Just like being at the theatre' commented Mrs Bailey from Arthur Terry.

All the children put in a fantastic amount of effort and showed off their acting talent. Well done from all the year 6 staff team.



Lunchtime Team Training

by Julie Durkin and Jane Thompson, Lunchtime Assistant Learning Mentor

On Friday 8th May, under heavy skies and spots of rain, the lunchtime team took to the playground. We had the playground to ourselves as it was an inset day for the children and time for our latest training session – games training.

Everyone was very enthusiastic to learn new games and try out some of our new play equipment. It was less about the taking part and more about the winning! Who knew we could all be so competitive?

The team learnt how to set up and use the new equipment, how to lead a group game, and new games to play. Also strategies to encourage children to participate, to promote fair play and reward children for taking part.

The team played group games of 'aeroplanes', 'hoop and peg' and 'circus skills' which proved to be great fun. We then divided into 2 teams for a 'basketball shoot out' which became very competitive! The lunchtime team left the training feeling very energised and much more confident in their provision of games.

Since the training session we have purchased some fantastic new play equipment which the children enjoy daily. Favourites include: the space hoppers, skittles, cat's cradle and of course footballs!

Check out our lunchtime tweets of the children enjoying the wonderful new games and equipment.



Twycross Zoo

By Miss Bolton—Class Techer—Wrens

On Wednesday 8th July Reception went on a visit to Twycross Zoo. We were all very excited to see the animals. First we got on a double decker bus, Wrens got to sit upstairs on the way there and Robins on the way home.



We saw lots of different animals whilst at Twycross Zoo. First we had a look at the different types of monkeys; they were swinging from the trees and eating sweetcorn! Then we had a walk through a lemur enclosure but we had to keep to the paths - the lemurs were right next to our feet!!

We couldn't wait to eat our lunch so we sat down in a picnic area and tucked into our lovely sandwiches. They were delicious. In the afternoon we saw lots more animals including elephants, giraffes and even more monkeys! We had our photos taken on the monkey board too- I wonder who looks the best! The penguins and flamingos were exciting to watch, they had just been fed their lunch.

All of us were very excited to have an ice-cream in the afternoon. We went to a little shop in the Explorers Area and we got to buy ourselves an ice-cream. It was great to see all the children paying for their ice-cream themselves, what clever children we have. After our ice-creams we had a play and then it was time to come back to school.



Camping on the Field

By Miss Humphries—Class Teacher—Moles



Never before has ‘Camping on the Field’ been attempted, but Year 4 were raring to go on Tuesday morning!

The camping experience began with a whole group talk and a chance for the children in Year 4 to think of a team name and motto! They came up with some excellent team names including ‘Bear Grylls’ kids!’, ‘Scorpions of the Sands’ and ‘Seven All Stars’. These groups would work together throughout the two days, earning points for excellent collaboration, super behaviour and enthusiasm for whatever task they were challenged to complete!

Once the children had completed a year group game of ‘find my shoes’, they began to indulge in the carousel of activities that were planned. These included tent building, apple bobbing, natural photography and a year group graffiti wall to name a few! All of the children really enjoyed these and it was excellent seeing them work together and support each other! The children also created some fantastic flags that were positioned on their tents!

After a small snack mid-afternoon, the children were given some ‘free time’; a chance to relax and enjoy the freedom and excitement of being on the school field after home time! Many of the boys played a friendly game of football, whereas others decided to play the games they had created earlier in the day or sit and chat in their tents! Whole group relays, including sprinting, skipping, hop-scotch and wheelbarrow races led us nicely up to tea time....



Although it was difficult to put the tents up, we worked together and it was great fun!

I liked everything about camping but what I liked best were the amazing activities including the apple bobbing and photography!



Delicious pizza arrived at 6pm alongside some chip-shop-chips (there wasn't a crumb left!) Once again, the children really enjoyed this special treat, mostly because they were spending time with their friends. We then started to wind down; a story, Kensuke's Kingdom, enticed the children as they relaxed before bed time.

