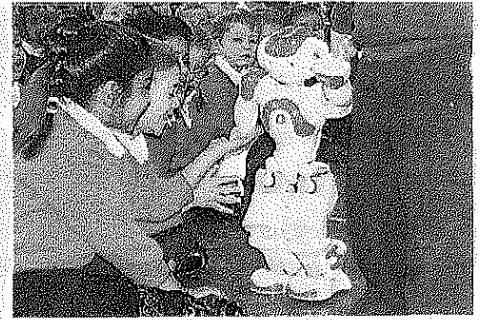
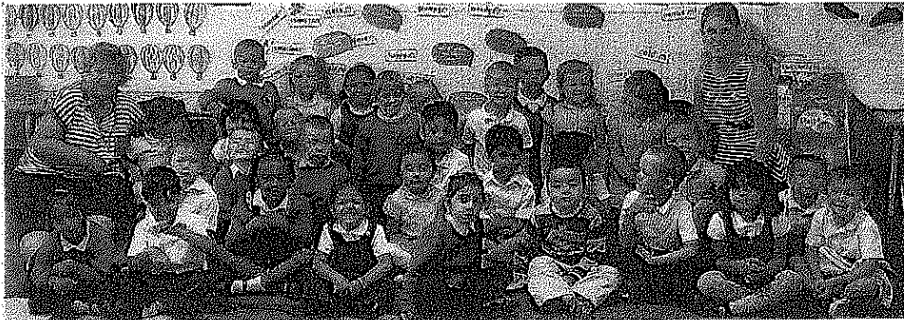


# YWCPS NEWSLETTER

February 2015 – Issue 2

Some of you may have read the article in last week's Birmingham Mail. YWPS is getting the recognition that we deserve as a result of all the hard work from pupils, staff and you the parents. If you didn't get chance to read a copy, please see the article below.



Nursery class pupils with nursery teacher Bec Joyce and teaching assistant Deb Dailly. Recently the school received a visit from "Nao" a programmable humanoid robot

## Reborn Yardley Wood is a school on the up...

David Whinyates  
Special Correspondent

IN MARCH 2010 Yardley Wood Community Primary School emerged from special measures.

Results were low, morale was low, pupil numbers were low, attendance was low!

Today, the school is an altogether more vibrant place, with results that are amongst some of the best in Birmingham and above the national averages for progress and attainment, a highly motivated and enthusiastic staff team, rapidly growing numbers and dramatic improvements in attendance.

A year ago, in February 2014, the hard work was rewarded by a successful OFSTED inspection, after which the school was judged to be good in all areas. This term the school received a letter from David Laws MP, Minister for Schools, congratulating the staff and pupils upon being one of the top 100 schools in the country based on sustained improvement since 2012.

The head teacher, Ben Turner, puts the progress the school has made down to team work, positivity, optimism and high aspirations for the pupils, from staff, from parents and from the children themselves.

"The children at Yardley Wood deserve the best and it's my job to ensure that they leave school equipped for the future, whatever it may hold," said Mr Turner. "If the social and technological changes of the last two decades are anything to go by, we are preparing children for a world which may be unrecognisable!"

With the future in mind, the school has invested heavily in the computing curriculum. Three years ago the ICT

### YARDLEY WOOD COMMUNITY PRIMARY



Coach Mr Dan Elvins with the Year 4 sports students

leader, Mrs Jacintha Smith, joined the school and immediately started a transformation. With the help and support of Swanshurst School, which donated a suite of PCs, together with an innovative approach to whole school teaching of computing, the turn-around has been dramatic. With modern touch screens replacing traditional inter-active white boards, wi-B inside and outside the school and further support from Swanshurst, the school is set to build upon this success. Children throughout the school confidently explore coding, programming, animation, blogging – there's so much more to computing than search engines and Powerpoint.

Today, the school is a lead school for Learn Pads and has recently celebrated Computing Week – the high point being the visit of 'Nao', a programmable humanoid robot who

danced, sang and laughed with the children and staff.

Alongside exciting new technologies, the school still celebrates the sporting values that help to make great citizens of the future.

"Yardley Wood Community Primary School believes sport and PE play a vital role in our pupils' development and growth," said Natalie Cox, the PE leader. "Our school provides a range of after-school sports clubs every night and two hours of high quality PE per week for every class. This ensures all children have the opportunity to develop their understanding of leading a healthy and active lifestyle whilst participating, enjoying and celebrating sport from a young age.

