



# HAYTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"Mighty oaks, from little acorns grow"*



9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## First week back at school

Dear parents / carers

I am writing to let you know how our first week back at school has been. We have welcomed all of our new starters across school (including me!) with open arms and we sincerely hope they are settling into our school well.

## The Queen

Of course, today has been a sombre day and, because of the death of the Queen, we will be in a state of national mourning for the next 10 days. This morning we held a whole school assembly where we remembered all the wonderful celebrating and learning that happened earlier this year with the Jubilee celebrations. We remembered what we had learned and thought of the reasons why the Queen was a very special person to so many people. We looked back at her life and talked about the fact that she wasn't 'just' the Queen: she was a mummy, a granny, an aunty, a sister, a wife ..... we saw images of her both in her 'fancy gowns and crowns' as well as in her 'cardigan and skirt'. We then watched her 'jump' from a helicopter to arrive at the 2012 Olympics with James Bond and her wonderful 'tea party' with Paddington Bear earlier this year – now we all know what she kept in her handbag!

Next week, the children will use some of the learning time to look back at different aspects of the Queen's life – our whole school learning theme this term is based around 'Significant People' with Years 4, 5, and 6 learning about five significant monarchs – one of which is her – and Years 2 and 3 learning about our Queens over time: Elizabeth I, Victoria and Elizabeth II. Therefore, whilst we are moving this learning forward slightly, we already had this planned. If the DfE or government bring out any additional information about what is planned to happen during the next couple of weeks, we will, of course, let you know.

## Exciting things in school!

The children have all come back to school with huge smiles on their faces and have settled into their new classes incredibly well. They are also getting used to their new Head Teacher (which has been wonderful for me!).

Our classes are now known by 'woodland' names: The Early Years are the 'Little Acorns'; Year 1 are now 'Hedgehogs'; Years 2 and 3 are now 'Otters'; Years 4 and 5 (Mrs. Hawkswell's class) are now 'Badgers', and Years 5 and 6 (Mrs. Owen's class) are now 'Foxes'. The children are loving finding out about their own woodland creature as part of their learning this week.

Each afternoon, the children have been 'helping' me with some very important 'Head Teacher jobs'. They have been an amazing help to me. They have:

**Head Teacher: Mrs. S Threlkeld-Brown BA Hons, NPQH**

Hayton Church of England Primary School,

Hayton, Brampton, Cumbria, CA8 9 HR

Email: [admin@hayton-cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hayton-cumbria.sch.uk) Tel: 01228 670491





# HAYTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"Mighty oaks, from little acorns grow"*



- Analysed the strengths and areas for development for the school through their eyes. They have had lots of ideas of how things that need improving could be improved and they have a HUGE list of things they would like to 'start' doing. We have already actioned some of the ideas and they will see more changes as the weeks progress.
- Generated a list of 'GREAT' Expectations: these are positive behaviours that we expect from everyone – children and adults alike. We use 'expectations' because we believe there are no limits to what we can achieve rather than having 'rules' to follow. These are 'GREAT' Expectations because we all believe we are a 'GREAT' school – whatever 'grade' we are defined by, by Ofsted, we ARE a GREAT SCHOOL! Our GREAT Expectations are:
  - **G**ood to talk; even better to listen
  - **R**espect ourselves, each other and the environment
  - **E**njoy and achieve responsibly
  - **A**ble to make mistakes and learn from them
  - **T**ogether we are '#TEAMHAYTON' where we all 'REACH FOR THE STARS'!
- Talked about what the word 'values' means and have discussed the key behaviours that they believe are 'valuable' to us as a school that we all want to live by each day here at Hayton. They have created their 'top six' values and we are in the process of looking through their thoughts and ideas – more information to follow soon.
- This afternoon, the children are considering reading: which books they enjoy reading, their favourite book, their favourite book character and they are helping to create an environment in our new whole school library that will be 'buzzing about books'.
- I am sure you will have heard already but if not, our 'special guest' in school is a giant squirrel. It 'appeared' in my office on Monday and, despite my best efforts, has decided to live with us in our school. So the squirrel needs both a name and a job – it can't stay in school and not help us with our learning! The children have been thinking of names and jobs for it – more news to follow on that soon too.

Phew – we have been busy!

## Lunchtimes

Firstly, thank you for your patience with the new school meals ordering system – we appreciate so many of you have got to grips with the system and are pre-ordering your child's lunches. We have had three days now and each day the meals have been of a very high quality – the staff have been very impressed. Because the 'system' Dolce use is different to what the school has been used to, it has taken some time to get into a 'rhythm' for serving lunches. The children have been incredibly patient as we have trialed different ways of serving and clearing up – the best thing we have done

**Head Teacher: Mrs. S Threlkeld-Brown BA Hons, NPQH**

Hayton Church of England Primary School,

Hayton, Brampton, Cumbria, CA8 9 HR

Email: [admin@hayton.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hayton.cumbria.sch.uk) Tel: 01228 670491





# HAYTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"Mighty oaks, from little acorns grow"*



already is the trialing of a 'Buddy' system with children from Years 5 and 6 'buddying up' with a child from Early Years. The older children have been AMAZING at helping the younger children with carrying their plates, cutting up their food and helping them clear away at the end of lunch. So much so that some of the 'buddies' have carried on playing together at lunchtime play. We are going to look at how we can use this idea moving forward – it really has been a joy to see.

## Teamwork

Our first assembly was all about what it means to be part of a 'team'. We talked about the features of an effective 'team' and how helping each other and working together is so important. We shall continue to learn about 'teams' in our assemblies because it is crucial for us all, as a small school, to work together to continue to ensure everyone within our school community is happy and that we continue to be a GREAT school – together. Therefore all the members of our school community are now known as '#TEAMHAYTON'.

## Class information

As next week progresses you will receive letters and information from your child's class teacher with important information about your child's learning this term. We hope you will find these useful.

## Reading

I am passionate about children's reading. I know the absolute benefits that reading to children regularly has on them developing into broad, balanced adults with robust life-chances. I believe reading to children is a gift, as well as listening to your child read regularly. Next week we will be launching a new 'Reading Challenge' across the school – I shall send out more information on this on Monday. But I write to ask you to do two things: please read to your child – daily - and enjoy the love and warmth that sharing a good book brings, along with the excitement of the story and the richness of the words; please listen to your child read daily or, as they get older, ensure they read for 20 minutes each day either to you or on their own.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your warm welcome into the #teamhayton family. I have had the most enjoyable week and I look forward to lots of enjoyment, learning and laughter in the coming weeks, months and years.

Kind regards

Mrs. S Threlkeld-Brown

Head Teacher

**Head Teacher: Mrs. S Threlkeld-Brown BA Hons, NPQH**

Hayton Church of England Primary School,

Hayton, Brampton, Cumbria, CA8 9 HR

Email: [admin@hayton.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hayton.cumbria.sch.uk) Tel: 01228 670491