7am soon came around and the 'wake-up bell' rang loud and clear! The children happily prepared themselves for the day ahead and once again loved the fact that they were at school before anyone else- even the teachers! A beautiful breakfast was cooked for us by the kitchen staff and that prepared us for the days' activities.

The morning mostly involved the children taking part in a long orienteering course set up around the school grounds. They worked excellently in pairs and used up lots of energy trying to find the 25 (yes, 25!) hidden pictures! Tents were dissembled shortly after. A big thank you must go to our parents and Stockland Green School for being so generous and lending so much wonderful equipment, without which, the experience would not have gone ahead.

With energy levels still high, the children made sure that the field was tidy and then played a game of rounders until lunch time.

All that was left to do for the rest of the day was chill out as a year group and reflect on what a brilliant time we all had had! Next year's Year 4 are in for a real treat!



I think the best bit of camping was the sleeping over night at school and the pizza!

I loved the experience because of the games and the outdoor activities.



PTFA Summer Fayre

By Mrs Jaimey Thomas—Class Teacher—Rabbits

On Saturday 4th July, Hill West Primary School held their annual summer fayre. We were overwhelmed by the support that was received this year by both the parents and the staff.

It was a great day with activities to entertain the whole family. The children were especially excited by the inflatable slide, inflatable run and the tombola! Parents could be found sampling the food and drink from local businesses as well as supporting our talented children in their class performances, and what exceptional performances they were! The crowd were entertained with a range of American themed routines including Hair-spray, cheerleading, flag making, Grease and Glee!

Our annual 'Dads v Lads' football tournament remained as competitive as ever, with a final score of 4– 0. to the lads

Overall the day was a great success, with us raising a further FILL IN to help to support our school. Thank you for all of the PTFA members for their hard work and dedication to the school, we really couldn't do it without you!



Woodlands

By Mrs Terry—Class Teacher—Hedgehogs

Monday 18th May was the date that Year Three set off for their exciting overnight adventure to Woodlands Adventure Camp. The Key Stage Two hall was packed with 60 excited children, 8 excited adults and LOT of luggage. We were off! After a short coach journey, we arrived at our destination. The children were excited to spend time in their rooms, but it was time to begin the first of many exciting activities our time there had to offer. Here is Year Three's guide to the activities you can expect to face at Woodlands Adventure Camp.



Canoeing

Canoeing was a fantastic activity for us all, especially in the rain. It didn't matter how many times we got splashed! Once we'd kitted ourselves out with a buoyancy aid and a helmet, we were ready to hit the water! Six people shared a canoe, and each person had an oar. Our very helpful instructors showed us how to row correctly, and everybody had to work together to make the canoes travel in the right direction. Collaboration was necessary! Once we'd mastered our oar skills by travelling around the lake a few times, it was time to sing 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'. Balancing on the canoe was incredibly challenging!



Archery

Once we'd dried off from our soaking and eaten lunch, it was time for the next activity: archery! In the hall, we were taught how to correctly hold a bow and arrow, and how to aim correctly. This was even more difficult than anticipated! After a few practises each, it was time for the duel! We were split into two teams, and had to aim our arrow at the board, which was numbered. The numbers in the middle of the board had higher values, and were more difficult to score. Each team member had one shot each, and the scores



Zip Line

Who's scared of a 110m zip wire? Not Year Three, that's for sure! Once we had a harness and a helmet on, we were ready to climb the (extremely high) ladder to the top of the tower and feel the sensation of flying through the air. It was fantastic! Any nerves the children had didn't show, and they were incredibly brave to complete this activity.

Assault course

Up next was the assault course. With plenty of A-frames, nets and walls to climb, our children were kept incredibly busy. Excellent team-work and collaboration skills made sure our children succeeded and completed the entire course. Well done Year Three!



Evening activities

After all that climbing, rowing, firing and 'flying', it was time for some food to get energy levels back up. Pizza chips, chicken nuggets and beans were on the menu, and they tasted absolutely delicious! Our evening meal was followed by some free time, before finally it was bedtime. For sixty children to be away from home overnight for the first time to have NO TEARS was amazing! They must have been having too much fun!

