

Thursday 18th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

A Year at Hamstel Infant School & Nursery

Here we are at the end of the academic year and what a year it has been at Hamstel Infants and Nursery!

Our children have had so many fantastic learning and enrichment experiences over the year and they have embraced and enjoyed everything we have offered them...they have quite frankly, been amazing throughout!

Here's a review of everything that's happened this year;

Way back in October, the year got off with a bang with the visit of Happy's Circus, this gave us a real 'feel-good' event to get the year started in style.

As a whole school we have celebrated such events as Harvest festival and Remembrance Day, while also taking part in national events including Children in Need, Odd Socks Day and Anti-bullying week. Looking for any chance to dress up, we held pirate days, superhero days and Christmas Jumper day. We wore green for Mental Health awareness and the costumes on display during our World Book Day celebrations were simply fantastic!

Children wowed their parents with each year group completing a dazzling performance across the year; Reception and Nursery performed their annual Nativities, while Year 2 performed their Christingle service. Then Year 1 got us in the mood for some better weather, with their 'Rise and Shine' Spring show. The Year 2s gave us a fitting end to their time at Hamstel Infants with a fabulous showing of their 'Pirates vs Mermaids' leavers show and there wasn't a dry eye in the house for all the right reasons!

Food seemed to play a big part in some of our other curriculum enrichment activities as we made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, had a relatives afternoon tea, a Teddy Bears picnic and even held a traditional knight's banquet.

We have also had several visitors to school, visiting authors, the fire and police services, story tellers and our regular visiting friend of Hamstel, Revd Andy Goodliff. Night Owls visited to give the children a close-up view of their amazing birds and our crazy visiting scientist thrilled the children with dry ice and real fire used in his



experiments. The NSPCC delivered their 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' workshops and our Year 2s took part in a mini first aid training, a vital part of our safety and wellbeing practices here at Hamstel. We couldn't forget Gemma's farm, who spent two days in the wildlife garden giving such memorable, hands-on experiences to all our children.

It was also great to have our own staff involved in our enrichment programme as Mrs Nanda and Miss Ahmed, both spoke to classes about their own faith and their Eid celebrations to enrich our multi-cultural week.

The local community is an important part of our experiences at Hamstel with each class visiting Southend beach or one of our local churches, paying a visit to the local library or the post box to deliver those all-important letters to Santa. Our choir took their festive voices to local residential homes at Christmas, which the elderly residents loved singing along with and our Year 1 children visited The Hive each term, for their seasonal visits. Our biggest educational visit of the year, was for Year 2, who loved their day at Hyde Hall gardens, where a fabulous time was had by all!

In sports news, all our children took part in our whole school sports day in June, where after adding up all the points from our three separate year group sports days, our Red team were pronounced the overall winners. Our Team Hamstel sports teams, took part in tag rugby, cross country, 3Ts cricket, gymnastics, active Maths and mini games competitions, before bringing home the first of two trophies. The first was a win in the Quad Kids event, which was then followed up with overall second place in the Borough Sports. Well done Team Hamstel!

Creatively, we have also excelled, as our Cotton-eye Joe Cowgirl Dancers and our choir, wowed the other schools with their line dancing and singing at the Infant Dance Festival and Music Festival respectively.

On the academic front, we were blown away by the hard work and dedication shown by our Year 1 children to record an amazing 92% pass rate in the Phonics Screening Checks and we can confidently say that every single one of our children has made good progress this year. We hope you enjoy looking through the work that they bring home with them today. If your child has some books missing we have kept hold of them in school as good pieces of evidence but we will ensure that they are back with the children by the first half term.

And to finish, just a few thank you's....



Our wonderful PTA have worked so hard this year to deliver Mother's Day and Father's Day sales, a fantastic Christmas film event for the children, helping at the Christmas Fair and most recently, the Summer Fair that happened last week. A really big thank you for all your support and hard work at these events and many more besides.

As always, you, as our valued parents and carers, played a big part in school life again this year – coming into school to take part in academic workshops with your children around phonics, Maths, handwriting, reading and the curriculum, as well as more creative sessions such as, outdoor learning, our Christmas and Easter craft days, sewing workshops and of course, our performances and sports days. Thank you so much for trusting us with your children and for all the support you have given over the year and we look forward to more of the same next year.

To all our children...thank you for being brilliant this year! And to our wonderful Year 2 children, it's a fond goodbye but also a huge good luck for the future in Year 3. You have been an amazing year group and we will miss you all but we know that you leave Hamstel Infants ready to fly ever higher!

Finally, to every one of our fantastic staff....a heartfelt thank you for everything you have done and continue to do to make Hamstel Infants great – enjoy your well earned break!

And finally, all that remains for me to say is, I hope you all have a great summer, rest, recharge, relax and have fun together and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 4th September for what I am sure will be another fantastic year at Hamstel Infant School and Nursery!

Best regards,



Scott Roche

Principal

