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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back and 'Happy New Year!' to all of our children and families. I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and managed to enjoy some quality family time. The children have returned to school with a new energy and enthusiasm for the year and it has been lovely to hear about what they have been getting up to during the holidays and some of their new year's resolutions.



This week, the children were introduced to our new values system Yoimoji! The Yoimoji are 58 unique characters who each represent a series of core values linked to the British Values. They attend the fictional world of Yoimoji Academy, where they learn, play and solve problems that allow them to demonstrate their values.

The word Yoimoji is a portmanteau that combines the Japanese word 'Yoi', which means 'good', and 'emoji', which is slang for 'character'. So Yoimoji stands for 'good character'. We hope that by working with and watching the Yoimoji tell their story, children get to see core values in action. The values become much more than just words - they are brought to life by the Yoimoji. Children see the values attached to real actions with clear consequences that they can relate to and understand. In January, we will be focusing on **kindness** as our core value. More information to follow.



### Cracking counting in Reception.

In maths this week, Reception have been learning to add two numbers together by counting on. The children are passionate about the programme NumberJacks, so we watched how they threw two dice and added the numbers together by jumping on using a number line. They children enjoyed re-creating the activity by jumping along our giant number line to find the total amount. What super mathematicians!



### Dojo Dealership

We are very pleased to announce that the Dojo Dealership is up and running! This means that children will be able to redeem their Dojo points against rewards of their choice. They can choose from a range of treats but can also redeem points against small toys and stationery.



The Dojo shop will also run as a pocket money shop with items priced at 30p, 40p or 50p. So, if you want your child to do chores at home to help out in return for pocket money then this can be their reward! Children will receive a voucher when they redeem their points or can choose to buy a toy.

The Dojo Dealership will run on Wednesday lunchtimes in Melbourne Hall from 12.45 to 1.15 pm.



## Year 5 Theme Launch

On Wednesday 10th January, Year 5 launched their 'Out of this World' theme with a day of astronaut training. The day started with basic training activities which involved six different tests. The children had a team building activity, puzzle, memory test with step ups, space and time test and then finished with a docking station test. The children were put through their paces during a 'Physical Health Check' and finished off considering space scenarios. All children became fully fledged space cadets and have launched into space. Lots of fun was had by all!



## New Themes

The teachers have been busy planning for the new themes over the holidays and there will be a number of theme launches taking place over the next couple of weeks. Each year group has a different theme this Spring term; Y1 - Flight, Y2 - Toys, Y3 - World Kitchen, Y4 - Transport, Y5 - Out of this World, Y6 - Disaster! We are very much looking forward to seeing the new corridor displays develop and for children to share their new learning!

Curriculum letters will be going home next week with information about all the subjects children will be learning about this term and key information about homework, PE, reading and spellings. We hope you find them useful.

## Oxford Owl Reading and Maths Resources

I just wanted to bring to your attention the Oxford Owl website. It is packed full of great resources to help support your children's reading and maths work at home. You can access all the resources by going to [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) and clicking on the 'learning at home' tab at the top.



## Other Information in Brief

- **Merit Assemblies** will recommence on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Reception children will now be joining the rest of the school for these assemblies. We look forward to welcoming them and celebrating their achievements.
- **Absence Requests/Holiday Forms.** Just a reminder that the school need to be informed of any absence. Holiday forms are available from the trays in the office entrance area or by asking at the office. Please complete these forms to advise us of dates of any absence (other than illness). In line with local authority guidelines these absences will be recorded as unauthorised unless indicated by the Head Teacher.

I hope this information proves useful. Please remember you can keep up-to-date with all that goes on at Hearsall Community Academy, through Class Dojo, The Hearsall Weekly and our School Website. We are currently in the process of finalising the key diary dates for the Spring Term and these will be sent out to parents next week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Bryony Harrison  
**Head Teacher**

