Autumn 1

Summary of Curriculum Highlights Posted on Class Dojo for Parents

Here is a review of the Class Dojo communications, organized into a summary of curriculum highlights, sporting achievements, and other key messages.

The posts show a strong focus on hands-on, creative, and sensory learning across the early years, with literacy and practical skills also being key.

- **Reception (Miss Davies):**
  - **Literacy:** Focused on **phonics**, learning phonemes (h, b, f, l, e, u, r) and the digraph "ck." Children were sent home with wordless reading books.
  - **Topic/Art:** Read "Funnybones" and created skeleton art. Explored pumpkins and harvest foods.
  - **Forest School:** A major part of the week, involving making dens, using tools, climbing trees, making scarecrows, and creating art with natural materials (leaf rubbing).
  - **Motor Skills:** Practiced fine motor skills with "pen disco" (drawing lines).
  - **Maths:** Practiced matching, sorting, and comparing size, mass, and capacity. Maths passports were sent home.
  - **Life Skills:** Made gingerbread and yoghurt parfaits (practicing patterns and cutting).
  - **Other:** Began learning lines for the upcoming Nativity.

- **Year 1 (Miss Myatt):**
  - **Science:** Conducted a comprehensive, hands-on investigation of the **five senses**, including a "touch test" with a feely tub, a "smell test" (coffee, vinegar, etc.), and a "taste test" with different crisp flavours.
  - **Art:** Created prints in the style of Andy Warhol and completed various Autumn-themed art activities (painting, finger prints).
  - **Computing:** Practiced basic keyboard skills, learning to type "my name is..."
  - **Geography:** Learning about the local area and jobs, with a request for parent volunteers to speak to the class.
  - **Music:** A lesson focused on "finding the pulse."

- **Year 2 (Miss Forbes & Miss Encell):**
  - **English:** Wrote "wonderful" Autumn poems, focusing on literary devices like alliteration, rhyming, and onomatopoeias.
  - **Science:** Explored materials and their properties, conducting a "Sink or Float" experiment with predictions and results.
  - **RE (Religious Education):** Learned about Diwali, the "festival of lights," and created their own Diya lamp decorations.
  - **Art/Topic:** Created Autumnal paintings in sketchbooks and made Halloween biscuits.
  - **Wellbeing:** Participated in a classroom yoga session.

- **Year 3 (Miss Skerritt):**
  - **English/DT:** Combined literacy and art by following a set of instructions to create woolly mammoths out of recycled milk bottles.

- **Year 5 (Mrs. Grugel):**
  - **English:** A group of children were given the "fantastic opportunity" to work with local author Yvonne Weatherhead, MBE, to help write and edit her new book.
  - **Other:** Participated in a road safety workshop.

- **Year 6 (Mrs. Wallsworth):**
    - **Other:** Participated in a road safety workshop.

Sporting Achievements (from Miss Hayward)

Miss Hayward reported on two school sporting events, praising the children's attitude and teamwork.

- **Heywood Schools Athletics Competition (Oct 23):**
    - This was a first-time event for some of the children.
    - They "gave it a fantastic go" and showed **"great teamwork,"** especially in the team races.
    - Miss Hayward and Mrs. Wallsworth were "proud" of all participants.
- **Year 3 & 4 Boys Football Competition (Oct 9):**
    - The boys demonstrated **"great teamwork"** during their matches.
    - A Year 6 sports leader was thanked for helping and encouraging the team.
    - Miss Hayward and Mrs. Wallsworth were "proud" of the boys.

Other Key Messages

The communications covered several important school-wide events, administrative points, and safeguarding updates.

- **School Events & Fundraisers:**
    - **Pumpkin Competition:** A key half-term event organised by the School Council. Entries were 50p (via photo or decorated paper), with all money raised going towards Christmas parties.
    - **Harvest Festival:** The school collected non-perishable food items for the Rochdale and Heywood Food Banks, with a "huge thank you" posted for all the generous donations.

- **Admin & Logistics:**
    - **Bikeability:** This was a significant activity for multiple year groups (Years 1, 4, and 5), requiring parents to return consent forms and bring bikes to school on allocated days.
    - **Parents' Evening:** Parents were notified to book appointment slots via the Arbor app. A technical issue for Year 2 bookings was reported and quickly resolved.
    - **Reading Reminders:** Several teachers (Reception, Year 4, Year 5) posted reminders for children to bring reading books/records into school on the correct days and to read regularly at home.
    - **Online Learning (Year 4):** A reminder was posted for Year 4 to use online platforms like Spelling Shed, TTRS, and IDL.

