



YENTON NEWSLETTER



Yenton Primary School

Issue No. 7

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Chester Road, Erdington, B24 0ED 0121 464 6588

Head's Message - Paul Smith

Dear Families

It only seems like a few weeks ago that I was writing my first newsletter to all of our families—the year has simply flown by. In this newsletter we have recorded some of the highlights of our school year for you to read. Our school has continued to move forwards, and we were happy to welcome back Mr Weston, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools in June to review our school. Mr Weston recognised the progress the school has made in such a short space of time—well done everyone! We have seen many changes over the last year and now need time for all of these changes to become embedded. I would like to thank you all for your support for our school—together we can all achieve more! Have a happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday 5th September

Look at our brilliant results

Please look at our end of Key stage results this year—all of our pupils, staff and parents have worked extremely hard and we are all justifiably proud of how well our pupils have done.

Reception class	2016	2017	Difference
% of pupils at expected level	58%	63%	+5%

Yr 1 Phonics Screen check	2016	2017	Difference
% of pupils at expected level	79%	74%	-5%

Year 2 SATS	2016	2017	Difference
Reading at or above expected level	62%	68%	+6%
Writing at or above expected level	58%	68%	+10%
Maths at or above expected level	68%	73%	+5%

Year 6 SATS	2016	2017	Difference
Reading	65%	71%	+6%
Writing	73%	73%	--
Maths	82%	79%	-3%
Reading, writing and maths combined	53%	58%	+5%



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New classes for September 2017

Current class	New class and new teacher
RG	Mrs Wintle (1W)
RL	Mrs Vadgama (1V)
RD	Mrs Begum (1B)
1V	Mrs Breen (2B)
1H	Miss Firstbrook (2F)
1B	Miss Akhtar (2A)
2M	Mixed classes – Mrs Howell and Mr Devaney (3H/3D)
2C	Mixed classes – Mrs Howell and Mr Devaney (3H/3D)
3G	Miss Jacks (4J)
3H	Mrs Engers (4E)
4J	Mixed classes – Mrs Marnell and Mr Stamp (5M/5S)
4N	Mixed classes – Mrs Marnell and Mr Stamp (5M/5S)
5S	Mrs Brennan (6B)
5C	Miss Dodd—will be Mrs Hillman in the new term (6H)

Moving on

As we come to the end of another academic year, we are sad to have to say goodbye to some of our teachers and teaching assistants, all of whom have given our school sterling service over their time with us. Mrs Connaughton, Miss Nevitt and Miss Green are all moving onto challenges new at a local primary school. Miss Harris is also moving onto pastures new, along with Miss Clarke, who is taking a break from teaching to travel and see more of the world. Unfortunately, due to the financial strains that all schools are increasingly under, we have to say goodbye to Mrs Purcell, Miss Edden, Miss Gaffney and Miss Humphries. Mr Hurley, who covered for Mrs Pattinson's maternity leave is also having to move on. We wish all of our leavers the very best of luck in their new endeavours!

Warm welcomes

We have been very fortunate this year in recruiting new staff and have been able to be fully staffed for the new academic year. We would like to welcome Miss Firstbrook, an experienced Y2 teacher from Robin Hood and Mrs Wintle, also an experienced teacher from Hall Green Infant School. Mr Devaney is also bringing his knowledge of key stage 2 into our Y3 classes. Miss Begum, who some of you may already know as she completed her student year with us, is joining us full time in Year 1 and Miss Akhtar completes our teaching complement in Year 2. I am sure that you will all extend the very warmest of welcomes to our new teaching staff as they enter into our school, ready for the challenges of the new school year. Welcome one and all!

Message from the Governing Board

Dear Parents and Carers, as the summer holidays beckon we would like to thank you all for your continued support for the school, the children and the staff. As we reach the end of the academic year, we want to recognise the hard work and achievements of our children – from the progress they have made in all areas of the curriculum to their successes in wider activities such as their amazing assemblies and concerts, their creative art work, their sporting skills and of course their numerous 'Y Factor' talents!

Children, it is a pleasure and a privilege to see and hear about what you have achieved over the past year. Our Year 6 pupils are now reaching a huge milestone in their lives, and will be leaving us next week and moving on to new schools in September. We wish them all the very best for the future. The Governors would like to thank our dedicated and hard working staff for their continuing efforts. We wish all staff who will be leaving us the very best for the future. We would also like to thank the PTFA for their continuing hard work in organising successful social events. Have a wonderful summer break.

Vicki Popplewell, Chair of the Governing Board

What a world of sports!



Once again the weather held off, well almost, for our annual sports day fun. The children were all magnificent and fully participated in the various events. It was fantastic to see how supportive the children were of each other. Well done to the winning teams, Team Red in KS2 and Team Yellow in KS1!

