



# NEWSLETTER

We are inclusive, confident and enterprising learners who are brave, curious, optimistic and kind. We are ready to embrace the future.



10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Families,

## COVID ALERT

As you will be aware, we have now had a rise in positive cases in the school, and among those cases are examples of the new variant, Omicron. I have therefore spent time meeting with health officials, Trust representatives and Plymouth City Council to assess the situation. Firstly, the school will remain open and pupils are expected to continue to attend; assuming that they are well and have not tested positive with an lateral flow test, of course. The safety of both our students and our staff is our absolute priority so we have implemented a number of additional measures during this period which include keeping children separated into class groups wherever possible, such as when eating, on top of all of the other measures in place.

To ensure we are doing all we can to minimise the spread of the new variant of COVID health officials have advised that we ask **all pupils in year 5 to arrange a PCR test over the weekend**; this is a precautionary measure, as we do not know how many of the recent positive test results are omicron currently, but one we would urge you to follow. Please book your child a test using the internet booking system rather than just turning up at a test centre as this will help test centres manage better. Since this will be an asymptomatic test you will need to book it in a certain way, as detailed below:

- Visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
- Under 'Getting a PCR test if you have no symptoms', there is an option '**you've been asked to get a test by a local council or someone from NHS Test and Trace**'; this is the option that applies

If your child is in year 3, 4 or 6, health officials have requested that you do a lateral flow test on your child on Sunday and then on Wednesday of next week.

We understand this news will be concerning but would reassure you the advice from health professionals is while the new variant is highly transmissible, it seems similar to the current variant, delta, for young people.

This afternoon you will also have been sent a letter from Plymouth's Director of Public Health and the Service Director for Education highlighting the importance of following Government guidance.

I would echo that advice and assure you as a school we are doing everything we can to try and reduce the spread of COVID

## Diary Dates

### End of Term

17<sup>th</sup> December

### Start of New Term

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January

### February Half-Term

w/c 21<sup>st</sup> February



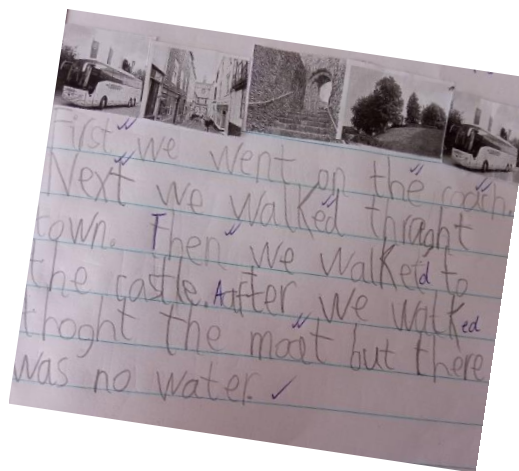
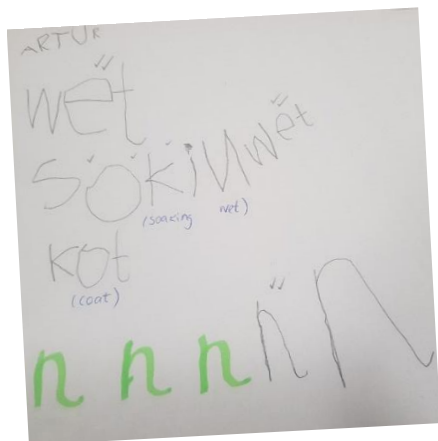
Should you have any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact me directly on [mark.dellow@horizonmat.com](mailto:mark.dellow@horizonmat.com).

We would also respectfully ask that parents wear face masks and consider social distancing whenever they come into the school site, including leaving the site as quickly as possible.

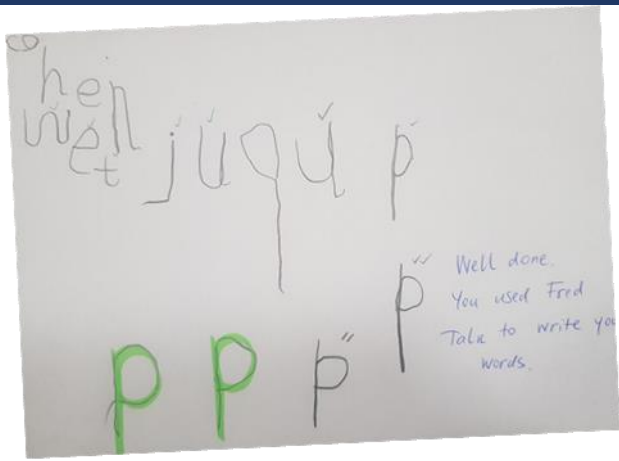
### Curriculum News

Curriculum Ambassadors are a group of our pupils who are trained to recognise and develop the learning and the curriculum within our schools. We meet biweekly as a group to decide and work on specific focuses around the learning within our school. This week the children completed a learning walk with members of the senior leadership team on what does good learning look like and what makes a good curriculum? The children will give feedback to their fellow peers and the teachers on strengths and areas for improvement within the areas that we are focussing on. We are very proud of the way we have developed this leadership role amongst our children, and we very much look forward in seeing how their observations impact on shaping the curriculum.