Day Two

After a good night's sleep, it was time to have some more fun with our instructors, taking part in even more activities. Frisbee Golf was the first activity of the day, where we all perfected our Frisbee-throwing skills. This was followed by a visit to the animal sanctuary, which contained owls, chickens, turkeys, rabbits, peacocks and goats to name but a few. We loved it!

Midday marked the end of our fantastic time at Woodlands Adventure Camp, and it was back to school for us. Luckily, the fantastic kitchen staff at school prepared us a special lunch for us all, and we were extremely grateful. After an afternoon reflecting on the great fun we had, it was off home to get a good night's sleep.

Our trip was absolutely fantastic, and we need to say a massive thank you to all of the staff at school and at Woodlands Adventure Camp for making the trip possible.



Year 2 trip to Warwick Castle

By Miss Robinson—Class Teacher—Kingfishers



Knights, Princesses, Kings and Queens these are what all six and seven year old children think of when they hear that we are visiting a castle, however what they didn't realise was how much more they would also get to see.

On June 19th we started the day eager and excited to make our way to Warwick Castle. All the children arrived promptly at school with huge grins on their faces. They knew that today would be an amazing day made even better if the rain continued to elude us. Quickly we made our way to the waiting coach and piled inside. The journey there was long, but was made to seem shorter by the chorus of Iggle Piggle songs coming from the seats behind us.

As the castle came into view a wave of screams and squeals filled the coach, it was safe to say that we had arrived. Slowly we made our way off the coach and into our groups ready to begin our adventure. Our first stop of the day was to Time Tower, an amazing journey through Warwick Castle's history. As we crammed ourselves into the dark room a buzz of excitement grew, we were keen to see what would happen next. A knight appeared on the screens and taught us a great deal about how Warwick Castle had come to be. Silence fell upon the room as wide eyes stared intently at the screen.

Once our journey had ended we made our way to the archery show, where we saw bows and arrows and were given an incredible demonstration by a skilled archer. The children sat in wonder and awe as the archer hit the target time and time again. As the show continued we began to tuck into our lunches, preparing us for the next part of our Warwick Castle adventure.

As soon as our lunches were demolished we began to slowly walk toward to falconry show. Here we saw eagles soaring through the sky and vultures gnawing at fish. The children sat still in pure amazement. They had had an informative and amazing day.



Before we knew it we were making our way back to the coach ready to go home. As we slowly climbed the stairs of the coach children plonked themselves into their seats, exhausted. What a wonderful day they had had. Throughout the journey home you could hear the buzzing of voices, talking all about their amazing day.

Sports Day

by Mr Ian Scrivens, Teaching Assistant, Year 4



On a beautiful, sunny day we gathered on the field for a day of fun and competition. All the houses were represented and the field looked amazing with a great turnout of parents. Once the races were under way the children really put in 100% effort.

From the sprinting to the obstacle races and beyond. Several standout performances saw Pankhurst and Barnardo take the early lead although, Ghandi and Mandela put up some great performances also. The sun was shining brightly throughout and the competition was heating up as well on the field. Year 6 did a fantastic job of marshalling the houses across to the start line and kept the support going with chants and songs all ably assisted by Mr. Carroll on the microphone. Miss Hyde kept the races going throughout the morning. All in all it was a fantastic day and really showed the children the value of teamwork and competition.



My Time At Hill West

by Miss Leanne Rowe, PPA PE Teacher

Many of the events I will remember as I move on from Hill West relate to sports fixtures, trips and class assemblies. These are the times where, as a teacher, you truly share the highs and lows with the children (sometimes taking the “lows” more personally than they do!), where the children can show their personalities and also strengths that you don’t always get to see in a classroom setting.

It has been a privilege to work with such talented sports children, in both attending extra-curricular events and, this year, teaching PE across the school. There is a great deal of enthusiasm for PE and sport throughout the school and the children work hard to improve their skills and are proud when representing the school.



For each of my three years we have been invited to the Sutton Coldfield Football presentation evening. Firstly as winners of the girls year five and six football tournament at Wyndley, then as the Medium School’s league runners up and this year as runners up in both of these. Our football team this year has been one of the strongest that I have had the pleasure to work with. Their team spirit and eagerness for each other to do well has been lovely to see and the success enjoyed this season has been fantastic.



