

HWCE SPORTS NEWS



All the latest sports stories from
High Wycombe Church of England Combined School

November - December '24

FOOTBALL TEAM BOW OUT OF DISTRICT CUP

(All reports by Mr Burgin)

After the initial district tournament was postponed in October due to torrential rain when the only sub we'd be bringing on would have been the type that has a periscope, the rearranged competition took place on a chilly, but thankfully dry, Saturday 9th November.

Other footballing commitments meant that several familiar players were absent from our line-up. Nevertheless, this gave an ideal opportunity for others to shine – including a debut for Dylan in Year 5.

The squad for the afternoon's matches was: Isaac (goalkeeper), Kevin, Dylan, Zhenglin, Kaedon, Joel, Flynn, Davi-Lucca, Arthur, Denis and Alfie - captaining the team.

High Wycombe were drawn in a league of very tough opposition. St Johns were league champions of their league last season, Disraeli had made the cup final and a big school like Hamilton was always going to be a major threat. Along with Great Kingshill, who were an unknown quantity, we knew the task would not be easy.

Our opening match was against Hamilton. We held our own for much of the game, defending resolutely and making our own forays into their half. The decisive moment was when we conceded a free-kick about 10 yards inside our own half. The resulting kick soared high over everyone's heads, past the outstretched gloved hand of Isaac and into the net, giving Hamilton a narrowly deserved 1-0 victory. This was not the start we wanted.



Some of our football team at the end of the District Tournament

The second match was against St Johns. As expected, we had to soak up a lot of pressure throughout, making decisive tackles when we could. Try as we might, we couldn't quite make our usual connection between players with several passes going astray and without that telling ball through to our striker. St Johns eventually came out on top by a score of 2-0.

Nevertheless, we weren't about to give up for our last two matches played back to back – first against Great Kingshill and then against Disraeli.

The Great Kingshill game saw a rejuvenated High Wycombe team take to the pitch. Whether the early nerves had gone, there was fresh determination after 2 uncharacteristic defeats or just that the team began to gel, I don't know. Whatever the case, we lay siege to the Great Kingshill goal and tested their goalkeeper time and time again. We eventually broke the deadlock with a goal from top-scorer Alfie. However, the best was yet to come. Zhenglin controlled a pass and, despite being 30 yards from goal, decided he'd have a shot. He struck the ball superbly and, as everyone watched

in awe and wonder, the ball sailed over the keeper's head and into the net – possibly the goal of the tournament! This meant a 2-0 victory to High Wycombe.

Our tails were up and, despite knowing we couldn't qualify, we were determined to end the tournament on a high.

Disraeli had been the powerhouse of the group, sweeping all other opposition aside. They had some top-quality players. It was going to be our toughest game. From the start, we played some terrific football. Our tackles were well timed, our passing was more accurate, our marking was spot-on. We even had chances to score, but were continually frustrated by the Disraeli defence and their goalkeeper that felt like an impenetrable wall. It was end-to-end action. Truth be told – mostly our end - with Isaac called upon to make some crucial saves. We stood firm and ground out a 0-0 score-line in our best display of the afternoon.

Some of us stayed to watch the final where Disraeli finished runners up to Manor Farm in a match decided by penalties.

Thanks go to all parents who lent their support for the afternoon.

SPOTLIGHT ON SWIMMING

Year 4 pupils strive for their 25 metre awards

Autumn Term is the time for swimming lessons in Year 4. Swimming is a vital part of the PE curriculum. We are sure that all will recognise why learning to swim is a valuable life-skill in that it can be a literal life-saver although, obviously, one we hope we'll never need to use.

In addition, swimming is one of the best forms of physical exercise for our health and wellbeing, developing stamina, muscle strength and gross and fine motor skills as we co-ordinate our arms, legs, head and body to improve our shape and speed through the water.

Most Wednesdays have seen the Year 4 class make their way to the Wycombe Sports Centre where they are instructed by qualified experts.

The standard for which to aim is to be able to swim 25 metres non-stop using front crawl and to be able to show ability in using an alternative stroke in the water (normally backstroke).

For those who achieve this standard, they are further challenged to refine their swimming style to make it more effective or to develop new swimming strokes – adding extra ‘strings to their bow’ (if you’ll forgive a non-swimming sporting analogy.)

Those who do not reach the standard by the end of term will have an opportunity to take part in catch-up swimming lessons when they are in Year 5 (potentially sooner – dependent on the progress of Year 5 and 6 pupils taking part in catch up swimming sessions in Spring and Summer Terms.)

Parents are asked to support our non-swimmers and beginners by taking them to swimming lessons outside of school whenever possible.

ROLL OF HONOUR

The following 13 pupils achieved their 25 metre target this term:

Khalia, Annabel, Andrey, Thea, Sofia, Matthew, Claudia, Isabella R, Julian, Bella, Ellis, Jonah & Arthur.