Working alongside our local schools in the Baverstock Partnership, children have opportunities to compete with the local and wider commu-

nity, developing their confidence, resilience and enjoyment of sport, but also providing the children with transferable skills that can be used in their everyday lives. In the last couple of years we have had some great achievements. These include winning dance, handball and rounders competitions and participating in many more.

"As a school we promote and believe in the six Olympic values - determination, respect, teamwork, honesty, self-belief and passion, and referring to these values often instils life-long learning which is what Yardley Wood believes in most of all."

The school believes in getting it right, right from the start, and the early years provision at the school is proof of this. Early years provision has gone from strength to strength. The nursery class has recently expanded to accommodate 52 places whilst the reception classes have doubled in size as the school expands to two form entry. The early years classrooms have been totally refurbished and renovated and the staff are energetic, imaginative and creative.

That creative approach runs through the whole school, with a curriculum that is responsive and adaptable.

"Our curriculum is unique to our school," said Katie Palmer, the creative curriculum leader and one of two assistant heads. "It is driven by the children's interests and curiosity. Over the last four years the curriculum has transformed into a range of immersive topics through which children are developing their independent learning skills. The school is a warm, friendly and inclusive place to enjoy learning. YWCPS has a bright future and I am proud to be a part of it."

This year the school is embracing P4C – Philosophy for Children – which

aims to deepen children's questioning and thinking. As part of a research project run by SAPERE and Durham University, the teachers and pupils are taking their questioning to a new level.

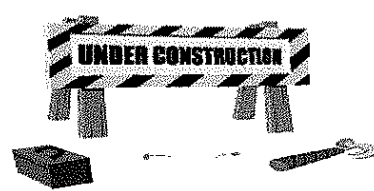
The school buildings are improving too. As part of the expansion for additional primary places, the school is adding a new class each year. There is a new hall and a community learning area, along with new classrooms, a new school kitchen and plans for massive playground improvements, all on target to be finished by June, ready for the next intake in September 2015.

A quick look at the school's class blogs gives the virtual visitor an insight into the learning, creativity, energy and fun at the school. All this has been achieved without losing sight of the community values that have always made the school a special place. Whether it's raising thousands of pounds for Comic Relief, the generous family donations of food to St Mary's Hospice each harvest festival, supporting schools in Africa or the homeless in Birmingham, the children at Yardley Wood Community Primary School offer hope of a brighter future.

Everyone at Yardley Wood Community Primary School would like to send their love to Year 6 pupil Lawin Toufij, a very brave young man who is in hospital being treated for leukaemia.

### CONTACTS

- Head teacher: Mr Ben Turner
- Address: School Road, Yardley Wood, Birmingham, B14 4ER.
- Tel: 0121 675 2436
- Website: [www.ydlywood.bham.sch.uk](http://www.ydlywood.bham.sch.uk)



**BUILDING WORK:** Due to delays with electrical issues, we are assured that the building work will now be completed June. The Ravenshill Road entrance may be re-opened before that though – fingers crossed. Thank you for your continued patience. Please keep to the one-way system upon dropping and collecting children.

## SALAD DAYS

SALAD days stand for Speaking And Listening All Day. We will be having a SALAD day the first day back after every half term. It is a fabulous opportunity for children to develop and enhance their spoken language and listening skills. The activities including speaking games, listening games, following instructions to make or draw something, discussion work, outdoor activities whilst working in teams and talking about tactics, performing poetry, practical maths work etc.

At school we use  **busythings**.co.uk

You have **FREE** access to busythings!

Contact the school for login details.



**busythings** is a fun-packed online educational resource:

- 400+ award-winning games and activities
- Linked to the curriculum
- For ages 3 to 9

**Support you child's learning at home!**

To log on:-  
Username: home6252  
Password: purple9171

## STAFF NEWS

In case you haven't noticed yet...Mrs Williams and Mrs Tsintas are looking a little 'bigger'. Both are looking fabulous and both have due dates during the Easter holidays. Mrs Williams begins her maternity leave in two weeks time, whilst Mrs Tsintas starts her maternity leave at the end of term. We all wish them the very best and look forward to meeting the new additions.

We have newly appointed a Maths Leader, Miss Claire Thomas, who will be joining us after Easter, and she will take over the Year 2 class to see them safely through their SATs. Miss Chauhan, who has covered Year 2 this week (whilst Mrs Williams completes jury service), has been booked in to cover the last two weeks of this half term. Mrs Tsintas' class will be covered for the Summer Term by Miss Painter, who is returning back to YWCPS from her maternity leave.