One of the most exciting events for me each year is the area sports at Wyndley, where children have practised for and eagerly anticipate their events, and there is a buzz of competition. Over the years we have accumulated various trophies from these events and there have been many stand out individual performances.



I also have fond memories of two residential trips to Bockleton, where the children (and the teachers) were given opportunities to jump from a ten metre pole (The “Powerfan”), canoe, climb a wall and use GPS equipment when orienteering. Again, it was most enjoyable to engage with the children outside of the classroom, for example at meal times where they talked about their interests and families, and whilst taking turns in the various activities.



I have also enjoyed working with such an enthusiastic staff. The many performances, assemblies and sports events are a result of a lot of hard work and dedication. I have particularly enjoyed the class assemblies this year – I certainly won’t forget the Hares’ Space assembly in a hurry!

As I move on to what will be a total “change of career”, these happy memories will stay with me and I hope they stay with the children as they move on to secondary school and beyond.

Badgers Class Assembly

By Miss Gibson - Badgers Class Teacher



The heart-felt applause echoed around room, I couldn't help but smile from ear to ear. They had done it, and not only done it; they completely owned the performance and made my very first class assembly unforgettable. I could not have been prouder.

I could tell by the giddiness that the children were equally as chuffed and proud as I was; the buzz in the room was electric, which made it even more positive because so many parents and family members of the children were able to come and show their support.

Once the children had finished their performance, Dr Clarke, thanked the parents and family members for attending, moreover she also praised the children for such an raw, emotive, and funny assembly. This added to the children's confidence as they were allowed to be greeted by their family. It was a beautiful moment to have shared with the children, and a day that I will remember forever, as I hope the children will too.

Nonetheless, it hadn't always been that simple.

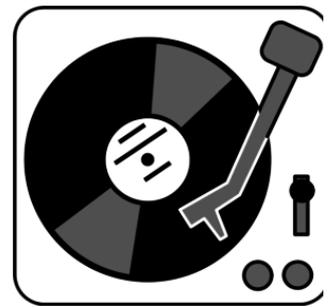
It all began in May, I was glancing through the school calendar and came across "Badgers, Class Assembly", this would be my first class assembly at Hill West and I wanted to ensure the children did something they felt comfortable with and were proud of. So I started brainstorming some ideas which linked to our topics throughout the year, I narrowed it down to a few options and gave the children the deciding vote.

When the rehearsals began, we decided to begin with the choreography for the fifties classic "Chubby Checker- Let's twist again". The music began and we started the "basic" dance routine which deemed to be trickier than anticipated. However the

children were enthused and I felt optimistic about the next 3-4 weeks we had in front of us. As the weeks progressed the children deleted some parts, and added certain phrases in which they found amusing. I reminded them often that it was their show and they should own it, I was merely there to press play and pass on encouraging words of support.



It was approaching D day (the day of the class assembly) and we were all feeling the pressure, but I kept reminding the children how it was all a bit of fun, and that everyone would be so proud of them.



So it began, the children introduced the performance, with a clear tone and intonation. As we time warped into the 50s the



children twisted out beautifully. Flower power hit the hall when the children landed in the 60s, the badger boys performed to "The Beatles, Hey Jude" which all children got involved in and a certain Edward Payne took centre stage alongside Edward Lealand, George Wylie, and Sam Hadley, giving a great tribute to the iconic Beatles. After the

swinging sixties, we flew into the 70s and Lewis Durkin took on the powerful performance of "Don't stop me now" with his fellow band members Alexander Crouch, Edward Payne and Tom Perry. The 80s came with many a laugh and important historical moments, but a key point for the assembly was as we dove into the girl power decade of the 90s with "Spice Girls" and "Take That" (I have to admit, these were my choices completely as I grew up listening and loving these two bands as a child). I couldn't help sing along to the iconic songs of these two 90s pop bands, and the children joined in with the actions and chorus.



As we approached the finale, I could feel the anticipation in the air, as a solo part was about to begin for Luke Michaels in "Wizz Khalifa- See you again". As the music began, my eyes filled with tears of joy, as the song came to an end, I turned to look around and

I could see other parents and staff (including Dr Clarke) felt the same emotion as me.