Many of our swimmers are inspired by Olympic gold medallist Adam Peaty (top left) or Paralympic Gold Medallist Jessica-Jane Applegate (top right). Bottom – the pool at High Wycombe Sports and Leisure Centre where pupils in Year 4 receive weekly swimming lessons.

HWCE SPORTS STAR

IT'S ALL GOING SWIMMINGLY FOR EVIE!

Well done to Evie in Year 3 who, last month took part in a swimathon in order to raise money for Children in Need.

In a magnificent show of grit and determination, Evie managed to swim non-stop for 600 metres – approximately 32 lengths of the swimming pool!

Evie said, "At the end, I was really exhausted but it was all worth it."

When asked what the best bit of the swim was, she said, "The best bit was raising money for charity. I don't know how much we raised but it was a lot!"

Evie's swimming club is based at the David Lloyd Sports Centre in Marlow. This is just one of lots of swimming clubs in our area. If anyone wants to learn to swim or even improve at swimming it's a great idea to join a club and have extra lessons. One day they could be really important in saving someone's life – or they could turn you into an Olympic medallist!



A beaming Evie proudly shows off her swimming certificate.

STAFF 'SPORTS' STAR – MISS HAWKINS

Sport is not the only thing that keeps you fit and healthy. Taking a nice stroll can help build muscle and keep you trim. It's also great for mental health and for enjoying the wonders of nature. And, what better company to have on a walk than a family pet. Miss Hawkins, our Year 5 teacher, welcomed a new member to the family last June in the form of a sprocker-spaniel called Oakley. She said, "Oakley has a lot of energy so he needs lots of exercise." Dogs need a walk every day and love exploring the outdoors. Sometimes it can be tricky to see just who is taking who for the walk! Miss Hawkins said, "Since getting Oakley I have done a lot more walking than I used to. Sometimes, I even have to run just to keep up with him!"



Miss Hawkins and her dog, Oakley

RUN, RUN, RUDOLPH

ACTUALLY – IT’S RUN, RUN, SANTA – AS THE SCHOOL TAKES PART IN OUR ANNUAL SANTA DASH

Three things that were special about Wednesday 11th December:

- 1) It was our annual Christmas Jumper Day which saw pupils and staff alike donning their brightest Christmas apparel to raise money for the Save the Children charity.
- 2) It was also our annual Christmas lunch which saw juicy chicken, tasty roast potatoes, yummy sprouts (I know that probably divides opinions), pigs in blankets, succulent carrots and peas smothered in lashings of gravy (vegetarian option, of course, was available) served up to hundreds of our pupils.
- 3) The precursor to lunch was a special edition of the school’s team mile where all 210 or so children (minus Year 4 who were swimming) worked up their appetites for lunch by running (or strolling when they became too tired) circuits of both playgrounds, showing off their Christmas jumpers and wearing Santa hats.

All of this was to provide extra focus for the importance of physical exercise and to take part together as a whole school. In the 10 minutes of non-stop activity, many children completed at least 10 figure 8 circuits of the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 playgrounds.

We hope you enjoy the photos of the event.



HOUSE TO HOUSE ENQUIRIES

Latest House-point Scores

Reception – Wrens – Ball Skills



1st Surfers, 2nd Bikers, 3rd Skaters, 4th Riders

Year One - Robins – Ball Skills (Rolling)



1st Surfers, 2nd Skaters 3rd Riders 4th Bikers

Year Two - Swallows – Basketball



1st Skaters, 2nd Surfers 3rd Riders 4th Bikers

Year Three – Kites – Handball



1st Bikers, 2nd Skaters, 3rd Riders, 4th Surfers

Year Four – Hawks – Dance



1st Bikers, 2nd Skaters, 3rd Surfers, 4th Riders

Year Five – Eagles – Football



1st Surfers, 2nd Riders, 3rd Skaters, 4th Bikers

Year Six – Owls – Quidditch



1st Riders, 2nd Bikers, 3rd Skaters, 4th Surfers

HOUSE-POINT RUNNING TOTALS

<p>1st</p>		<p>1096 points</p>	<p>HOUSE CAPTAINS – LAIBA & GERVAS</p> 
<p>2nd</p>		<p>1074 points</p>	<p>HOUSE CAPTAINS – HANNAH & ISAAC</p> 
<p>3rd</p>		<p>1062 points</p>	<p>HOUSE CAPTAINS – JERRY & BELLA</p> 
<p>4th</p>		<p>1013 points</p>	<p>HOUSE CAPTAINS – AMIRA & ALFIE</p> 

It's difficult to believe the first term of 2024-2025 has come to an end. For some it may have felt like the weeks have dragged by, but for most, time seems to have flown. Riders early lead in the house-point competition has been overturned by Surfers, but the points margin is quite slender with the house team-mile being decisive in deciding the positions of the houses.

Some may think it's been a slower term sports-wise. Certainly, there's been less news coming from home to school. We are really interested in finding out what sporting activities are taking place once pupils leave the school gates at the end of each day so please keep those updates coming in to school so we can celebrate them in assembly and publish them in the sports report. Send sports news & photos to the office marked for the attention of Mr Burgin.