Another additional member of staff joining our team after Easter is Miss Rosie Walls. Miss Walls is an experienced SENCO and Inclusion Lead who will be coordinating the support for our children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND).

Both new members of staff will be very welcome additions to Yardley Wood Community Primary School.

**BBC**

The BBC are coming...

After meeting Mr Barron, Miss Wilson and year 5 at Birmingham Library on Wednesday for 'The Big Paint Challenge' Satnam Rana from the BBC is coming out to film year 5's art lesson on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Year 5 were a credit to themselves, their school and to their parents during the art event.

 **SCHOLASTIC**

Reminder that the last day to order books from Scholastic is the 16<sup>th</sup> March.

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
5 MARCH 2015

5<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day and children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

## MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Please be advised that when taking your child out of school for a medical appointment (be that for the pupil, a sibling or yourself), we will need written proof of the appointment for our records.

# PARENT'S WORKSHOPS

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March science fortnight will commence. Parents / Guardians are invited into school to assist their child with fun, practical Science activities.

There will also be a sharing assembly about Science fortnight on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 0900 am, all parents are welcome.

Please see table below to see when your child's class are holding their workshop.

(Nursery & Reception to be advised)

YEAR GROUP	DATE	TIME (am)
1	TUE 10 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	08:55 – 10:00
2	WED 11 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	08:55 – 10:00
3	THURS 12 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	08:55 – 10:00
4	TUE 10 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	10:55 – 12:00
5	WED 11 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	10:55 – 12:00
6	THURS 12 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	10:55 – 12:00



No smoking

**ANTI-SMOKING WORKSHOP** – On Wed 18<sup>th</sup> March there is an Anti-Smoking workshop for parents to attend with their children.

YEARS 3 & 4 09:00 – 10:00 (am)

YEARS 5 & 6 10:00 – 11:00 (am)

Parents are encouraged to come along to find out about the effects of smoking and for support in wanting to quit.

CAN WE PLEASE REMIND PARENTS THAT SMOKING ON SCHOOL PREMISES IS PROHIBITED, THIS INCLUDES E-CIGARETTES.



*Bullying unfortunately exists everywhere. Anyone who says that it never happens in their school is either not being aware or is in denial! Our response to bullying is a restorative one – working with the bullied and the bully to make things better. Unfortunately some people throw the word 'bullying' around a little too freely, for example when children have been playing too roughly, have not taken the time to understand the effects their words may have had or have simply fallen out with friends. We deal with issues like this sensitively & supportively. We do recognise, however, that some children do have genuine reasons to be upset, angry or even frightened by the behaviour of others. Please tell us if this is the case. We can't deal with issues if we haven't been told. We encourage this to be a 'telling school' – where children feel confident to say if and when they are upset or feel vulnerable. Please be patient with our approach to bullying – it may take a little longer to resolve issues but we believe all children are worth investing in.*

## COMPUTING WEEK

We recently celebrated Computing Week at YWCPS. All children were involved in a range of activities linked to the new Computing Curriculum. Children learnt how to design their own algorithms, program using a range of software such as Espresso Coding, Scratch and Tynker and explored programmable toys.

Children had the opportunity to use the LearnPad to discover how some images in books can come to life with the use of Augmented Reality apps.

The most exciting day had to be Thursday when we had a very special visitor!

Sarah from [www.splashofcreativity.co.uk/](http://www.splashofcreativity.co.uk/) brought Nao, a humanoid robot to lead the learning for the day! Nao is one of the most advanced humanoid robots ever created. Children were shown in a special assembly all of the amazing things that Nao can do including talking, responding to questions, writing and even dancing! Years 4, 5 and 6 also attended workshops with Nao where they learnt how to create a Lego robot head and program it to spin using special software.

We all had a fantastic week exploring all of these activities. To find out more please visit the Computing and class blogs on our website.



PERFECT ATTENDANCE  
PERFECT ATTENDANCE  
PERFECT ATTENDANCE  
PERFECT ATTENDANCE

**ATTENDANCE TRIP** – Pupils with 98% or above attendance last term, will be going to the [Cineworld](http://www.cineworld.com/) to watch a film as a reward for good attendance. Our persistent absenteeism has dropped from over 13% three years ago to just 1% at last Census. Brilliant! The next reward trip will not only be based on absence but also lateness records too.