



Happy Friday everyone! What an apt central picture above in our header this week...



Despite missing some of our children and colleagues this week due to illness, we have had yet another fun-filled week here at Hiltingbury Juniors. Please do note the flu advice sent home yesterday so more of us can enjoy the fun next week.

One particular highlight has been working with our local schools in partnership to provide children with some exciting opportunities to enjoy. Tuesday was a particularly busy day in this regard. Our Year 6 children were very lucky in going to Thornden School to watch the fantastic performance of *Guys and Dolls*. Many of them have come back even more enthusiastic about ensuring our *Mary Poppins* production is equally spectacular. It was wonderful to see our Learning Councils from both the Hiltingbury schools working together to review what we do brilliantly and what we can do next. You can read more about their wonderful feedback below. Well done to all the Learning Council pupils. You made us very proud.

The final highlight for many of us was arriving to our school grounds covered in a blanket of snow this morning. We had a wonderfully fun extra playtime before the school day began... although I did seem to end up a little covered in snow!!

Have fun and stay warm this chilly weekend,

Miss Philip



An 'ambitious' walk



On Tuesday, the Infant School Learning Council came to meet the Junior School Learning Council and we did a shared learning walk around the classes. We decided that we wanted to look for ambition in learning, as this is a learning skill both the Infants and Juniors highly value. We agreed upon a list of what ambition might look like in learning and then split into groups and visited the different year groups. In just one hour we saw so many examples of ambition! This included children trying again and again e.g. in PE if they dropped the ball, asking the teacher for advice on how to improve, aiming to do as much as they possibly could in the time, pushing themselves to do all three challenges on the whiteboard, having a growth mind-set and giving the learning a go (even if it was tough!) and, in only five minutes left of a lesson, making the most of every second of learning time! This is just a flavour of all of the ambitious learning we saw. It was excellent to be able to work together as Learning Councils and we look forward to visiting the Infant School next time to look for learning skills there.

Miss Chambers 😊

Y3 Salad Making



Year 3 have been immersed in salad making this week. Previously, they had taste tested and selected which traditional ingredients they wanted to keep and which ingredients, from the same food group, they wished to substitute in. During the making phase, the children learned how to peel, chop and slice safely in order to make the Salad Nicoise that they had designed. The results both looked and tasted splendid!

The Year 3 team would like to say a HUGE thank you to all the parents who came in to support us this week: every class teacher agreed that it wouldn't have been possible without you.

We hope you all enjoyed the tasty treat that your child brought home - although some needed considerable persuading to leave some to take home!



We Care Certificates this week



Jaxxon H (4S) Olympic Team-Player
Freya A (6W) Always Happy to Help



Marc M (30) Storyteller extraordinaire



Daisy W (3P) Beautifully presented salad
Jasmine L (5R) Colourful Carnival Creation
Sophie M (4E) Super storytelling!
Matthew F (6H) A budding reporter



Ben R (3DN) Controlled Knife Skills
Alicia B (5W) Amazing writing improvements
Charlotte W (4P) Always her best



Alessia B (5B) Driving Herself Forward



Sanavi V (6C) Seeking Knowledge

Communications this week (copies of these letters can be found on our website)

Group	Content	Date of Event/Deadline
Whole School	Email communications regarding Flu outbreaks and Scarlet Fever	
Year 5	Cycle Training Information	11 th , 18 th and 25 th March

Dates for Next Week

4 th February	R&R Lower School Football 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the music room
5 th February	Y3 Art Gallery visit Information Letter
6 th February	NO Y6 HJS FOOTBALL OR NETBALL Parents Evening Street Dance whole school 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the hall
7 th February	Parents Evening R&R Y5 Netball 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the music room
8 th February	R&R Lower School Netball 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the music room

HSPTA News

Get to know the HSPTA Vice-Chair...

Name: Nicky

Children: 2 Children, one currently in Year 2 and one in Year 6.

Occupation: I work full time as a Science Teacher and Technician.



Why did you take on the role of Vice-Chair?

I had been involved with the HSPTA for the few years in gradually increasing roles before I became Vice-Chair. I began by attending a few meetings, then volunteered to jointly run the raffle and silent auction at the Christmas Fair, then I organised the Summer Fair for a couple of years. Through these roles I saw first-hand how much the PTA contributes to our schools, both in raising money for the extras to enhance the children's education, as well as putting on events to bring us all together as a community and make memories for our children. I also made a number of good friends and met some fantastic people I probably wouldn't have met otherwise. Due to my work, I didn't feel that I could offer the level of commitment I would want to give in a Chairing role, but as Vice-Chair I have really enjoyed being able to contribute and support the Chair in ensuring that all this good work would continue.

What is the best thing about being Vice-Chair?

I feel immensely proud to be a trustee of the HSPTA charity, and to have contributed to its continuing works over my 3 year term. The best thing for me has probably been the social side of things. It has been wonderful experience to work with and oversee a group of such enthusiastic, energetic and friendly people; both parents and staff at both schools are incredibly committed to the HSPTA cause. Seeing the culmination of everyone's efforts at each and every event, as well as what we collectively achieve over the course of each year (adding the tangible benefits to the children's educational experiences as well as the smiling faces at the events) is so rewarding.

What is the worst thing about being Vice-Chair?

I genuinely can't think of an answer to this one, I have really enjoyed the role.

What have you gained personally from being Vice-Chair?

Being Vice-Chair has given me a huge boost to my self-confidence and I credit my experience with aiding my return to work. I had been a stay-at-home mum for the best part of a decade when I took on the role, and felt that I had forgotten a lot of my professional skills from my time before having children. The idea of re-entering the workplace after such a long time was a very scary prospect! A trustee role within the HSPTA carried with it a level of responsibility but within a setting that felt friendly and with support network if I needed it. It gave me the chance to hone my 'soft' skills of organisation, delegation, communication etc. Through gaining this new-found confidence I went on to also become a governor at the Junior school, and then finally back to employment.

Do you have any advice for someone thinking of being Chair?

The main thing I can suggest is that if reading this, or indeed any of our profiles, has sparked an interest in learning more about a role within the HSPTA, please do come and find out more! Come and have a chat if you spot me in the playground, or ask any questions via our info@hspta.co.uk email address. Or come along to our next PTA meeting and see what we're like and how we operate! We will also be running a number of social opportunities in the coming weeks and months to meet us over coffee at Bay Leaves or a tippie at the Farmhouse.

I know that there is always the worry that you'll immediately be signed up to volunteer for anything and everything, but there really is absolutely no obligation whatsoever, and an expression of interest will not lead into being coerced onto the committee or signing up to anything!

The roles of Chair and Vice-Chair together carry a level of flexibility in their arrangement and duration, and can, to some extent, be tailored to suit your personal circumstances and preferences, so even if you're not sure about how much or what you would like to offer, please consider enquiring about whatever you would like to know. We have documentation to help bring new trustees up to speed in the roles, and are always on hand to help if required. It is a wonderful opportunity to help your school community as well as enhance your sv, and one that you will not regret!

Dates/Events for the Spring Term

- **Thursday 7th March:** Committee meeting, 7pm Junior School Staff Room
- **Friday 29th March:** Easter Egg Hunt, 3:30pm Junior School field

For any queries or questions about the events or anything HSPTA related please contact us at info@hspta.co.uk or see our Facebook group [facebook.com/groups/hspta](https://www.facebook.com/groups/hspta). Don't forget to also visit the Business Directory <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/hspta/index.cfm?event=business-directory> to support local businesses.

Helen
(HSPTA Chair)