Ultimately, the Badgers out did themselves, and it was a moment in my life which reminds me why I strived to be a teacher for so long. I am already looking forward to the next one now!



A Day at Hatton Farm

By Miss Lara Jones—Class Teacher—Year 1

Well, how do I begin to explain what an amazing trip this was?! We left school at 9.15am and got on the bus. We were all very excited and chatted the whole way there. When we arrived, we were met by our guides who looked after us for the whole day. They took us to our base to store all of our important things (such as lunch!) and we headed straight out for some exciting learning.

First stop was a tractor ride around the farm. We explored the vast landscape of the farm and looked at sights both in and beyond. We even drove through a huge muddy puddle, nicknamed 'The Splash!' and we all agreed we didn't want to go for a swim in there!

After the tractor ride, we went sheep racing! Our sheep was number 3 and she was called Fleece Lightning. The sheep were paraded around and we cheered for Fleece Lightning as she entered (she looked like she was a bit more mature than the others!). Then we cheered our sheep as she completed the race. Unfortunately we didn't win, but we were beaten by Lamborghini!

After the excitement of the sheep racing, we were each given some animal food and we fed goats and sheep. We thought it was tickly as the animals were licking it off our hands. Then we got to hold and stroke a chick and a duckling! They were very cute and we wanted to take them home.

After all that hard work, we were hungry so we headed back to our base to have lunch in the sunshine. Once all full up, we went to 'Scales and Tails', where we saw lots of reptiles including tarantulas, lizards and snakes. We even got to feel a bearded dragon lizard- the children were very brave!

Our final stop for the day was to see my favourite animal- the guinea pig! We learnt how to care for them and what they need to be healthy and happy and we got to feed them yummy cabbage. We also got to hold and stroke the guinea pigs, which was exciting too!

To finish off our day, we became farmers and drove mini tractors around the playground. This was a fun way to end and before we knew it, it was time to go home.

The journey back was a lot quieter, as we reflected (or slept!) about the exciting things we had seen and learnt throughout the day.

Thank you to Hatton Farm for a super day, we really enjoyed it!



PTFA Fun Run

By Sam Dawson and Sarah Batchelor—PTFA

Sunday 17th May saw over 250 runners turn out for the 21st 'Hill West Runs' held in Sutton Park on a bright and sunny day.....perfect for running!

Before the start of the 4k race 150 runners of all ages and abilities were treated to a special warm-up from 'Olaf' the snowman. As the starter horn sounded everyone then flew off around the course (some ambled....it was a 'Fun Run' after all!). The 4k route follows the main paths through the park with a sprint finish (by everyone!) across the line at the Jamboree Stone. Everyone who took part and finished the race then collected their medal with pride. There were also trophies for the fastest boys and girls from each school year group. Ben Horton was the fastest boy for the 4k race with an amazing time of just under 17 minutes, (over a minute ahead of 2nd place) and Ellamae Beeton was the fastest girl, finishing in 23 minutes exactly. Great efforts everyone!

We also had a brilliant turn out for the 10k event with over 100 parents, family members, friends and local club runners taking part in the hotly contested 10k race. The 10k route is renowned locally as a great but challenging course across track and trail (and with two tough hills to climb!). The winners of this race were Jonathan Carter (35:35) and Carol Powell (45:31), again both fantastic times, congratulations!

The event was kindly supported by Virgin Active Lichfield who provided the super warm up and goodie bags to all the finishers. Ebrook Osteopathy Clinic in Sutton Coldfield were also on hand to provide free massages to runners, which were well needed by some!

The event went incredibly smoothly thanks to the hard work of all the organisers and volunteers (Parents, Teachers and Friends) and everyone had a fantastic day. A very special thank you should go to the Sutton



Coldfield Adventure Unit (SCAU) who provided over 30 marshal volunteers on day to ensure that all the runners got round the courses safely and had lots of great encouragement along the way!

We are looking forward to our 22nd event next year, we hope you can all make it.