- **Health, Safety & Safeguarding:**
    - **Community Safety Notice (Mr. Cockcroft):** A detailed message was sent (Oct 6) clarifying the school's and Greater Manchester Police's (GMP) position on a local group called "Heywood Community Guard." The school does **not** endorse or collaborate with this group, advised parents not to engage with them, and reiterated that any safety concerns should be reported directly to GMP (101) or the Local Authority.
    - **Local Incident (Mr. Cockcroft):** A reassuring message was posted (Oct 2) following a "local incident" in Greater Manchester, confirming there was no threat to schools and the police had managed the situation.
    - **Head Lice:** A notice (Oct 6) was sent from Mrs. Clarke informing parents of an infestation and advising them to check their child's hair and treat the whole family if necessary.
    - **Parent Support:** The school shared links for external parent support workshops, including an NHS webinar on managing separation/school anxiety and Neurodiversity Hub workshops on "Managing Anger and Meltdowns."

Autumn 2

Summary of Curriculum Highlights Posted on Class Dojo for Parents

Curriculum Highlights by Class

Reception (Miss Davies)

- **Literacy & Drama:** The children acted out *Room on the Broom*, focusing on repeated refrains and character roles. They also performed brilliantly in their nativity, *The Sleepy Shepherd*.
- **Creative & Fine Motor Skills:** Activities included making marshmallow snowmen, threading skewers, and creating animal faces on toast (while discussing healthy eating).
- **Woodland Wednesday:** The class explored seasonal changes, noting leaves turning brown and creating icy/snowy woodland scenes using pastels.
- **Maths & Science:** They made salt dough decorations, discussing ingredients and texture changes (dry to sticky), and explored measuring.

Year 1 (Miss Myatt)

- **Design Technology (DT):** The class planned and assembled chairs for "Baby Bear," focusing on making structures strong, stiff, and stable. They also made salt dough and Christmas tree decorations.
- **Music:** Students learned about fast and slow beats using instruments and their singing voices.
- **Events:** A surprise visit from Father Christmas and a fun party afternoon.

Year 2 (Miss Forbes / Miss Encell)

- **Science:** The class conducted experiments to find the best material for a rain hat, concluding that plastic was best due to being waterproof and flexible.
- **Maths:** A new unit on Shape was introduced, exploring the differences between 2D and 3D shapes.
- **PSHE:** "Harold the Giraffe" from SCARF visited to help the children discuss feelings and offer advice on nervousness.
- **Wellbeing:** The children have been enjoying mindful movement sessions on Fridays.

Year 3 (Miss Skerritt)

- **DT & Textiles:** A major highlight was the 'Working Together Learning Together' (WTLT) day where parents and grandparents joined the children to make impressive cushions.

Year 4 (Miss Begum)

- **History (Vikings):** A significant "Viking Day" workshop took place where children made shields and played Viking games.
- **Music:** The class performed a WCIP concert (strings/violin) at the Parish Church and learned to play Christmas classics on the ukulele.
- **DT:** Construction of "Christmas Pavilions."

Year 5 (Mrs Grugel)

- **Events:** The class held a class assembly and prepared for their Christmas party.
- **Logistics:** Parents are reminded to return consent forms for the upcoming Robinwood residential trip.

Year 6 (Mrs Wallsworth)

- **Science (Biology):** Students focused on how lungs work, creating models using plastic bottles, balloons, and straws.
- **Design Technology (History Link):** As part of their WWII topic, students built their own models of Anderson air raid shelters using junk modelling materials.
- **Literacy:** Spelling lists (Year 5/6 statutory words) have been sent home for practice.

Sporting Achievements

Reported by Miss Hayward & Team

The school has been very active in local inter-school competitions:

- **KS2 Dodgeball Festival:** A group attended the Heywood schools festival. For many, it was their first time competing, and they showed excellent teamwork.
- **Year 5 & 6 Girls Dodgeball:** The girls' team displayed growing confidence throughout the competition, finishing **4th overall**.
- **Sparks Event:** KS2 children represented the school at an event invited by the Rochdale Borough school games partnership, trying out new equipment and skills.

Other Key Messages

The Hub & Neurodiversity Support (Mrs Collingwood)

- **Workshops:** Several workshops for parents are available next term via The Neurodiversity Hub, covering topics like emotional regulation, sensory processing, and sleep advice.
- **Drop-ins:** The Home Start RAASS team and Neurodiversity Hub are offering drop-in advice sessions.

Fundraising & Community

- **Christmas Fair:** A massive success, raising **£1,506.70**.
- **Movie Night:** Raised an additional **£310**.
- **IQ Cards:** Orders raised **£146.50** for the school.

School Logistics

- **Christmas Dinner:** A reminder that orders for the Christmas dinner (Dec 18th) must be placed on School Grid immediately as the kitchen needs to finalize food orders.
- **Lost Property:** There is a specific plea for a lost beige blanket belonging to a Reception child (Savannah-Jo), and some mix-ups regarding trainers in Reception.