

# Hawthorn Community Primary School

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23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

## ***"Cultivating the Futures of our Children"***

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy year at Hawthorn, I wanted to take this opportunity to give you an end of year update and thank you for your on-going support of our school.

We have had an excellent year which began with our Ofsted inspection seeing our school secure a good rating with many outstanding features. This was a culmination of much hard work from our staff and children and we were delighted with the outcome. Your support also played a role in this outcome and inspectors highlighted the strong relationships between our school and our parents. In addition, Hawthorn was proud to be awarded the Gold Award for Safeguarding by Anchored Schools in February.

Our staff have worked incredibly hard to offer our children a huge range of opportunities and experiences throughout the year.

Some of the highlights include:

- Reception linking up with St Peter's to use their Forest school.
- Our Hawthorn celebrations, such as Harvest Festival, Carols Around the Tree, Mayday and Midsummer dancing. It was wonderful to bring the community together for the Key Stage 2 Carol Concert, our EYFS Nativity and KS1 Christingle – they are always magical parts of our school year.
- Initiatives such as Toast and Tales and the Celebration Assemblies and Afternoon Teas continue to take place and be well supported. We value having this time together with our parents and children.
- Taking part in a range of sporting competitions, including athletics and swimming, and again enjoying an amazing Sports Day at St Peter's School.
- Our residential: Year 4 had a fantastic time at the Frontier Centre and Y6 enjoyed a sunny trip to Longtown – both residential were great experiences for our children and I know they have all taken so much from them and created many memories. In addition, various school trips have taken place, including to Twycross Zoo, Holdenby House, Iron Pitt Woods and a fantastic evening at Young Voices in Birmingham.
- We have welcomed many visitors into school, including the Wonderdome in the Autumn Term, the lively poet Paul Cookson, the NSPCC to talk about staying safe, Resolve and the Life Tent which supported children with their PSHE learning.

- Enhancements to our curriculum through French Day, and Junior Citizenship, along with the excellent work our Road Safety Heros continue to do to help keep our children safe.
- We continue to make improvements to our school building. Several classrooms and offices, including the foyer have now been redecorated. Over the summer we will be having a refurbishment of the community room and staff toilets – these improvements will further make our building a pleasant working environment for both our children and staff. A big thank you to our site team who work so tirelessly to keep our environment looking welcoming.
- The support of our PFA The Friends of Hawthorn in holding some fantastic events such as the Winter Fayre, Break the Rules Day, Mother's Day Stall and Key Stage discos. We continue to be grateful for their support and the vital funds they are raising for our school. This year we have spent an £8000 donation from the Friends on revamping the reading area in the KS2 corridor along with new laptops for the school. We've also hosted cake sales galore which are always good fundraisers! None of this would be possible without the continued generosity of you all.

As a staff we continue to work hard to improve the quality of education here at Hawthorn. Our teachers have benefited from getting out of Hawthorn and visiting many other successful schools both within and beyond the local community, sharing best practice and bringing back new ideas. We have visited schools in Birmingham and Coventry to learn about ways in which we can improve our writing outcomes and introduce oracy into our curriculum. We will continue to build on this work next year in order to ensure we are offering our children the best provision possible.

Our staff team at Hawthorn continues to be strong and stable. We welcome Mrs Ashley O'Keefe as a permanent member of our Y5/6 team from September and look forward to welcoming Mrs Frances Martin back from her maternity leave in the Spring. In September, we will be welcoming two new trainees who will be completing their teacher training through Pathfinders ITT, in conjunction with Ambition Leadership. We have also hosted several work-experience students throughout the year – it is great to be able to welcome young people in from local schools to give them the experience of life in the workplace.

Finally, today, we will say goodbye to our wonderful Y6 children. This week they have taken part in their graduation and enjoyed a fantastic leaver's party last night. Thank you to all the parents and staff who helped to give them a memorable evening! By the time you receive this newsletter the Y6s will have run through the school arch and out into the big wide world! I'm sure there will have been a few tears shed! Y6, have a fantastic time at secondary school, work hard and have fun and carry the Hawthorn values with you wherever you go.

On behalf of all the staff here at Hawthorn, we wish you all a wonderful restful summer and we look forward to seeing all of our children back on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Best wishes,

*Emma Jacob*

**Head Teacher**