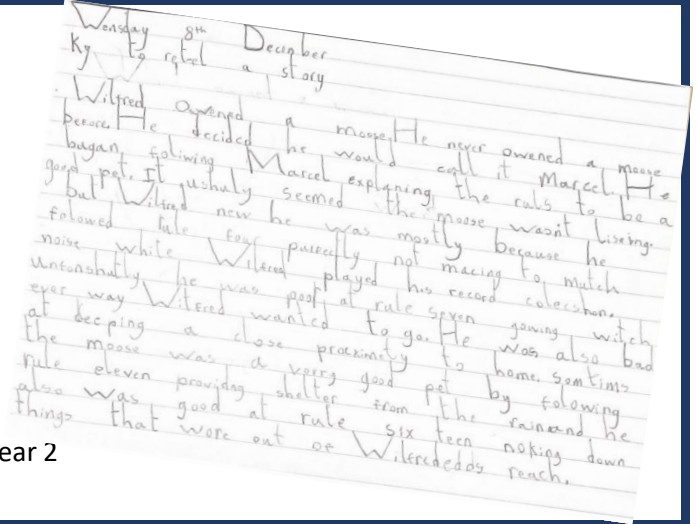
We also thought it would be a good idea to share some of the activities the children are up to in school with you on a regular basis, especially as there has not been the opportunity for parents to come into school for some time now. We thought we would start with sharing some examples of writing from Early Years - where writing is just beginning – to Years 1 and 2.



Early Year & Year 1



Year 2



Early Years

### **Go Read – Juniors Only**

We expect pupils to read every day at home, but in recognition of the busy lives many of our pupils lead, we expect that they will register a minimum of three reading sessions onto the GoRead system. Pupils who are more confident in their reading can also log their own entries to the system, but we strongly encourage you to add your entries three or more times a week. This may include comments about your child's fluency whilst reading, vocabulary that they found challenging or some of the opinions they expressed during reading.

### **Personal, Social, Health, Sex, Relationship, Economic (PSHRE) Education.**

Hyde Park Schools are currently reviewing the provision of the above curriculum. Further information for parents can be found by using this link.

[jigsaw-information-leaflet-for-parents-and-carers-2021.pdf \(windows.net\)](#)

To add your views to the consultation process please complete the short survey, which can be found by using this link.

<https://forms.gle/WoZ6erQ4PcetxSJY7>

### **Christmas parties**

We will be having a Christmas Party afternoon on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. There will be no party food as this level of sharing food is not practical at the moment, but there may be some music, party games or crafts happening in your child's class to send them into the holidays with a Christmassy buzz.

### **Christmas Videos**

The children are busy rehearsing Christmas songs and poems to film for you. Their films will appear on the school website over the course of next week. We know that this is in no way a substitute for a traditional nativity play but will be a chance for the children to wish you all a Merry Christmas. Let's hope that next year we will be able to return to the kind of Christmas play that we are all missing.

## Fundraising

We have had lots fundraising events this term and I am happy to say we have raised the following:

Odd Sock Day = £290.0

Children in Need = £ 810.00

Christmas Jumper Day = £304 so far with still time to donate and cash to be counted.

## PTFA News

Ticket sales for our Christmas Trail are now live! Don't forget you can purchase your tickets either through our eventbrite link –

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hyde-park-schools-ptfa-christmas-trail-tickets-219884900657> and the pack will be emailed to you (please note eventbrite adds charges making the pack £5.50), or through sending £5 in to school in an envelope marked with your child's name and class, the pack will be printed and sent home with your child.

The trail will run from 18th Dec - 1st Jan and all the details are in the pack.

Thank you for supporting the PTFA and Hyde Park Schools, have fun!

## Staff changes - Infants

Sadly Mrs Smith in Poplar Class has decided to leave us at the end of this term to spend more time with her family. She will be sharing her plans with the children in Poplar on Monday when she is next in. We all wish her well for whatever she decides to do next. In January, Poplar will still have Mrs Blackmore, but joining her will be Mrs Vince who some of you may know from the Junior school staff. She has already been working with us this term and has become a familiar face across the school.

## School Good News

School Sports Ambassador, Joshua Goodrum, was presented with an award by the Mayor of Plymouth for the top performing junior boy in recognition of his swimming achievements at the recent City of Plymouth ASA Swimming Gala. Joshua, who swims for Plymouth Leander, won 10 golds and 1 silver at the competition, hosted at the Life Centre, which saw swimmers from seven local swimming clubs competing across three days.