Thanks to Miss Lippitt for organising all of the events and to all of our staff who made this such a memorable day for our pupils. Well done everyone!



Sports Report

This term has been a great term for sport! Year 5 and 6 girls took part in a Netball and Rounders competition and did the school incredibly proud, they placed third in Netball and fourth in Rounders. Year 5 boys took part in a 6-aside football competition at Wyndley and their teamwork was fantastic. The boys got into the semi-final and placed 4th. Once again the children were a credit to the school and were complemented on their behaviour by teachers from different schools in our local area. A deputy Headteacher from a local primary school said "Your children were extremely well behaved and showed outstanding sportsmanship in the games that they played." Very well done to all of our sportspersons who have represented our school so well over the past year.

Forest School Rocks!

We've had an extremely busy year over in the forest and it has been wonderful for the children to identify the seasonal changes that have taken place. It is great to see the children developing a sense of ownership and wanting to take care of our natural resources and the creatures that live around us.

We have enjoyed making pine cone bird feeders and hedgehog homes during the cold winter months and beautiful Christmas wreaths for the children to take home. Spring was equally exciting as Year 1 built a small pond to house some frogspawn that was very kindly donated to us. We are really enjoying watching the changes that are taking place as we now have some beautiful little froglets!



The children have identified many creatures living in our forest school and are able to distinguish what is an insect and what isn't. We have read many texts in the forest including 'The Owl Babies' and 'Stickman'. We have had fun and carried out lots of activities linked to the texts including mud hand print owls, making clay owls and retelling 'Stickman' using our own personalised stick people!

We are very lucky to have our very own, top of the range, mud kitchen which the children have had a real blast making lots of mud pies and other delicacies! I'm sure that next year will be equally as busy!



It's GOOD to be in the Yenton Zone

Our new behaviour system continues to move from strength to strength. It is very pleasing for me and the other members of the senior leadership team to see how proud the children are of their bronze, silver or gold stickers. It is especially lovely to hear them tell us about their friends' successes as well! For our half term behaviour reward, the children will be having a picnic and play on the field adjoining Goodison Gardens. This will be on the 18th July for Key Stage and on the 19th July for Key Stage 2. As ever, this is for all the children who have maintained good behaviour throughout the half term. If your child is invited to attend, can you please provide a small amount of picnic food.



Highlights of our year at Yenton.

Below you will see some of the highlights of this past year at our school. Every year group has done well and has continued to push their learning journeys forwards. Please take the time to read some of our wonderful memories of our school year.

Reception

It has been a very busy first year for Reception at Yenton Primary school. We have had lots of new experiences and learnt many new things that have all aided us on our path to becoming confident learners. In the autumn term we showed off our fabulous performing skills in the Nativity play and undertook our first school trip, going to the cinema to see 'Moana'. The spring term was full of celebrations to be discovered, making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, tasting Chinese food for Chinese New Year and having fun at our Easter workshop with family and friends. In the summer term we were able to watch an incubator of eggs hatch into chicks, planted sunflowers and explored our outdoor area to find bugs. We competed in sports day, sang our hearts out in our learning assembly and went on a visit to Umberslade Farm. Forest school, PE lessons and school discos have taken place all year to help us understand that learning and working together is fun. What an eventful year we have had!

Year 1

We have worked exceptionally hard and have experienced a variety of different activities to help us learn this year, including Culture Day, Talk 4 Writing, World Religion Day and World Book Day. The children have adored their adventures in Forest School throughout the year. Our trip to Botanical Gardens gave the children the opportunity to get up close to a range of plants and reptiles. The sessions at Twycross Zoo inspired our children about the natural world around them and gave them a real insight to see over 150 species, including many endangered animals. We have also worked extremely hard in Maths, learning lots of new skills and testing these in fun investigations. In English we have learnt to write lots of different genres and have been working hard to use different punctuation in our writing. Discovering a letter from a Palaeontologist in the Spring term, children were very excited to discover fossils and some dinosaur eggs around the school and produced a variety of amazing posters, stories and fact files.

Year 2

Year 2 have worked their socks off this year! They have experienced a variety of different activities to help them learn including NSPCC Maths Day, Easter Activity Day, learning how to swim and topics on the Royal Family. We especially enjoyed uncovering some misplaced alien eggs this year which helped us to write some amazing instructions on how to look after an alien. Pupils have enjoyed Talk 4 Writing activities which have given them opportunities to learn stories by heart and extend their writing skills. As part of our topic on the Rainforest we were lucky enough to visit the rainforest of Borneo using virtual reality headsets with Google Pioneers. We then visited Twycross Zoo to see some of these animals in real life. Our topic on Rainforests has taught us about how precious our world is and many of us have developed some very sensible views about how we might be able to take care of our environment in the future. We are so proud of all their exceptional efforts this year.

