



# Hockley Heath Academy Newsletter



Date: DECEMBER 2017

Dear Parents

Thank you for all your support this term and I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018.

Our term has been a busy one with lots to share and shout about. Each phase in school will update you on the exciting things which have been happening this term, and the opportunities they have provided for your children.

Have a lovely holiday and see you on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Mrs R. Gabriel  
PRINCIPAL



## EYFS

### FS1

The children in Nursery this half-term have been explorers. They went on safari to see if there were any wild animals living in Forest School and there were! Their role-play now is a cave with bears living in it and the children have been on a bear hunt.

The Nursery dog, Dudley Coco, got lost and he sent a note asking for help. The children found clues and went to rescue him.

### FS2

Over the term Reception have enjoyed responding to letters they have received from characters within books. They received a letter from the Owl Babies asking how they could get their Mummy to come back home. Reception were very worried about the babies and using their own ideas, they decided to write a letter to the Mummy Owl telling her to come back home. They hung the letters on trees as they realised they didn't know where to send the letters! The Mummy Owl responded to our children's letters, thanking them for being so helpful and for letting her know that her babies needed her.

## MIDDLE PHASE - YEARS 1, 2 AND 3

### Year 1

In the first half term of Autumn, Year 1 explored nature through the topic 'The Enchanted Woodland'. They were very lucky to have the opportunity to do three Forest School sessions, as well as going into the Nature Area to explore. The children collected treasures along the way to help with some Art and DT projects throughout the half term. Using treasures, a mixture of stick and leaves, they built their own mini dens. They then had fun manipulating clay to make a tree boggart, which they decorated with leaves, sticks, acorns and conkers to create a face. Finally they made a woodland crown, decorated with woodland items.



During the second half term Year 1 became SUPER. They had to use their 'Super sight' to spot clues hidden in and around the classroom. Then they learnt about their senses and had to identify what mystery item was in a set of boxes, using smell, sight and hearing. Year 1 also developed their cooking skills by measuring ingredients to make some 'Superfood' recipes using foods such as bananas, oats and honey. Finally they finished their topic with a Superhero dress up day, filled with fun activities to show everything they had learnt over the half term.

### **Year 2**

Year 2 have had a lot of fun throughout the Autumn term. During their topics, they have enjoyed model making and walking around the village to identify different features. The children and their parents put so much effort and hard work when making structures from around the world. They were all amazing!

Year 2 have worked hard in Maths and English to write creatively and to learn new methods. This has been challenging but we are very proud of their achievements and progress.

### **Year 3**

It has been an exciting term for year 3! Starting with their 'Mighty Metals' project, the children explored the power and impact of metals on their lives. They found out where metals come from, and the differences between them. In design, the children created amazing playground designs, using their knowledge of materials. Following this, their study of magnetism helped them carry out scientific experiments on materials to see if they had magnetic properties. Their project culminated in designing and building their very own robots!

In this second half term year 3 explored 'Tremors!' First they explored the use of brick and stone in modern building, investigating the school buildings. Next they explored the power of the earth to shake, destroy and even grow. They erupted their volcano models, and learnt what is going on underneath the Earth's crust!

## **UPPER PHASE - YEARS 4, 5, AND 6**

### **Year 4**

The children had an engaging Potions Day this term, where they arrived in school dressed as wizards and witches. They had the opportunity to create some magical melted wax artwork, linking with their Science topic, 'Solids and Liquids' and reversible change. Also, they dramatized atmospheric Macbeth poetry with the meeting of the three witches.

### **Year 5**

The Autumn term in year 5 has been filled with activities and excitement. The year started with a bang: a trip to Drayton Manor to launch their rollercoaster ride topic *Scream Machine*. The children built their own drop towers over a number of weeks, and tested them with crash test eggs. Luckily no yolk was spilled! In their second half term, the children's learning has been based around Ancient Egypt and has been full of fun too. They have made names and canopic jars and also had a visit from a real-life Egyptologist. She told the children about the mummies she has met! Finally, this term year 5 have taken part in the fabulous Peter Jones "Tycoon in Schools" project. They set up their own businesses and are in the midst of advertising and trading their bespoke home-made goods.

## Year 6

The children took part in a War Memories Day in October, where they all came to school dressed as evacuees. They performed a dance, which they had created themselves, and sang some war time songs to their guests. The guests were then interviewed about their experiences during or following WW2. The rest of the day was spent trying to crack codes which were used to send secret messages during WW2. The children would like to thank all of the guests who gave up their time to come and spend with them. It was a valuable experience for the pupils and one which they enjoyed very much.

Betty Bus arrived in November for pupils in Year 5 and 6. They spent time finding out about and discussing changes to their bodies and emotions as they head towards puberty.

## WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

### School Closure in Bad Weather

If the school needs to be closed due to bad weather, we will always post updates to our social media pages.

### Children in Need

Many thanks for supporting Children in Need. We collected £350 to forward to this worthy cause.

### School Fund

From Spring term 2018 we will be asking for a voluntary contribution of £10 per family per term. This will assist the school in purchasing up-to-date I.T. equipment, such as tablets and laptops to support the pupils with their learning.