New Reception Activity Afternoons and Morning

By Mrs Lisa Pardo—Phase Leader—Early Years



We already love school!

Our new reception children have been so busy already!!

They have already used the ipads, small world, construction and playdoh.

All children have chosen their groups: some are Butterflies, some Bees, some Dragonflies, some Ladybird and some chose Caterpillars. Which group are you in?

We have made tags for our PE bags and book bags, written our names and made our peg labels.

But most importantly we have already started to make new friends!

Whilst the children were busy the mommy's were catching up, making new friends and eating chocolate cake!!!!

Children were so sensible during lunch- choosing their own food, collecting cutlery and carrying their trays. Lots of empty plates, messy faces and full tummies- thank you Cook Anita!!



"I want to stay overnight!"



All children received a 'Talk about book' they are excited about completing them during the Summer holidays by filling them with photographs of their family, pets, their favourite toys, familiar places and special achievements . We can't wait to have a look at them in September Robins and Wrens.

"I don't want to go home yet!"

Squirrels Class Assembly

By Miss Izzy Brown—Class Teacher—Squirrels



After absorbing many interesting facts about the Terrible Tudors, Squirrels were ready to prepare their assembly. We had to think carefully about the characters we would need to include—Henry VIII being vital as well as his six unfortunate wives. We decided to set up our own version of the popular talent contest The X Factor to help our audience understand the cruelty of Henry VIII as well as other facts about the way the normal Tudor folk lived. Squirrels designed their own Tudor houses including creative patterns of the recognisable, dark Tudor beams as well as the overhanging first floor, useful for throwing waste out the window!



The three X Factor judges were cast—Simon Cowell, Louis Walsh and a slightly scary Cheryl Cole! They had to get accustomed to being critical of others, not something the three, normally polite pupils found easy. Then we had to learn our songs, the classic 'I'd do anything' from the wonderful Oliver Twist among them. The brave wives; Heidi, Olivia, Molly, Kitty, Cora and Ashton and the powerful Henry VIII, played by the very entertaining Joseph McDonald, were given their lines to learn.



We had to practice frequently to get to grips with some of the trickier timings of songs and once again had to listen carefully for our cues!

The performance was a success! It was wonderful to see so many supportive parents there watching their child perform for the second time this year, with screams, laughter and tears Squirrels class wowed the crowd once again with their enthusiastic and mature attitude towards their assemblies. Well done Squirrels!



A Constellation of Life

A poem by Nia Williams, Year 5 Hares

A Constellation of Life

Gazing up at the navy night,

Slowly turning to ebony.

Turning my head to the illuminating light,

A sea of continents shining heavenly.

A fleet of swans, delicately beating their wings of snow

Through the velvet night,

Enticing the beauty of the galaxy towards them.

They enchant, come, go.

Colours, escalating into a powerful beam of radiation,

Tugging upon all life.

An aurora of luring beauty

Dancing majestically, daintily, gracefully.

I stand, bewildered and awed.

A wave of happiness merging with light;

This is the sky tonight.



Where singing and fun go together

Singing in a choir is proven to develop...



Self-confidence

Academic achievement

...and lowers stress levels



But most importantly, fosters friendships and well-being.

Four Oaks Cluster Training Choir

Our youngest choir – aged 6-9 (Years 2+).

Wednesdays 4pm-5pm, Four Oaks Methodist Church.



Four Oaks Cluster Choir

Our nationally award-winning junior choir.

Ages 9-13, (Years 5-8).

Wednesdays 5.15-6.45pm, Four Oaks Methodist Church.



Sutton Coldfield Youth Voices

Our stunning young people's choir, for ages 13-18.

Mondays 5pm-6.30pm, Arthur Terry School.



The Accidentals

Our 80- strong adult choir.

Wednesdays 7.15-9pm, Four Oaks Methodist Church.

Find out more about our vibrant choirs – better still, join us!

www.suttoncoldfieldchoirs.org.uk

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Conductors: Richard Jeffries, Liz Birch, Helen Willetts

Patron: Suzi Digby OBE

Registered Charity Number: 1162378



**Wishing all our children and
parents a very happy summer
holiday**