Year 3

It has been an extremely busy year for all involved in Year Three. The children have had the opportunity to dress up for our Egyptian day, take part in a treasure hunt around school, and even solved an ancient murder mystery! They demonstrated their acting skills at Christmas, with our production of *An Ordinary Ox*, which proved to be one of the most memorable and heart-warming productions Yenton Primary School has seen for many years. Throughout the spring term, the children attended swimming sessions. It has been a delight to see how many of our children have improved their swimming skills and water confidence. When visiting BMAG in the summer term, the children's behaviour was impeccable. Several passengers on the train and in the museum, commented on how well behaved the children were. All the children have worked extremely hard this year and all the staff in Year Three are very proud of them and we hope they have a restful summer.

Year 4

We've had a great time in Year 4! Our topics have included Roman Britain, South America, Rainforests, the Mayans and 1066. For these topics, we've been on some exciting trips, including Wroxeter Roman Fort, Cadbury World and Warwick Castle.

As well as this, we've enjoyed our 'hook' lessons in English, such as designing and making our own 'Chip' cups from Beauty and the Beast, making our Mayan masks from mod-roc and creating our own junk models of robots for 'The Iron Man'. It has been lovely to see how the children have approached every topic with enthusiasm. Throughout the year, Year 4 have excelled in learning to play a musical instrument, and showcased their talents in our assemblies.

Year 5

There have been many memorable moments throughout Year 5. These have included : a variety of themed days, visitors from Google Expeditions, Bollywood dancers, bike-ability and a Saxon historian who brought our topic to life. The children have particularly enjoyed our new hook days to introduce a text in English as part of Talk 4 Writing. Hook days have given the children the opportunity to: launch bottle rockets, watch the Moon Landing whilst eating rock cakes, make bread and find clues to unravel the mysteries of our new text. Our topics have covered both The Vikings and Anglo Saxons as well as The Greeks and we have learnt lots of interesting facts about where they have come from and how they impacted on our society by studying primary and secondary sources. We have also created clay artefacts and art work linked to the different periods of history. All children have partaken in a Year 5 class assembly and we have been amazed at the talent, skills and creativity of each and every child. They never cease to surprise us.

Year 6

There have been many memorable moments throughout Year 6. Our topics have been wide ranging including History (Victorians/World War) and Geography (Extreme Earth). We visited Cannock Chase World War II experience where we carried out role play activities, dressed up in clothes appropriate to the period (including uniform) and experienced an air raid. This year, the children have also taken part in a first aid course. This was a great opportunity for the children to experience a range of scenarios where they would need to administer first aid. They also learnt key lifesaving skills and gained an understanding of scenarios where it is necessary to phone an ambulance. In addition to this, our residential (that the majority of pupils attended) was another great success. Our fourth visit as a school to Whitemoor Lakes enabled pupils to experience a wide range of activities, most of which they had not had the opportunity to participate in before. Pupils also learnt how to work as a team and in doing so became more rounded individuals.

Attendance

It was fantastic yesterday to wave off 50 excited children and teachers, all of whom had achieved 100% attendance this year—a wonderful achievement! We have roughly twice as many winners this year compared to last year. Our whole school attendance is 96.08% (Y1—Y6) which is just above the national average. Well done everyone—lets keep this up next year!



Summer Fayre

A big thank you to everyone who attended our summer fayre after school on Friday 30th June. It was a fantastic event and was extremely well attended. We would also like to thank an ex-Yenton pupil Darius Vassell (an ex-Aston Villa professional footballer) who gave a master class in goalkeeping! Thanks to our PTFA for organising and running such a successful event and to all of our staff who threw themselves into the spirit of the fayre—especially Mr Stamp. We are pleased to tell you that we raised a grand total of £1034.61. Well done everyone!



Dates For Your Diary

Day	Date	Diary Item
Thurs	13th July	KS1 awards assembly 9:10am
Thurs	13th July	Rockstars competition Y1—Y6 : Children can come dressed as rockstars for the day!
Thurs	13th July	Non Uniform Day & PTFA School Disco (KS1 2:15 - 3:15 - KS2 3:30 - 4:30) Year 6 Leavers Disco 4:30 - 5:30
Fri	14th July	KS2 awards assembly 9:10am
Fri	14th July	Attendance Film reward afternoon
Tues	18th July	KS1 good behaviour reward picnic afternoon
Wed	19th July	Y2 Graduation and celebration assembly 9am
Wed	19th July	KS2 good behaviour reward picnic afternoon
Fri	21st July	Year 6 Leavers Production
Fri	21st July	Y-Factor competition afternoon
Fri	21st July	End of Term - School closes for all pupils for Summer Holidays at normal time
Mon	4th Sept	Staff training day—school closed to all pupils
Tues	5th Sept	School open to all pupils (Y1—Y6) at the normal time

“Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson