

## Headteacher Update

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As we embrace the new school year, our schools are alive with the chatter of children exploring the Stone Age, locating their homes on Google Maps and enjoying lively sing-alongs during our music assemblies. We are especially proud of our new Reception pupils, who are gaining confidence every day. It's delightful to hear the sound of value tokens dropping into the box, sometimes even before 9am! These tokens are awarded for demonstrating respect, resilience or reflection and the children take great pride in sharing their achievements with any adult nearby. Our teaching staff have been fortunate to receive training from the inspiring Bob Cooper to enhance our Primary Science curriculum, as well as from Sarah Cottingham to deepen our understanding of making learning more meaningful and lasting.

A big 'thank you' to our HSA and CFSA members, who have been hard at work planning this year's events and supporting the school in numerous ways. Both groups are eager to welcome new members, so please stop by the office if you're interested in getting involved.

Lastly, I kindly ask that younger siblings refrain from playing on the banks and play equipment at the end of the day. It gets quite busy, and we want to ensure everyone's safety.

We have an exciting half-term ahead, with plenty of glitter and fun in store, and we look forward to seeing you at our parent events!

## HSA / CFSA

The parent support groups at both schools have had their initial meetings and have been busy organising the dates and events for this academic year. They have planned a busy but exciting calendar. The Hayeswood children enjoyed a spooky Halloween disco and the Colehill children were excited to be breaking the rules on Friday. The CFSA and HSA raise such valuable funds for the schools through their many planned events. If you would like to know more about supporting them with upcoming events, please contact the school offices who can put you in contact with the wonderful committee members.

## Science

Hayeswood and Colehill remain part of the STEM Enthuse project and this half term our CPD focus has been on Science planning and progression. The teaching staff met with other colleagues at Merley First to review the progression of our curriculum and learn about new resources which we can implement. This was a great opportunity to network and reflect upon our current practice.

The focus for the Autumn 2 term will be on Science and the curriculum links with Maths and English. Our twilight session will be run by Bob Cooper who is our Enthuse mentor and Science genius...well that's my opinion!

Mrs Cuff, Science lead.

## School Council

As the term began, the school took part in our very own democracy and conducted a vote to welcome in our new School Council members.

We've had a busy start to the term by discussing Children In Need and how we'd like to support this charity as well as other fundraising opportunities across the year.

The children at Hayeswood delivered the NSPCC Kindness Challenge assembly whereby they acted out different scenarios of being kind to provide inspiration for the rest of the school. As we go into the Autumn 2 term, we'll be thinking about Christmas and how we can support our local community.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the families for their continued support with our fund raising events.

## Harvest Festival

Hayeswood and Colehill have both celebrated Harvest with singing and poems during assembly. The Routes for Roots Charity was extremely grateful for the kind donations and touched by the generosity of families in both schools.

## Year Four Trip

As part of our enrichment curriculum, Year 4 from both schools visited Rockley Activity Centre for a Teambuilding Day. The visit offered an excellent opportunity for the children to develop their social skills and self confidence. The children enjoyed completing a range of activities, including rock climbing, archery and a blindfolded obstacle course. It was so wonderful to see the Badgers and Kestrels working collaboratively and building positive relationships ahead of their transition to Year 5 next year.

Mr Herrington and Mr Rayner  
Year 4 Class Teachers

## Opal

The children have started back this academic year with continued, wonderful enthusiasm for our OPAL playtimes! As mentioned previously, we will be asking for donations for the children to play with. If you ever have any donations, such as small world toys, cardboard boxes, bikes, scooters, trikes, ride-along wheeled toys, guttering, plastic cars, buckets and spades, baby dolls or prams, please now drop these, **any time**, in our **OPAL Donations Box**, situated on the school playground.

So far this year, we have introduced more crates and cardboard boxes onto the playground, wheeled play and our brand new sandpit! We are so grateful to everyone involved in building this - the children are thoroughly enjoying having their own sandpit at school!

A reminder of the huge benefits of play:

- It is essential for physical, emotional, social, spiritual and intellectual development.
- Play enhances children's self-esteem and their understanding of others within groups of different ages, abilities, interests, genders, ethnicities and cultures.
- Play requires ongoing communication and negotiation skills.
- Play encourages self-confidence and the ability to make choices and to be creative.

# Upcoming dates

## Colehill First School

Monday 4th November - Inset Day  
Tuesday 5th November - Pupils Return to School  
Thursday 7th November - CFSA AGM at 3.30pm  
Monday 11th November - OPAL Stay and Play Event at 2pm  
Thursday 21st November - Reception Class Vision Screening  
Wednesday 27th November - Reception Class NCMP  
Thursday 28th November - Christmas Shop  
Friday 29th November - Non-Uniform Day (Alcohol Tombola)  
Friday 6th December - Non-Uniform/Christmas Jumper Day (Chocolate Tombola)  
Friday 6th December - Christmas Fair  
Tuesday 10th/Wednesday 11th December - Christmas Performances  
Tuesday 10th/Thursday 12th December - Wreath Making Evenings  
Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Lunch  
Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Discos  
Thursday 19th December - Last Day of Term  
Friday 20th December - Monday 6th January - Christmas Holiday

## Hayeswood First School

Monday 4th November - Inset Day  
Tuesday 5th November - Pupils return to School  
Tuesday 5th - Tuesday 12th November - Scholastic Book Fair  
Thursday 7th November - Reception Class Vision Screening  
Friday 8th November - HSA Mufti Day (chocolate donations)  
Tuesday 12th November - OPAL stay and play event  
Friday 15th November - Children In Need cake sale  
Monday 18th November - Reception Class NCMP  
Thursday 28th November - Christmas Fair  
Friday 6th December - Christmas Jumper Day  
Tuesday 10th December - Carols under the Canopy  
Wednesday 11th December - Reception & Year 1 Nativity 2:15pm  
Thursday 12th December - Reception & Year 1 Nativity 10:00am  
Thursday 19th December - Last Day of Term  
Friday 20th December - Inset Day

