



Value of the month | Resourcefulness

This month, we turned our attention to a brand new value for our school – **Resourcefulness**. There was quite a lot to unpack behind this value which can be summarised by the diagram above. We spent several assemblies thinking through practical tools we need behind being resourceful such as asking questions and imagining solutions. We talked about how our brains make links between what we already know and I illustrated this by showing them parts of a bicycle and the children instantly knew what the whole object would be. There are many capitalising resources we can look at such as books, encyclopaedias and the internet which will build our knowledge and we can also use reasoning (illustrated through Sudoku puzzles) to understand what we might need to do next. Hopefully, the work we've done this month will be a bedrock on which to continue building this value.

Our value of the month for February is one I would personally consider to be the most important of all the values, **Empathy**.

Martin Smith
Headteacher

Careers Fair

The careers fair was extremely well attended and the children were buzzing about all the things they were seeing and learning (who knew a car airbag deploys in 15ms?). A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who volunteered to do a stall and show off pictures, equipment and games.

I'm sure we have sown many aspirational seeds. You can see more pictures of the event on the school website under the 'latest news' section.



Upcoming events

- Fri 1st Feb**
Young Voices
- Tues 5th Feb**
Safer Internet Day
- Wed 6th Feb**
Drama Workshop Day
- Fri 8th Feb | 7.30pm**
FOPHS Quiz Night
- Tues 12th Feb**
Pupil Progress Meetings
- Thurs 14th Feb | 9.15am**
Y5 Class Assembly
- Mon 18th Feb – Fri 22nd Feb**
HALF TERM
- Thurs 28th Feb | 9.15am**
Year 6 Class Assembly
- Thurs 28th Feb | 3.30-5pm**
Start of Cookery Club
- Fri 1st March | 4.30pm**
FOPHS Disco



Fundraising

The children and staff continue to be proud of our fundraising efforts.

The Christmas Jumper day raised £153.28 for **Save the Children** and we received a really lovely letter from the **Poppy Appeal Association** sharing that we had raised a total of £144.51 which has been added to the £49,000 raised across Hemel Hempstead to date.



Year 2 Sports Fair

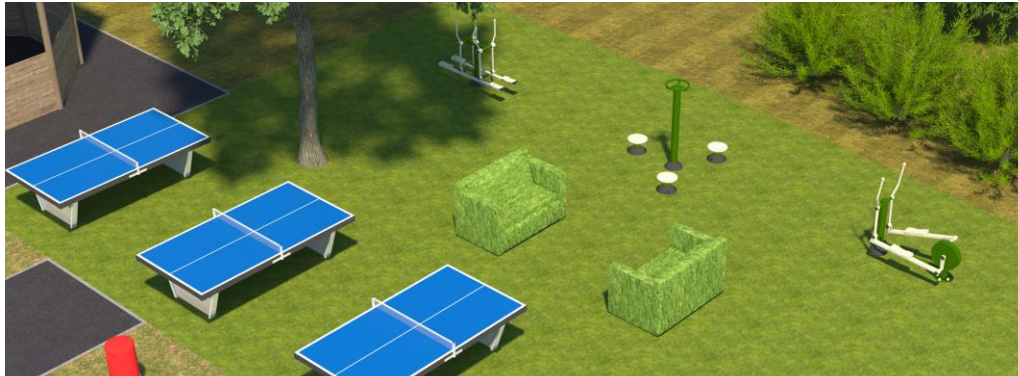
The Year 2 Class attended the Sports Fair held at Hemel Sports Centre on Thursday 24th January. Whilst there, they took part in a variety of events beginning with a gym course. They were also able to try their hand at hockey and archery and a dance activity proved popular.

The Year 1 class will also have an opportunity to attend this event after half term and we look forward to hearing from them about their experiences.



Log Walk Area Redevelopment

After months of planning, quotes, procurement exercises and health and safety assessments, I'm very pleased to share with you that we will be re-developing the log walk area. We have decided to use increased funding given to us from the ring fenced sports premium grant to realise the project and are hopeful that the new equipment will be installed over the Easter holiday. The plan shown is a design of what it might look like on completion. The area will be resurfaced with artificial grass with 3 outdoor table tennis tables, 3 different pieces of junior gym equipment and an artificial grass sofa area. Well done to the school council who have worked very hard on this project to help us make decisions about what the area will look like.



Pupil Questionnaires

The children have completed their annual questionnaires which remain highly encouraging. Their responses don't change dramatically from year to year but I was particularly pleased to see that children are feeling the teaching they receive is good (98%). Also of note is that the children are feeling behaviour in school and in lessons has improved with 10% more children giving a positive answer compared with this time last year. One theme to explore further is that there has been a 6% dip towards a more negative perception when asked if they would talk to a teacher if they were worried about something and whilst this is small decrease, we may well explore the issue further in a future school council meeting.

News in Brief

- A reminder that Cookery Club starts on Thurs 28th Feb. It's all getting quite competitive behind the scenes here but I'm confident that my secret shepherd's pie recipe will win out!
- Safer Internet Day is taking place on Tuesday 5th Feb. Each class will mark this by doing an activity linked to the day. I am also in the midst of booking our annual KS2 'Growing up online' workshop. A date will be announced soon in the summer term.
- Did you know that the senior leaders in school do an extensive round of monitoring with staff to ensure everything continues to run at expected standards? Book marking and feedback, learning environment, planning monitoring and pupil voice activities are undertaken each term.
- Unfortunately, we have been advised by a Tree Surgeon that we need to remove two trees outside of the Year 2 classroom as they are now in danger of damaging the building and foundations of the school.

Stars of the week



Top job everyone!

Week of 11/01/19

- Rec ★ Alice Armstrong
Y1 ★ Teddy Grimes
Y2 ★ Oliver Ricketts
Y3 ★ Tili Blackburn
Y4 ★ Annabel West
Y5 ★ Alex Leim
Y6 ★ Lincoln Hyland

Week of 18/01/19

- Rec ★ Ronnie Brown
Y1 ★ Oscar Holland
Y2 ★ Freya Fairman
Y3 ★ Poppy Preston
Y4 ★ Noah Tomlinson
Y5 ★ Malachy Heneghan
Y6 ★ Not Present

Week of 25/01/19

- Rec ★ Alex White
Y1 ★ Freya Rayment
Y2 ★ Lola Morgan
Y3 ★ Whole Class
Y4 ★ Chloe Michael
Y5 ★ Tilly-Ann Rutniewski
Y6 ★ Katie Beaumont

New Record Set

We've had a record number of applications for next year's Reception Class. A staggering 153 applications were made with 50 naming the school as first choice. We also only have 2 spaces left in the school that are not taken up.

Why is this good news? The school receives funding per pupil and in challenging financial climates (the council are predicting that schools face a further -0.8% cut once inflation has been taken into account next financial year), pupil numbers dictate our ability to continue to maintain the standards we have set.