### Christmas Fair

We would like to thank the P.T.A. for all their hard work in organising another successful Christmas Fair. All proceeds from the Fair and this year's events are going towards purchasing new interactive whiteboards.

### Dog Mess

Please report any dog fouling to Solihull Council, as the more people informing them the more likely they are to do something about it.

### Christmas Jumper Day

We collected £150 on Christmas Jumper Day to forward to Birmingham Children's Hospital. Thank you for your support.

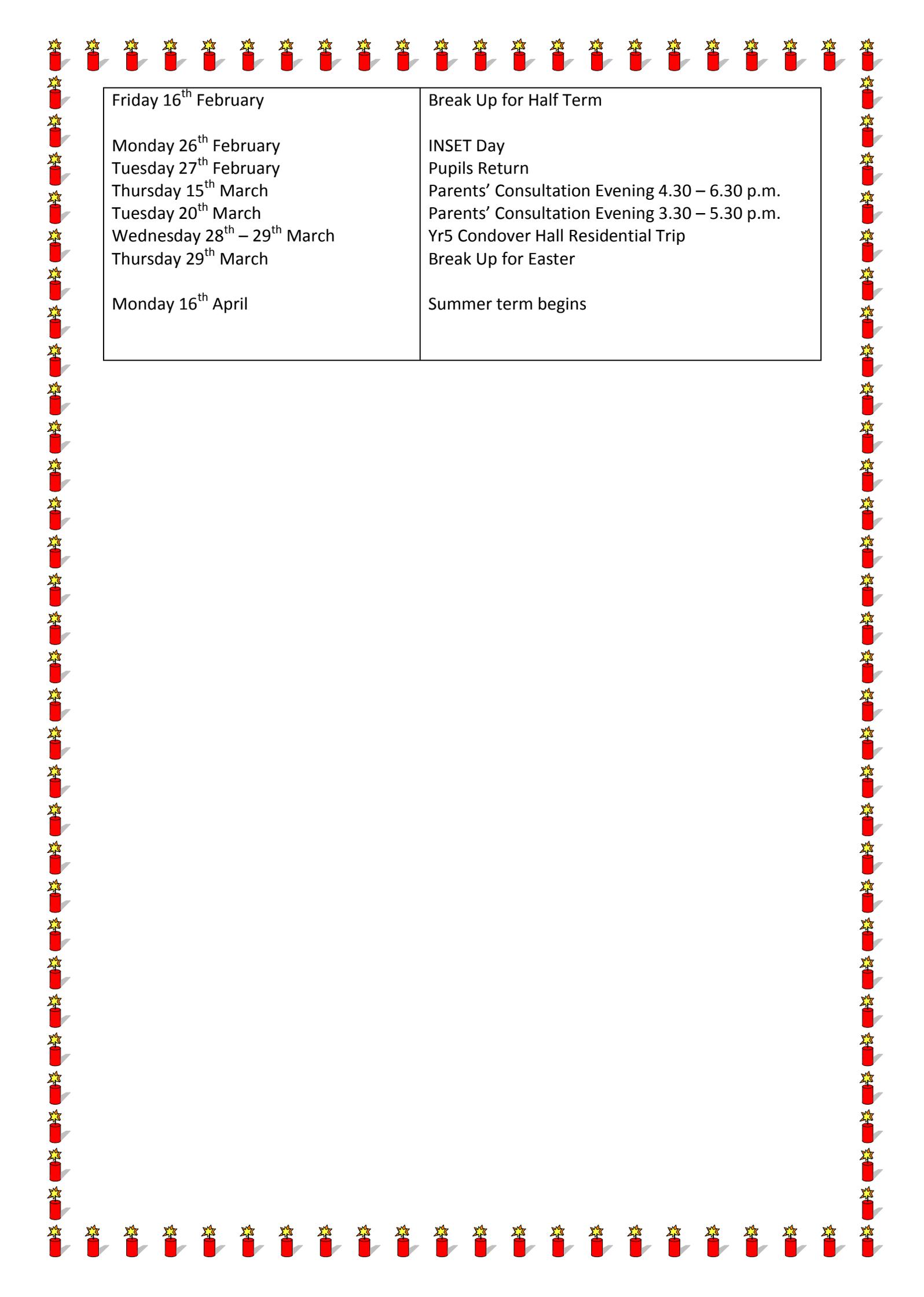
## DIARY DATES

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Yr2 Cake Sale  
Break Up for Christmas

INSET Day  
Pupils Return  
Yr3 Swimming Lessons  
Yr4 Trip to Birmingham Sea Life Centre  
Yr5 Trip to Tudor World, Stratford-upon-Avon  
Young Voices Concert at Genting Arena



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Break Up for Half Term

INSET Day

Pupils Return

Parents' Consultation Evening 4.30 – 6.30 p.m.

Parents' Consultation Evening 3.30 – 5.30 p.m.

Yr5 Condover Hall Residential Trip

Break Up for Easter

Summer term begins