HCCPS TIMES

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Headteacher - Mrs Cate Oxley-Thompson

Curiosity, Community and Celebration!

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, it is a great opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved across the school. From exciting trips and enrichment opportunities to special events and the fantastic learning taking place in classrooms every day, our pupils have continued to demonstrate enthusiasm, resilience, and a real passion for learning.

Year 1 and 2 had a fantastic day at Hertfordshire Zoo as part of their dinosaur topic. During their visit to the dinosaur park, the children came face-to-face with a range of prehistoric creatures, learning fascinating facts and even voting for their favourite dinosaur. They also explored the differences between herbivores and carnivores, helping to bring their classroom learning to life. After their dinosaur adventure, the children enjoyed exploring the zoo, where they were thrilled to spot some of the star attractions, including the lionesses, the bears and the magnificent snow leopard. The trip provided a wonderful opportunity to deepen their understanding of the topic while creating lasting memories.

Last week, we came together as a school community to celebrate our annual Harvest Festival. It was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to reflect on the importance of kindness, gratitude and supporting those in need. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our families for their incredibly generous donations of food and household items. Your overwhelming support once again demonstrates the caring and compassionate nature of our school community. All donations will be delivered to the Cambridge Food Bank, where they will provide valuable support to individuals and families facing hardship across our local area. Thank you for helping us make a positive difference to the lives of others.

We rounded off this busy half term with our annual Science Week. It has been fantastic to see the creativity, curiosity and enthusiasm shown by the children, particularly through the impressive science projects completed at home and proudly showcased at our first-ever Science Fairs across both campuses. Throughout the week, pupils have enjoyed a range of scientific investigations and hands-on learning experiences, including our whole-school challenge to discover the ultimate biscuit for dunking! Competition winners, along with the overall champion biscuit, will be announced after half term. A special thank you needs to go to Mrs Kerss & Mrs Jodin for organising such a wonderful week!

As we head into the break, I would like to thank all of our pupils, staff and families for their continued hard work, commitment and support. It has been a wonderfully busy half term filled with learning, achievements and memorable experiences. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved rest and the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming all of our children back to school on **Monday 2nd November**, ready for another exciting half term of learning and success.

Hardwick Head of Campus Update

After a rigorous recruitment process, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Samantha Chamberlain as Hardwick's new Head of Campus. Sam currently holds a senior leadership role at a local South Cambridgeshire primary school and brings with her a wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm. She is very much looking forward to joining the Hardwick community and working with our pupils, staff and families.

To support a smooth transition, Sam will be spending some time with us next half term, getting to know the school and building relationships with staff and pupils ahead of her official start in January. We are excited to welcome Sam to the team and look forward to the positive impact her leadership will have on the continued success of HCCPS.

Reception Places for 2027 - applications open!

The application process for Reception places is now underway, and we are delighted that our school tours at both campuses have been so well attended. If you know of any families with children due to start school next year, we would be grateful if you could help spread the word amongst friends, family and neighbours.

There are still opportunities to visit us and see our school in action. Our next open events will take place on **Monday 2nd November at 6.00pm at the Hardwick Campus** and **Monday 9th November at 2.00pm at the Cambourne Campus**. Further dates and details can be found on our website under the **News and Events** section.

If you would like to attend a tour, please complete the online booking form via the school website to secure your place. We look forward to welcoming prospective families and sharing everything that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Deck The Halls - reminder

Apologies for mentioning the 'C' word in October, but just a reminder that our popular 'Deck the Halls' event will return on Friday 27th November at 2.15pm. Now in its third year, this festive afternoon has become a much-loved Hardwick tradition and a wonderful way to start the Christmas season together.

We are inviting parents and carers to join their children in school to make Christmas decorations, which will be displayed around the school as part of our festive celebrations before being sent home at the end of term. We look forward to welcoming families once again for an afternoon of creativity, festive fun and community spirit. Please save the date in your diary! 🎄 ✨

Donations Needed for Breaktimes and Lunchtime

Thank you those of you who have donated items so far as part of our continued efforts to improve children's experiences at breaktimes and lunchtimes. We are still accepting donations of items such as art and craft materials, fancy dress costumes, board games and Duplo. These resources help provide a range of engaging and creative activities for children to enjoy. If you have any items you would be willing to donate, please bring them to the school office.